



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Technology in Society

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/techsoc

An exploratory study of the impact of information communication technology (ICT) or computer mediated communication (CMC) on the level of violence and access to service among intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors in Canada



Arshia U. Zaidi*, Shanti Fernando, Nawal Ammar

Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, 2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, ON, L1H 7K4, Canada

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 25 April 2014

Received in revised form 6 December 2014

Accepted 12 December 2014

Available online 17 January 2015

Keywords:

Technology

Intimate partner violence

Immigrant women

Information communication technology (ICT)

Computer mediated communication (CMC)

ABSTRACT

This paper presents exploratory research on the use of information communication technologies (ICTs) or computer mediated technologies (CMCs) (i.e., cell phones and the internet) among immigrant women who are intimate partner violence survivors (IPV) in Canada. The discussion begins with a presentation of initial data examining the impact of such technology on the level and extent of violence experienced by IPV survivors, and on their ability to access appropriate services. Furthermore, an assessment of whether this form of technology aided in the development of a prevention or safety plan, is explored. The data is based on non-random sample surveys of immigrant women IPV survivors with Canada. While the limited scholarship on ICT or CMC usage indicates that there is a digital divide and that various socio-demographic factors do play a role in utilizing the technology, our data does not display a black and white or any streamlined pattern with regards to the digital divide and sociodemographics factors. An examination of the participants' various sociodemographics indicates that the digital divide within this population is not influenced by access or knowledge to the technology but by other factors often not discussed in the intersectionality models. An intersectional model of race and immigration status along with the existing literature on intimate partner violence among immigrant women especially issues of isolation and social networking inform this paper.

© 2014 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV)¹ has “garnered increasing public and academic attention over the years and is being recognized as a complex global sociocultural

problem and public health epidemic” [81, p. 29]. In recent years, according to Klevens (2007) [83, p. 111], IPV “is a leading cause of death, disability and hospitalization” which includes physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, and financial forms of abuse [3]. In the United States,

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: arshia.zaidi@uoit.ca (A.U. Zaidi).

¹ In accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO), intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical (slapping, hitting, kicking, or beating), psychological (intimidation, constant belittling or humiliation) or sexual harm to those in that relationship. It includes acts of physical aggression, psychological abuse, forced sexual intercourse or any other controlling behaviour (isolating a person from their friends/family).

between 30% and 50% of immigrant women have been sexually or physically abused by an intimate partner [58,6,72,100,112,113]. In Canada, the literature is inconclusive regarding the rates of IPV among immigrant women. Some literature notes that the rates of IPV are lower among immigrant women compared with Canadian-born women [9,74]. Others [34] note that immigrant women are abused at a higher rate, but they do not report the abuse and as a result their victimization is underrepresented by official data. Regardless, the literature agrees that the nature of the immigrant women's victimization from IPV is different from that of Canadian born women [105]. Yet, other literature shows that there is a difference between the prevalence and risk of IPV among recent and non-recent immigrant women. The "crude prevalence of IPV" say Cohen and Maclean (2004) [48] is "similar among recent and non-recent immigrant women", but the "risk for IPV" is much lower among recent immigrant women. According to Statistics Canada (2003), IPV accounts for 30–60 percent of all culpable homicides of females annually. In 2014, women in Canada continue to be more likely than men to be victims of spousal abuse. In Ontario between 2002 and 2007 domestic violence incidences resulted in 230 deaths involving 142 women, 23 children, and 65 men. Even though knowledge related to risk factors associated with IPV in immigrant communities is increasing [89], less is known about these determinants as perceived by immigrant women themselves. Barrett and St. Pierre, (2001, 48) note that "despite changes in policy that promote the ending of violence against women in North America (e.g., pro-charging and mandatory arrest policies), intimate partner violence continues to be a major risk factor threatening women's psychological and physical well-being."

There is a mushrooming body of research on IPV, in Canada. However, while the causes, nature, and extent of violence against women have been discussed and debated, less effort has been exerted systematically to distinguish the unique experiences of specific groups of victims in Canada. While there are two major databases that do exist in Canada regarding violence and victimization of women, empirical data regarding the number of immigrant women and their experiences of domestic violence in the host country remains limited and inconclusive [91,109]. As indicated previously, the literature both in Canada and the US recognizes that IPV victimization experience for racialized immigrant women is different and a cultural component does exist that should indeed promote culturally competent interventions [28,83,105].

In recent decades, research on IPV has relatively increased and has focused on a number of issues. These include a focus on resources, formal and informal, used by victims of IPV [45], barriers to help seeking [7] examinations of women's sociodemographic characteristics and their use of informal and formal supports in response to violence [4]. Explanatory factors, like ethnicity [2,39,60] or other interlocking factors of disadvantages such as class, patriarchy, religion, poverty, and racism or ethnic bias; [103,115], language barriers and immigrant status [16], and length of residency in Canada [22] continue to be debated in the literature. According to Dimond, Fiesler & Bruckman (2011) [37]; predictors like

gender, age, years of education, poverty, social support, and a history of family violence are the more common factors that have been tested repeatedly as potential risk factors of IPV. Outside of these common explanatory factors of IPV there is a new trendsetter that has not been extensively studied and caught the attention of recent scholars. Dimond, Fiesler & Bruckman (2011) [37] document how the impact of information communication technologies (ICTs) or computer mediated communication (CMC), like cell or mobile phones and the internet, have been neglected, despite the extensive usage and ownership of such technologies.

The information age is at its peak and individuals living in today's social world, especially women, have a high dependency on various technologies to seek information [64,67]. Tucker, Cremer, Fraser & Southworth (2005) [114]; as well as Finn & Banach (2000) [64] document how certain technologies (i.e., the internet, and mobile devices) are being utilized strategically to perhaps benefit and empower survivors of IPV. For example, Finn & Banach (2000) [64] note that email alone can greatly expand the social support network of these victims; also organizational or service agency websites can offer much information regarding IPV, relationship assessment, services offered, safety planning and various resources. It has been documented that technological usage by survivors of IPV has both advantages and disadvantages. For example, Finn & Banach (2000) [64, p. 786] outline the "problems and dangers that may be encountered when [vulnerable] women seek health and human services on the internet." Other scholars suggest technology to be "strategically" beneficial in facilitating a safety net or escape plan, finding resources (i.e. shelters), creating websites and even using it as a story-teller and support network with others who have undergone similar experiences [114]. The other side of the technological debate engages in a discussion about how these similar technologies may assist the perpetrator or abuser to "maintain control of their victims and make it more difficult to leave a relationship" [37, p. 413] and/or "use technology to stalk to them" [53, p. 842] or police the relationship. Educating victims and/or survivors of IPV, as well as advocates about various ICTs and CMCs is imperative to the process. Finn & Atkinson (2009) [18, p. 54] emphasize that "limited knowledge about the types of capabilities of new technologies can increase the likelihood that women will continue to be victims of harassment and control." This paper explores how these technologies impact and influence immigrant women survivors of IPV use, access and safety.

Within the Canadian context there is a little empirical evidence documenting access and usage of communication technologies in by battered immigrant women survivors. Therefore, the research objectives of this paper are three-fold. First, it explores how technology usage by IPV survivors impacts the level and extent of violence experienced by battered immigrant women. Second, this paper explores how this technological usage and/or adaptation influences their ability to access appropriate services. Third and last, to this research assesses whether ICTs or CMCs aided in the development of a prevention or safety plans. In combination, the answers to these basic exploratory questions could translate to knowledge and policy formation with respect

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات