Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with wife beating in Egypt: analysis of two surveys (1995 and 2005)

Version: 5 Date: 14 August 2008

Reviewer: Farah Ahmad

Reviewer's report:

The authors have incorporated the major suggestions. Here are some comments to be further considered:

1. “Incidence” versus “rate”: Please consider using the term “rate” instead of “incidence” throughout the paper. The questions about wife beating asked whether this occurred during the last 12 months. The “yes” responses to this question can’t be called incidence unless this was the very first experience ever for the respondent. In other statistical reports, the rates of IPV during the last 12 months are also referred to “12-month prevalence” or “prevalence in the last year”.

2. Abstract: please consider adding a sentence about limitation of study due to different measures used in 1995 and 2005. Further, the last sentence “Education programs…” is unclear. Do you mean something like this: “Community education programs, though not sufficient on its own, should target not only women but men as well in order to decrease the rates of wife beating”.

3. In the ‘result’ section (page 6, 2nd para), I found this finding very interesting: “The estimates for education in bivariate and multivariate analysis were similar for women’s education but not for her partners’ education”. This suggests that “education” has different pathways to perpetration of wife beating by men and many “other” variables moderate the link between education and wife beating perpetration. I suggest that the authors should build on this finding and include a sentence or two in the discussion section regarding what these “other” possible variables could be. In my view, these other variables are the macro-level determinants such as: societal norms about wife beating, patriarchal ideology, and gender roles etc.

4. In the ‘result’ section under ‘pattern of violence’ (page 6, para 5): it seems that the authors’ forgot to add the result about the link between “education” and various “patterns” of wife beating though this was the purpose of factor analysis as stated in the 1st sentence of this sub-section.

5. In the ‘discussion’ section (page 7, para 1): the authors state “We are not aware of any study directly comparing the two approaches with respect to reporting of violence”. This has been reported previously; please review related literature e.g.:

6. In the ‘conclusion’ sub-section of the discussion (page 8, para 2): The statement “Thus, selective educational interventions directed specifically towards women may simply leave these women with an uneducated partner and fail to reduce wife beating levels” is not clear. What is the meaning of “educational interventions” here? Does it mean school-years (i.e. literacy level) or does it mean community awareness? I assume that authors are trying to say that “Raising the bar of critical consciousness among women through women-specific education is not sufficient. Wife beating is a behavior perpetrated by men and the interventions need to target both men and women to foster critical awareness of the issue and its harmful consequences going beyond victims”

Best wishes for your future endeavors.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.