Reviewer's report

Title: Change over time in factors associated with domestic violence by intimate partner in Egypt: analysis of two surveys

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Reviewer: Lars Åke Persson

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In this paper the authors depart from the module on partner violence against women in two Demographic Health Surveys, 10 years apart, and analyses changes in the prevalence of violence and changes in the pattern of associated background factors. It provides new knowledge especially regarding the dynamics of the associated background factors, e.g. the consequences of changing educational background of women and men in society.

The paper is well written and analyses seem overall to have been performed in a careful and critical manner.

I would like the authors to elaborate a bit more carefully on the possible consequences of the very brief question in the first survey and the much more careful questionnaire (with similar design as in the WHO multi-country study questionnaire) in the second survey. Previous experience tells that a brief question renders a great underestimate of the true frequency of domestic violence, while a block of questions as in the second survey results in a more valid result. The consequences of this may impact not only estimated level of frequency of violence but also associations with background factors.

It should be mentioned also in Methods in Abstract that data collection methods were different in survey 1 and 2.

Sometimes the authors use the word effect when dealing with the associations between background factors and violence I prefer association.