

# Analysis of Causes of Physical Domestic Violence against Women in Huye District of Rwanda

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**Abstract-**Physical domestic violence has been significant issues for centuries in all countries. Women's rights are violated in myriad ways in the private sphere these include, the continued practice of harmful cultural practices and other forms of physical domestic violence.

**The aim of this paper:** The aim of the research was to analyze the causes of physical domestic violence against women in Huye district of Rwanda.

**Hypothesis:** This research has tested the relationship between types and the causes of physical domestic violence.

**Materials and methods:** Data were collected using android mobile phone with application of KoBo collect as the best quicker tool superior to paper based. A number of 120 respondents were selected proceeding snowball technique from two sectors of Huye district sampled by multistage sampling procedure with two stages, this method was employed due to it reduces cost and lessen the impossibility of getting list of respondents units.

**Results:** Findings revealed a positive relationship between types and causes of physical domestic violence and drunkenness heads the list of those causes where slapping is a frequent abused led by drunkenness and it was advocated to sensitize human rights, to make dialogue with partners, to control alcohol and drug use and fixing serious punishment as measures to eliminate physical domestic violence against women.

**Conclusion:** In nutshell, as findings pointed out that types of physical domestic violence vary positively with causes where drunkenness is the most cause of physical domestic violence against women mainly slapping them.

The research suggested that dialogue, sensitization of human rights, controlling consumption of alcohol and drugs' use and fixing punishment should be the essential weapons to curb physical domestic violence against women.

**Index Terms-** Violence, Domestic violence, Physical domestic violence (PDV), Types and Causes of PDV

## I. INTRODUCTION

Physical domestic violence against women is major public health problems and violations of women's human rights. Physical domestic violence is the most common form of violence occurring in every society in the world. Not long ago, what happened within the home was considered to be a private, family matter and was excluded from scrutiny by the public. Physical domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also

has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing physical domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this abuse. Frequent exposure to physical domestic violence in the home not only predisposes women to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life. Physical domestic violence against women is a global problem without cultural, geographic, religious, social, economic or national boundaries. It is considered one of the most serious violations of human rights and is a widespread phenomenon which does not discriminate based on race, religion, ethnicity or language. Violence against women as a social and health problem mostly within close/immediate social settings has serious consequences affecting not only female victims' physical and emotional health, and social well-being, but has considerable effects on children, family and society as whole (Marine Chitashvili, Nino Javakhishvili, Luiza Arutiunov, Lia Tsuladze, & Sophio Chachanidze, 2010).

Physical domestic violence against women deprives them of their right to participate in societal life as a whole and holds them prisoners under the special conditions set by the immediate social setting such as family, kinship, social norms and values shared by the majority. The practice of violence against women and particularly physical domestic violence is a constant variable that deviates depending on societal vectors like social and economic development of the country as well as the societal norms perceived as a "normal" for the current culture of the nation-state. The major impact physical domestic violence has on women is hindering their full inclusion and participation in social life and of course wellbeing of healthy nation. Combating physical domestic violence is important for building a truly democratic society founded on the principles of human rights (Marine Chitashvili et al., 2010).

Recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

On average, 30% of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner, globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner (World health organization, 2013).

In Rwanda, approximately two in five women (41 percent) have experienced physical violence since age 15. The proportion of women who have ever experienced physical violence increases with the age of women, from 16 percent (age 15-19) to 58 percent (age 40-49).

Women who are employed for cash are more likely to report having experienced physical violence compared with women who are unemployed or employed but not paid in cash. Formerly married women (divorced, separated, or widowed) are more likely to have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 than currently married and never married women (70 percent, compared with 56 and 14 percent, respectively). Women with no living children are least likely to have experienced physical violence since age 15 (17 percent) (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2010).

There is little variation in the level of physical violence by urban-rural residence and by province. The percentage of women who have ever experienced physical violence ranges from 35 percent in the city of Kigali to 46 percent in the East province.

The proportion of women who have ever experienced physical violence declines steeply with education, from 53 percent of women with no education to 24 percent of women with secondary and higher education. Women's experience of physical violence is highest in the lowest wealth quintile (49 percent), and is lowest in the highest wealth quintile (33 percent); however, the relationship is not linear (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2010).

