

# Everything is not sawa sawa: Abuse and informal employment in Kenya

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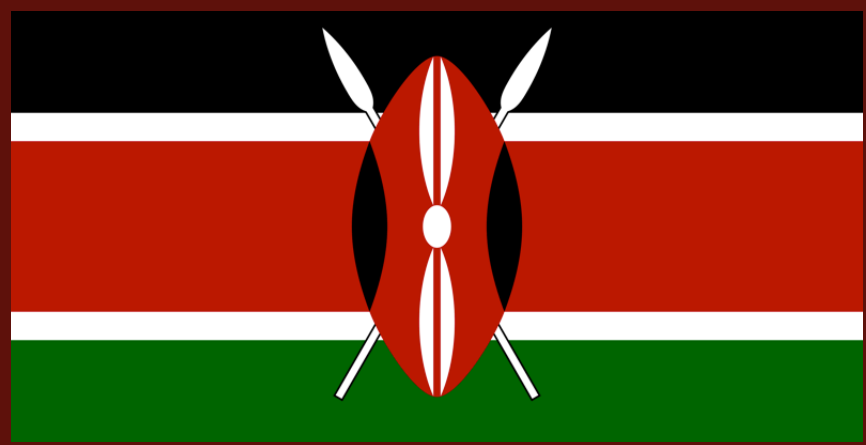
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# Everything is not *sarwa sarwa*: Abuse and informal employment in Kenya

