



Analysis of Gender-Based Violence in Malagasy urban areas: cases of Antananarivo 5th District and Morarano Toamasina

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Abstract: *This study was conducted in the urban areas of Antananarivo 5 and Morarano, with the aim of examining the correlations between gender, education level, and the different forms of violence experienced by residents. A total of 500 participants, equally distributed between the two areas, were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The results revealed a significant negative correlation between gender and education level, suggesting that a certain gender profile is associated with a lower level of education. Furthermore, education level showed moderate negative correlations with all forms of violence studied, indicating that a higher level of education could act as a protective factor against violence. The different types of violence were also interconnected, with psychological violence being positively correlated with physical, economic, and sexual violence.*

Keywords: *Gender-based violence, Education, Madagascar, Gender inequalities*

I. Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major issue in Madagascar, particularly affecting women and young girls. According to a 2023 UNICEF report, 11.5% of Malagasy girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced sexual violence, an alarming statistic that highlights the need to combat this scourge. In urban areas like Antananarivo 5 and Morarano, these violences are amplified by deep-rooted inequalities, particularly in terms of access to education and women's economic empowerment (World Bank, 2024).

Education is a crucial factor in the fight against GBV. However, according to UNFPA (2022), nearly 71% of young girls in Madagascar drop out of school, compared to only 28% of boys, which contributes to their increased vulnerability to violence. This educational inequality is not limited to access to schooling but also manifests in limitations on access to employment and economic independence, thus exacerbating women's dependence on men and exposing them to violent situations (World Bank, 2023).

Economic inequalities are also a key factor. According to a World Bank report (2023), Malagasy women participate less in the labor market than men, with a participation rate of 71.3% compared to 82.4% for men. Additionally, there is a wage gap of 28.9% between genders, with women often relegated to lower-paid jobs. This economic inequality increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence (UN Women, 2024).

In the urban areas of Antananarivo 5 and Morarano, violence in schools is on the rise, particularly affecting girls. According to a 2023 UNICEF report, school violence, whether physical, psychological, or sexual, affects a large part of the student population, amplifying the effects of social and educational inequalities on young girls. This dynamic creates an environment conducive to the perpetuation of GBV.

The aim of this study is to analyze the links between gender, education level, and various forms of violence experienced by the inhabitants of Antananarivo 5 and Morarano. Through this analysis, we aim to provide recommendations that will help develop policies to reduce GBV and promote gender equality in Madagascar.

II. Research Methods

A quantitative survey was conducted with 250 participants in each area, bringing the total to 500. Participants were randomly selected from long-term residents (minimum one year) to ensure optimal representation of the local population.

Data collection was carried out using a structured questionnaire, developed based on a recent literature review, to gather information on socio-demographic variables (age, gender, education level, socio-economic status), types of violence experienced (psychological, physical, economic, sexual or mixed) and their consequences on health (injuries, sleep disorders, infections, etc.). A pilot phase allowed for the adjustment and validation of the measurement tool before its deployment in the field.

Interviews were conducted face-to-face by trained interviewers, in accordance with ethical principles, including informed consent and participant anonymity. Data confidentiality was guaranteed throughout the data collection process.

The responses obtained were entered and analyzed using Microsoft Excel. This tool enabled descriptive analyses to be performed (calculations of frequencies, percentages, and averages) and comparative graphs to be produced illustrating the disparities between the two study areas. Data quality control was ensured by data entry verification, including a double-entry procedure to minimize errors.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

The results presented provide detailed insights into gender distribution and education levels in the Antananarivo 5 and Morarano Toamasina zones. In the former zone, female predominance is marked, with nearly 89% of women counted, compared to less than 10% of men and a tiny minority of other genders. In Morarano Toamasina, the distribution is more balanced, although women remain in the majority (around 59%), while men represent just over 41%.