Among women who have ever experienced physical violence by current marital status, 95 percent reported that a current husband or partner committed the physical violence against them. And among women who have never been married, the most common perpetrators of physical violence are neighbor/community member (22 percent), sister/brother (17 percent), father/stepfather (16 percent), and mother/stepmother (14 percent) (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2010).

The causes of physical domestic violence have grounded in various ways. Laws on physical domestic violence vary by country, while it is generally outlawed in the Western World; this is not the case in many developing countries. The social acceptability of physical domestic violence differs by country while in most developed countries physical domestic violence is considered unacceptable by most people; in many regions of the world the views are different.

Refusing to submit to a husband's wishes is a common reason given for justification of violence in developing countries (Measure DHS, 2013) for instance 62.4% of women in Tajikistan justify wife beating if the wife goes out without telling the husband; 68% if she argues with him; 47.9% if she refuses to have sex with him (World health organization, 2013). Traditionally, in most cultures, men had a legal right to use physical domestic violence to "discipline" their wives (World health organization, 2013).

It was from this focus the ideas of conducting this research germinated with intention to analyze the causes of various types of physical domestic violence against women in Huye district of Rwanda and to suggest suitable measures for reducing the occurrence and prevalence of physical domestic violence.

## II. METHODOLOGY

**Research design:** This research has used a combination of three research design to reach objectives of the whole undertaking. According to Kothari (2005) no single research design can solely be sufficient for a whole research process.

This research has adopted case study design; due to case study is an in-depth study of a particular research problem rather than a sweeping statistical survey. It was useful to narrow down a very broad field of research into one or a few easily researchable examples (C.R. Kothari, 2005). The case study research design is also useful for testing whether a specific theory and model actually applies to phenomena in the real world. It is a useful design when not much is known about a phenomenon. The researcher also adopted an ex post facto as his research design in that there is no control or treatment of variables required (C.R. Kothari, 2005). An ex-post facto research design is one which does not involve experimentation. It is also a cross-sectional study where a cross-sectional study analyzes data at one time point, and thus does not consider future or past periods (Chava, James L. Bellini, & L. Robert McConnell, 2005).

**Source of data:** This study has mainly used primary data gathered from respondents who experienced domestic physical violence in Huye district

**Target population:** For the success of the study, information to be representative of the population covered by the research questions, researcher took case study of households in Huye district of Rwanda. This was in accordance with Chava opinion stating that population refers to the total number of elements covered by the research questions (Chava et al., 2005).

**Sample size:** According to Depelteau (2000) most methodological manuals in human sciences recommend that a sample must represent at least 10% of the size of the study population.

The same manuals recommend a minimum of 30 units for a sample. And this research has conducted survey on 120 respondents.

Ten percent of our study population which is of 77,915 households (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2014) would bring us therefore to a sample of about 7,792 individuals, which is unrealistic considering the financial and time constraints. Nevertheless, our sample of 120 individuals remains in the limits of a representative sample, acceptable and even recommended.

**Sampling techniques:** To succeed representative sample, research have used multistage sampling. Multistage sampling was generally used because it is lessened the cost and lightened the impossibility to form a list of all the units in the target population. A multi-stage sample is often more precise than a simple random sample of the same cost (Nathaniel Bell et al., 2012), and it is for this reason that the method was employed. The study population was selected in two stages, the first stage, 2 sectors (also known as clusters or enumeration areas) was selected randomly; basically Huye district comprises 14 sectors and researcher economically selected two sectors randomly as representing clusters of Huye district and the second stage comprised of the households. From these two stages, the researcher used both simple random and snow ball sampling techniques as these enabled him to select respondents who could provide him with the information needed for the study (Browne & Kath, 2005).

**Data collection methods and tools:** The information from the primary data was obtained through a structured questionnaire loaded in KoBo Collect (Mobile Phone Application for Android Smart Phones) as data collection tool.

KoBo Toolbox provides an integrated suite of applications for data collection. This collection tool is superior to paper-based methods in terms of speed, data quality, and security, and is a cost-effective alternative to manual data entry (Radio La Benevolencija, 2013). Researcher used the Form Builder to design surveys that run in the KoBo Collect application for Android devices. The survey contained many kinds of questions, including text or numerical input, multi-select, single-select.