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## IDEA

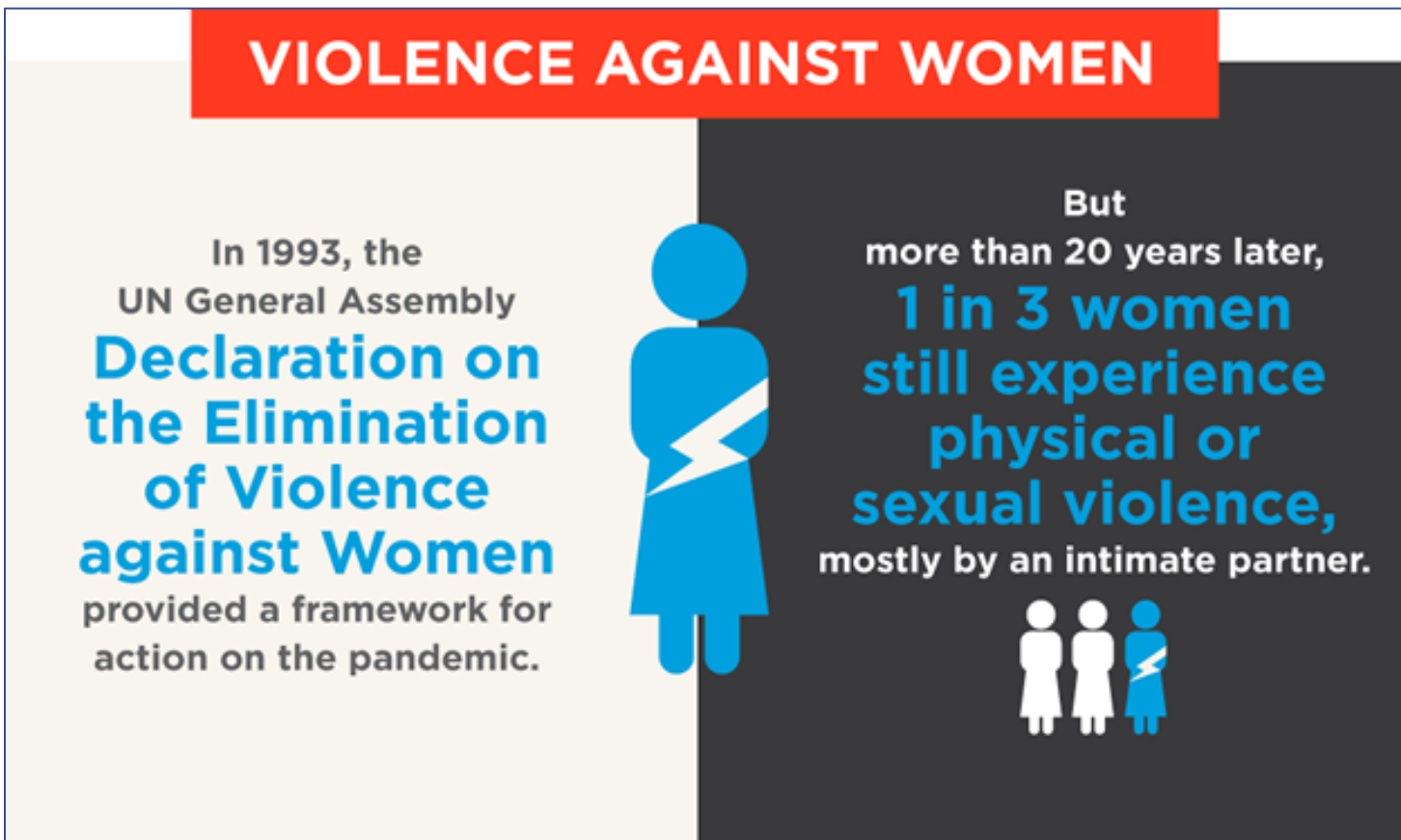


Four years isn't very long + In places where women should be the most empowered... (NIJ 2000)

What about in countries where everyone has fewer resources and women have less agency?

## LITERATURE

**Violence against women** – “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm and suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life” (UN 1993)



WHY DOES IT HAPPEN? (according to Jacqui True)

1. Gender division of labor
2. Global economy = exploitation of women for cheap labor
3. Masculine-protector and feminine-protected identities associated with war and militarism

+ **Male breadwinner and female homemaker identities**

DOES EMPLOYMENT LEAD TO VIOLENCE?

- Household bargaining power and “fallback positions”
- Exposure reduction
- Demand for female labor
- Male unemployment



VIOLENCE IN KENYA:

- Husbands discipline wives
- What is marital rape?

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



IF A WOMAN IS IN PRECARIOUS EMPLOYMENT, HOW CAN SHE TAKE CARE OF HERSELF IF SHE EXPERIENCES VIOLENCE?