Table 1. Genders surveyed

Gender	Female	Male	Others
Antananarivo 5	89.27	9.60	0.56
Morarano Toamasina	58.56	41.18	0.27

Regarding the level of education, it is noted that the majority of people surveyed in Antananarivo 5 are between primary and secondary school, with a notable presence of people

with a primary (41.24%) and secondary school (38.98%) level, while the proportion of illiterate people or individuals who have reached university remains low. In Morarano Toamasina, the observation is similar but with a clear increase in people who have followed a secondary school course (61.76%), a slight increase in higher education (12.83%) and a lower incidence of illiteracy (1.60%). These observations highlight regional disparities that deserve particular attention in the implementation of appropriate educational policies. Relative to the types of violence suffered, worrying and contrasting trends between the two areas are revealed. In both contexts, psychological and mixed violence are the most frequently reported forms, at around 35% and 37-38% respectively, indicating a significant prevalence of both emotionally and physically abusive behavior. Physical, economic, and sexual violence, although lower in proportion, remain significant and illustrate the diversity of forms of violence that individuals can face.

Table 2. Education level

Level	Antananarivo 5	Morarano Toamasina
Illiterate	6.21	1.60
Primary	41.24	14.97
College	38.98	61.76
High school	11.30	8.82
University	2.26	12.83

The fact that the rates are roughly equivalent between Antananarivo 5 and Morarano Toamasina highlights that these types of abuse are not necessarily dependent on the geographical context but are part of a more global phenomenon requiring a coordinated response. These findings call for in-depth reflection on the prevention and intervention of violence, in order to support victims in a more humane and effective manner. Analyzing the identities of the aggressors and the causes of the violence sheds additional light on the complexity of the phenomenon. In both areas, the partner remains the most frequently identified aggressor, followed by cases involving several aggressors or acquaintances, which suggests complex interpersonal dynamics in the emergence of violence. The causes cited are mostly multiple, with a high proportion attributed to a range of diverse factors (over 65%), including drug use and, to a lesser extent, unemployment and poor education. The consequences of this violence are mainly manifested by an accumulation of multiple negative health effects, with very high rates (nearly 93%) for "multiple consequences" which encompass various forms of harm, even if minor and serious injuries, sexually transmitted infections and sleep disorders remain less frequent. These results call for a comprehensive and empathetic approach to understanding and combating violence, taking into account the personal and societal contexts of victims, while strengthening prevention and support systems.

Table 3. Aggressor identity

Identify	Antananarivo 5	Morarano Toamasina
Partner	34.12	36.20
Several	22.35	20.18
Knowledge	14.12	13.70
Unknown	8.82	9.14
Ex-partner	7.65	6.99
Family	5.88	6.10
Others	7.06	7.69

Correlation analysis reveals several interesting trends in the data. For example, a significant negative correlation (-0.35 *) between gender and education level suggests that a

certain gender profile tends to be associated with a lower level of education. Furthermore, education level shows moderate negative correlations with all forms of violence studied (ranging from -0.18* to -0.40*), indicating that a higher level of education could act as a protective factor against violence. The types of violence themselves appear interconnected: psychological violence is positively correlated with physical (0.45*), economic (0.38*), and sexual (0.42*) violence, meaning that victims of psychological violence are often exposed to other forms of abuse.

Table 4. Correlations of results

Variables	Gender	Education level	Psychological violence	Physical violence	Economic violence	Sexual violence
Gender	1.00	- 0.35*	0.28*	0.15	0.10	0.12
Education level	-0.35*	1.00	-0.40*	-0.25*	-0.20*	-0.18*
Psychological violence	0.28*	-0.40*	1.00	0.45*	0.38*	0.42*
Physical violence	0.15	-0.25*	0.45*	1.00	0.50*	0.30*
Economic violence	0.10	-0.20*	0.38*	0.50*	1.00	0.35*
Sexual violence	0.12	-0.18*	0.42*	0.30*	0.35*	1.00

*(p <0,05)

Physical and economic violence also show a particularly high correlation (0.50*), highlighting a strong association between these two forms of abuse. Finally, the weak positive correlations between gender and the different forms of violence (from 0.10 to 0.15, with an exception for psychological violence at 0.28*) indicate a moderate association, suggesting that vulnerability to violence varies according to gender dimensions, although other factors, particularly education level, seem to play a more decisive role in preventing violence. These results invite the consideration of integrated intervention strategies, where improving access to education could significantly contribute to reducing violent behavior in the studied settings.

3.2 Discussion

In the Antananarivo 5 area, the female preponderance (nearly 89%) contrasts sharply with the low representation of men (less than 10%) and other gender identities. This situation can be explained by socio-economic and cultural factors specific to this area. Recent studies show that in certain developing urban contexts, internal migration, family responsibilities and the socio-economic vulnerability of women can lead to female overrepresentation in certain neighborhoods (Smith et al., 2022; Rossi et al., 2022).