**Data processing and analytical methods:** Data processing was done in accordance with general and specific objectives of the research study.

After carrying out interviews with respondents' there was editing and the information was arranged in a meaningful and organized form by coding it according to a pre-designed coding manual aid keyed into the Computer in a spreadsheet, the coded variables were then summarized into frequencies and statistical diagrams and charts used for the presentation.

Univariate analysis was used to find summary statistics and frequency table, bivariate analysis was used to find relationship among variables and spearman correlation analysis was used to find the strengths of effects of causes on types of physical domestic violence. Spearman correlation was used to indicate the direction and strengths of coefficients. Spearman correlation is a nonparametric measure of statistical dependence between two variables. It assesses how well the relationship between two variables can be described using monotonic function. Spearman's coefficient  $\rho$ , like any correlation calculation, is appropriate for both continuous and discrete variables, including ordinal variables (Myers, Jerome L, Well, & Arnold D., 2003). And  $\rho$  is computed from:

$$\rho = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Where  $d_i = x_i - y_i$ , is the difference between ranks.

The model should be  $Y = \alpha X$  where Y is type of violence; X is the cause of physical domestic violence and  $\alpha$  is the intensity of

effect of causes on a type of violence. This was afforded through the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS).

### III. RESULTS

Findings in this paper came from socio-demographic profile of women age 25-59 who responded to the research questions with respect to the causes of physical domestic violence against women in Rwanda.

#### Types of physical domestic violence and major perpetrators

This section presents types of physical domestic violence, perpetrators and the scale of occurrence of physical domestic violence presented in various forms and perpetrators vary from type to type and also occurrence depends upon the type, hence this section discussed types of physical domestic violence, perpetrators and the scale of occurrence of physical domestic violence.

#### Types of physical domestic violence against women

The major types of physical domestic violence observed in the data collected in the study site include pushing/shaking/throwing (objects), slapping, twisting arm/pulling hair, punching with fist, kicking/dragging/beating up, choking/burning, threatening/attacking with weapon and other namely sexual/rape.

Table1. presents that nearly 12 percent reported that they experienced violence of pushing/shaking/throwing (objects), slightly more than 24 percent reported that they experienced violence of slapping, slightly more than 13 percent reported that they experienced violence of twisting arm/pulling hair, nearly 11 percent reported that they experienced violence of punching with fist, slightly more than 23 percent reported that they experienced violence of kicking/dragging/beating up, slightly more than 8 percent reported that they experienced violence of choking/burning, nearly 3 percent reported that they experienced violence of threatening/attacking with weapon and nearly 6 percent reported that they experienced violence of other physical domestic violence and they pointed out sexual/rape.

**Table 1. Types of physical domestic violence**

Types of the physical domestic violence	Frequency (%)
Pushing/shaking/throwing (objects)	14(11.7)
Slapping	29(24.2)
Twisting arm/pulling hair	16(13.3)
Punching with fist	13(10.8)
Kicking/dragging/beating up	28(23.3)
Chocking/burning	10(8.3)
Threatening/attacking with weapon	3(2.5)
Other	7(5.8)
Total	120(100)

**Source: Primary data**

**Major perpetrators of physical domestic violence against women**

Overall, men are the major perpetrators of all types of violence according to the study. As displayed in Table 2 below, men were cited as being the major perpetrators of physical

domestic violence by the overwhelming majority of respondents at slightly more than 84 percent. The respondents who cited workers (domestic workers) as perpetrators of violence were nearly 6 percent while those who mentioned other as perpetrators accounted for 10 percent.