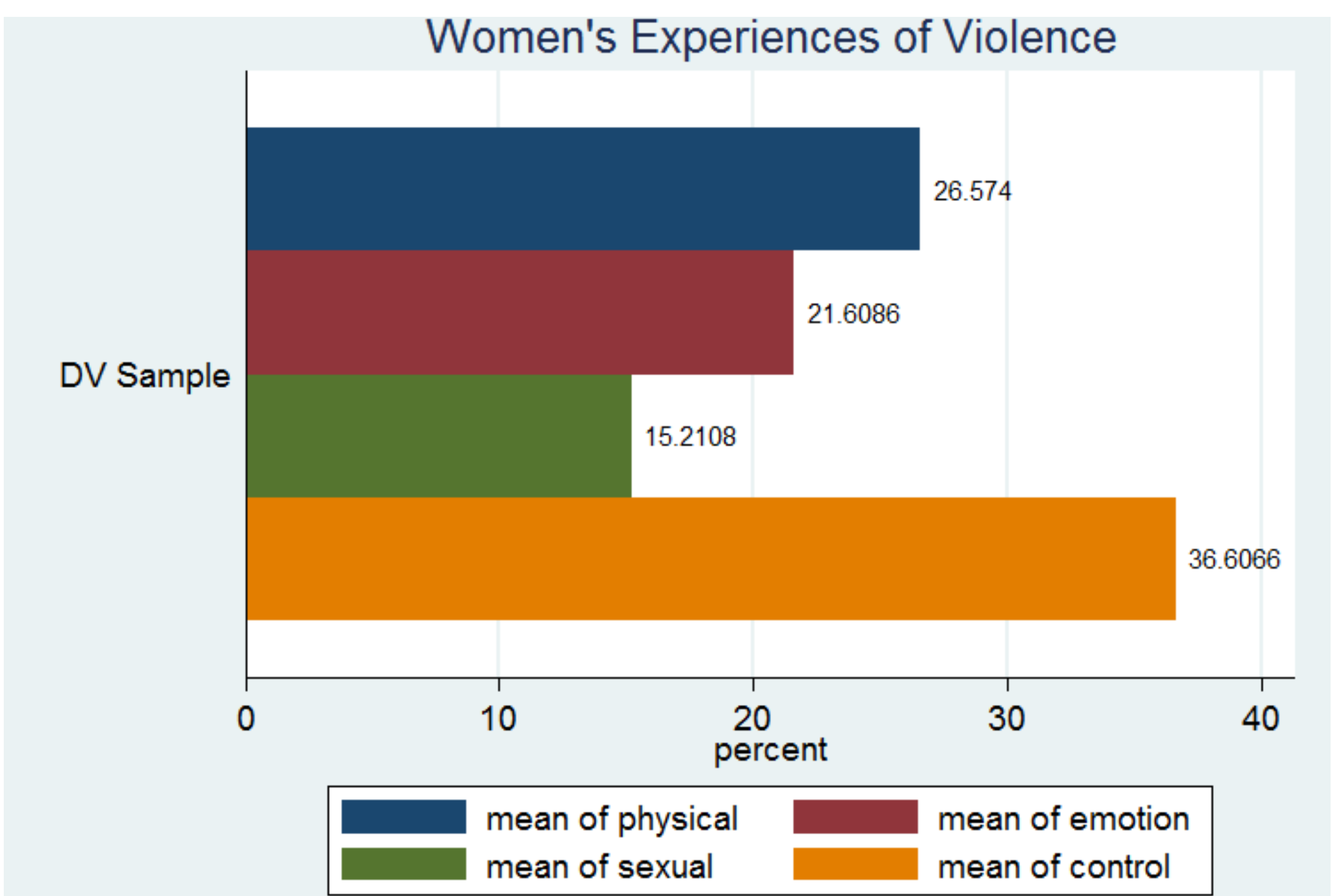
## MODEL

Dependent variable: self-employed, non-agricultural sector (yes/no)

Independent variables: Coercive abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, partner drinks, mother abused, years of education, income ranking, ethnicity, urban or rural, justifies violence, partner's occupation, partner's education level, respondent's age, partner's age, marital status, number of children born, experienced FGM

**ISOLATING THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON THE PROBABILITY OF WORKING INFORMALLY**

Sample = 6,318 women interviewed for the domestic violence module out of 8,444 total women surveyed



WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT:

- If women are 50% of the population, having them work means economies grow (bi-directional relationship with development)
- Increased household income leads to improvements in childhood health

REALITIES:

- Women are more likely than men to work in informal employment (74% of women in SSA)
- 49.1% of working women are in more vulnerable employment

WOMEN AND ABUSE:

- Physical injuries
- PTSD, depression, anxiety
- Withdrawal (and abandonment of children)
- Substance abuse
- Future risky sexual behavior
- Lost productivity
- Effects on children
- **“Resource Loss”**

## EVIDENCE FROM KENYA

NAIROBI WOMEN'S HOSPITAL GENDER VIOLENCE RECOVERY CENTER:

NATURE OF VIOLENCE	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
RAPE/ DEFILEMENT	87%	86%	83%
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	13%	14%	17%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

It is most common for children to come in for cases of “defilement” (rape of a child), while it is more common for adult women to report cases of physical abuse by an intimate partner. Cases of rape of women were perpetrated most commonly by “strangers.”

ELDORET DISTRICT COURT SGBV CASES:

YEAR	NATURE OF THE SEXUAL OFFENSE		
	RAPE	DEFILEMENT	TOTAL
2010	30	84	114
2011	30	282	312
2012	38	248	286
2013	60	320	380
2014	30	260	290
2015	24	252	276

TRENDS:

- Dropping out of school
  - Expensive school fees
  - Need to start employment early
  - Early pregnancy or marriage
  - **Result: No diploma = no formal job**
- High male unemployment
- Illicit brew trade
  - **Facilitates violence within households and brew houses**
  - Poverty trap for women and children
- Forced sex work
  - **Vulnerable to sexual abuse**
  - Vulnerable to disease
- Informal employment
  - Hawking fruit on the street
  - Hawking secondhand clothes
  - Flexibility to take care of children