**Table 2. Perpetrators of physical domestic violence**

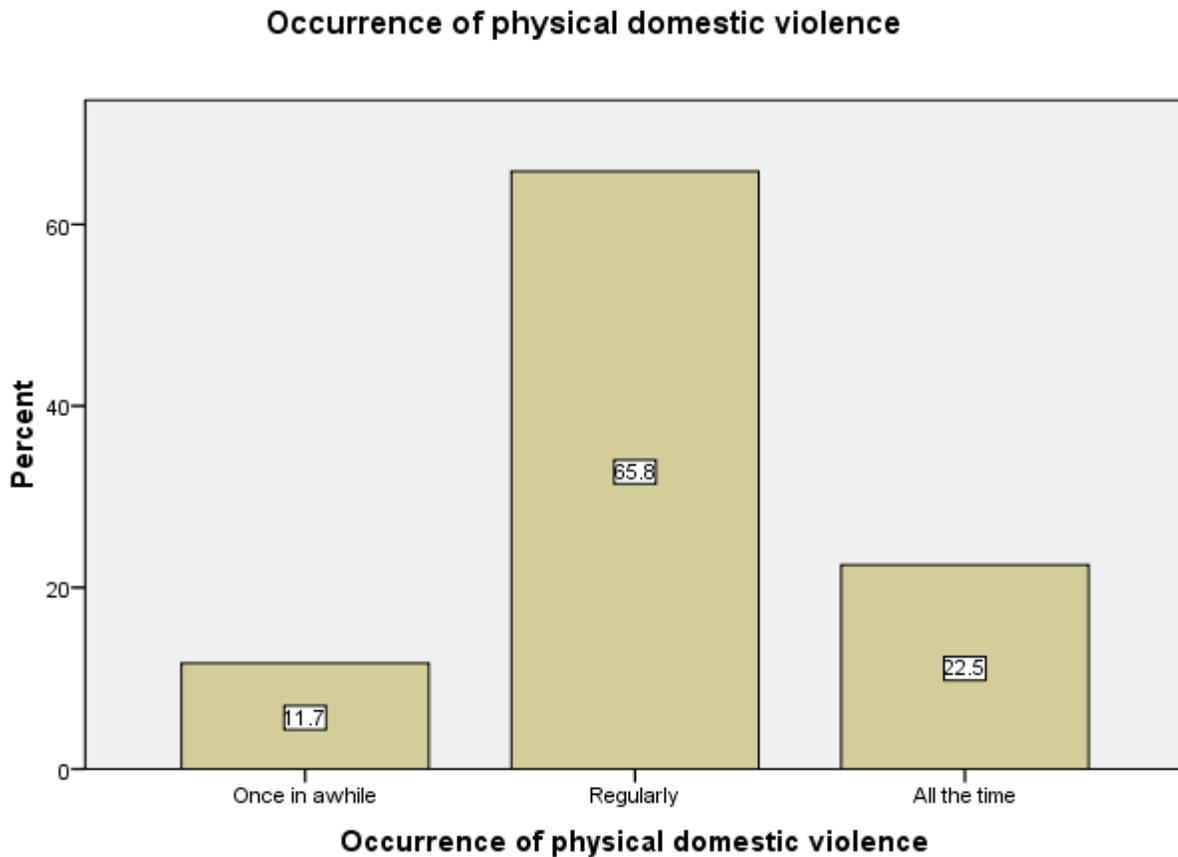
Perpetrators of physical domestic violence			
Types of the physical domestic violence	Husband	Worker	Other
	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
Pushing/shaking/throwing (objects)	9(7.5)	1(0.8)	4(3.3)
Slapping	29(24.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Twisting arm/pulling hair	16(13.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Punching with fist	12(10.0)	1(0.8)	0(0.0)
Kicking/dragging/beating up	27(22.5)	1(0.8)	0(0.0)
Chocking/burning	8(6.7)	2(1.7)	0(0.0)
Threatening/attacking with weapon	0(0.0)	1(0.8)	2(1.7)
Other	0(0.0)	1(0.8)	6(5.0)
Total	101(84.2)	7(5.8)	12(10.0)

Source: Primary data

**Scale of occurrence of physical domestic violence**

In order to know the scale of types of violence respondents were asked to mention how many times such type of violence took place. Figure 1 shows the responses obtained.

**Figure1. The scale of occurrence of physical domestic violence**



**Source: Primary data**

Figure 1 presents the scale of occurrence of physical domestic violence. The research revealed that majority of respondents' experienced regularly domestic violence. Indeed pointed out by nearly 66 percent. Nearly 23 faced all the time physical domestic violence and nearly 12 percent of women experienced domestic violence once in awhile.

**Causes of physical domestic violence**

The causes of physical domestic violence in the families as identified by respondents are: drunkenness, wickedness, excessive anger, lack of dialogue, drugs, contempt, bad character, accidental events. Based on respondents views these range as presented in the Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Causes of domestic violence**

Causes of domestic violence	Frequency (%)
Drunkenness	63(52.5)
Excessive anger	15(12.5)
Lack of dialogue	12(10.0)
Wickedness (hatred)	4(3.3)
Drugs	12(10.0)
Contempt	4(3.3)
Bad character	7(5.8)
Ignorance	2(1.7)
Accidental event	1(0.8)

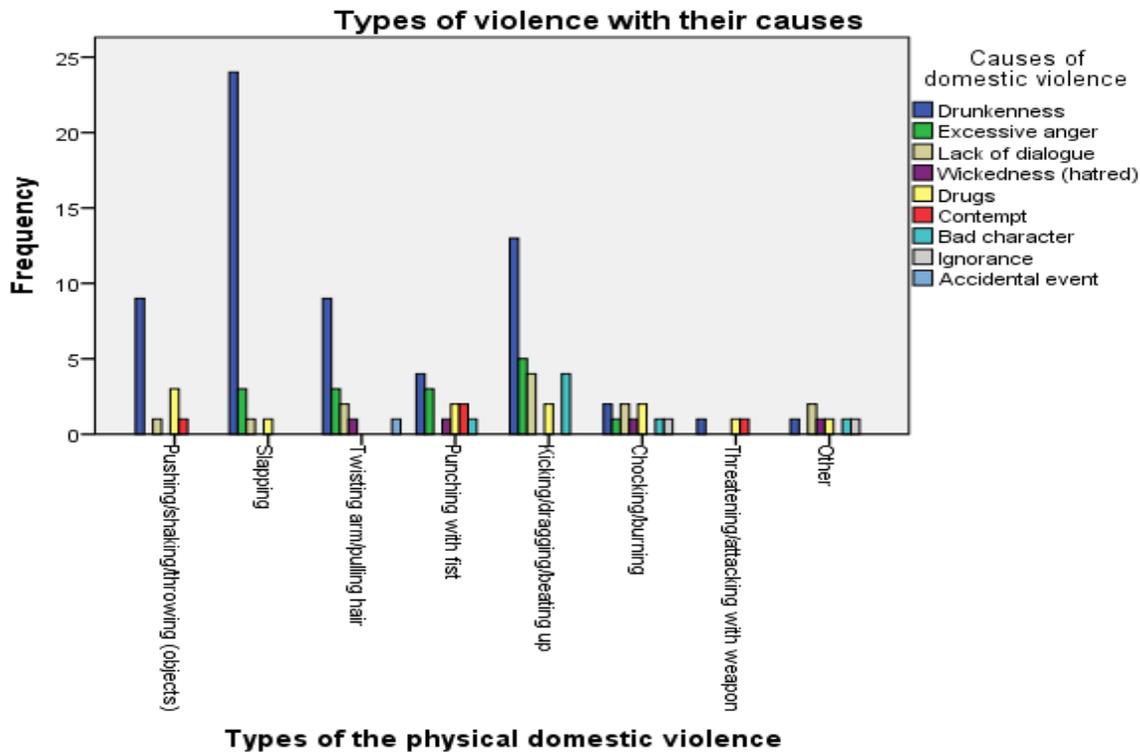
**Source: Primary data**

Table 3 Shows that drunkenness is heading the list as the most important cause of physical domestic violence to family provided it has been pointed out by most of people if compared to other causes. Indeed, it has been pointed out by nearly 53 percent of respondents. Among those other causes (47 percent), nearly 13 percent reported excessive anger as the cause of violence, 10 percent reported lack of dialogue as the cause of violence, 10 percent reported lack of dialogue as the cause of violence,

10 percent reported drugs as the cause of violence, nearly 6 percent reported bad character as the cause of violence, slightly more than 3 percent reported contempt as the cause of violence. Slightly more than 3 percent reported wickedness as the cause of violence and nearly 1 percent reported accidental events as the cause of violence.

Causes have various effects to influence the incidence and prevalence of a type of physical domestic violence. The figure 4 presents the relationship between types of physical domestic violence and causes of physical domestic violence.

**Figure 2. Types of violence with their causes**



Source: Primary data

Figure 2 presents that drunkenness is heading the list of major causes of physical domestic violence leading to slapping.

**Table 4. Spearman correlation**

Correlations				
		Types of the physical domestic violence		Causes of domestic violence
Spearman's rho	Types of the physical domestic violence	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	0.385**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0.000
		N	120	120
	Causes of domestic violence	Correlation Coefficient	0.385**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	.
		N	120	120

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Computed from primary data

The Table 4 presents Spearman correlations; spearman correlations show a positive relationship between types and the causes of physical domestic violence. The strength of effect of a cause to a type of physical domestic violence is 0.385. The test shows that there is a significant effect brought by a cause to a type of physical domestic violence. Therefore  $Y = 0.385X$  that is an increase of one cause effect affects 0.385 effect of a type being grounded.

The analysis has revealed that drunkenness was heading the list with a lot effects to lead circumstances of slapping physical domestic violence compared to other physical domestic violence forms.

#### **Measures for reducing the incidence and prevalence of physical domestic violence**

Every day, millions of women and girls across the world are beaten and abused. Many are harmed in their homes by members of their family or community.

Others are raped or harassed by the very security forces that are meant to protect them. Some victims of gender-based violence are employed outside their homes, some are not. Some are rich, some are poor. Some are literate, some are not. They are mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. They have only one thing in common: they are female, and they are abused because of it.

On top of views from respondents participated in this research, they pointed out a number of measures for reducing the incidence and prevalence of physical domestic violence against women including: dialogue with partners, sensitization of human rights and fixing serious punishments to those who commit abuses.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In nutshell, women as victims of physical domestic violence have become a prevalent issue amongst our present society. Findings revealed that husbands are heading the list of perpetrators of physical domestic violence at the extent of slightly more than 84 percent

The analysis made in purpose of analyzing causes of physical domestic violence in Huye district of Rwanda has put out a number of causes including drunkenness with incidence of nearly 53 percent, nearly 13 percent for excessive anger as the cause of violence, 10 percent is lack of dialogue as the cause of violence, 10 percent for drugs as the cause of violence, nearly 6 percent reported bad character as the cause of violence, slightly more than 3 percent for contempt as the cause of violence, slightly more than 3 percent for wickedness as the cause of violence and nearly 1 percent for accidental events as the cause of violence. Furthermore, the spearman correlation showed a positive relationship that an increase of one cause effect affects 0.385 effect of a type. Furthermore, findings pointed out that types of physical domestic violence vary with causes where drunkenness is the most cause of physical domestic violence against women and this has a significant effect for other causing circumstance on slapping as well.

The research suggested that dialogue, sensitization of human rights, controlling consumption of alcohol and drugs' use

and fixing punishment should be the essential weapons to curb physical domestic violence against women. Although, the research was successfully reached the objective, it has a got a number of limitation. Major problem encountered was data collection tools with limited time span, which the researcher found it was a tiresome work to get the required data. Funding the research was also another problem since transport and material to obtain accurate and sufficient data as well as costs in typing and loading were so costly.

However, using mobile phone helped researcher to minimize time and cost of printing questionnaires and internet tried to solve the problem of loading questionnaire forms in appropriate data collection tool. Due to limited funds, the researcher used snow ball type of sampling to present total population as a possible way to use available financial resources that compiled the research paper.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Reviewing the findings this research came up, taking account to positive relation between types and causes of physical domestic violence that causes of physical domestic violence increase the types of physical domestic violence. Therefore, the researcher recommends the following point in order to support policy makers to curb physical domestic violence against women. To Huye district of Rwanda: Researcher recommends preventive measures of sensitizing human rights so that perpetrators get fear to abuse the women. To household members: Research recommends continuous dialogue with partners for any issue arisen in the house to solve it before it hurt partner. To other researchers: Researcher strongly recommends further researches to deepen the research on this subject matter to increase the evidence base and promote the use of the evidence to advocate eradicating physical domestic violence against women. This research did not cover all the corners related to the analysis of causes of physical domestic violence against women in Rwanda, and this is due to that the subject is multidimensional and immense of types varying to the causes. So, it is recommended to go for further scientific researches, books and journals.

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