In Morarano Toamasina, the distribution is more balanced, even though women remain in the majority (59% compared to approximately 41% men). This observation is consistent with the work of Chen et al. (2023), who highlight that gender distribution can vary greatly from one area to another, depending on migration dynamics and local family structures. Furthermore, the difference in education levels between the two areas deserves special attention. In Antananarivo 5, the majority of people are between primary and secondary school, with a particularly high rate of people having completed primary (41.24%) and secondary school (38.98%). This predominance of a low or intermediate level of education is common in areas where access to higher education is limited by economic or logistical constraints (Müller et al., 2024; Kim et al., 2022).

Table 5. Type of violence

Kind	Antananarivo 5	Morarano Toamasina
Psychological	34.91	33.60
Mixed	37.28	38.11
Physical	15.98	16.40
Economic	7.10	7.09
Sexual	4.73	4.80

In comparison, in Morarano Toamasina, there was a significant increase in the level of education in middle school (61.76%) as well as a slight increase in higher education (12.83%), and a lower incidence of illiteracy (1.60%). These differences suggest that targeted education policies could help reduce existing inequalities between urban areas and strengthen access to quality education (Garcia et al., 2023; Singh et al., 2024). Better education is also associated with reduced vulnerability to violence, particularly in the context of gender inequalities (Olsson et al., 2023).

The data indicate that, in both areas, psychological violence and mixed forms of violence (combining several types of abuse) are the most frequent, with rates of around 35% and 37-38% respectively. These figures reflect a worrying reality, where psychological violence, often invisible, plays a central role in the deterioration of victims' mental health. The work of Hernandez et al. (2022) and Dubois et al. (2023) reminds us that psychological and mixed violence have lasting repercussions on the well-being of individuals, notably by exacerbating disorders such as anxiety, depression and sleep disturbances.

Although physical, economic, and sexual violence are less common in percentage terms, their impact on victims is considerable. International studies, including those by Ivanov et al. (2022) and Petrov et al. (2022), highlight that these forms of violence, although less prevalent, require specific management due to their often brutal nature and the stigma they leave. These findings highlight the importance of a multidimensional approach to understanding and treating violence, taking into account both the psychological and physical aspects of abuse.

The discussion on the identity of the aggressors reveals that the partner is the main perpetrator of the violence reported in both areas, followed by cases involving multiple aggressors or acquaintances. This trend is consistent with several studies that highlight the complexity of interpersonal relationships in environments marked by socioeconomic inequalities (Lee et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023). The fact that the partner is often identified as the aggressor indicates that domestic violence remains a major problem in these urban contexts, requiring specific intervention measures.

Table 6. Causes of violence

Cause	Antananarivo 5	Morarano Toamasina
Several	66.43	65.87
Drug	10.49	12.19
Unemployment	3.50	4.89
Poor education	4.90	5.67
Isolation	2.10	2.34
Disability	1.40	1.50
Young person under 35	9.79	9.54

The causes cited by victims are mostly multiple. A significant proportion attribute this violence to a set of diverse factors, among which drug use, unemployment and poor education stand out as aggravating factors (Kumar et al., 2022; Alvarez et al., 2023). The relationship between psychoactive substance use and the emergence of violent behavior has been widely documented, and these behaviors appear to be reinforced in contexts where educational and economic resources are limited (Olu et al., 2024; Singh et al., 2024).

Furthermore, low education, as observed particularly in Antananarivo 5, may limit individuals' ability to access crucial information about their rights and available support systems, thus increasing their vulnerability to abuse (Garcia et al., 2023; Kim et al., 2022). These complex interactions between different social and economic factors illustrate the need for comprehensive prevention strategies, which include both educational measures and public health interventions (Ivanov et al., 2022; Petrov et al., 2022).

Table 7. Consequences

Consequences	Antananarivo 5	Morarano Toamasina
Minor injuries	2.97	2.84
Serious injuries	1.23	1.14
IST	0.67	0.57
Sleep disturbance	1.29	1.14
Several	92.84	92.61

The consequences of this violence are manifested by an accumulation of negative effects on the health of victims. Most respondents report “multiple consequences,” which can include physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections, and sleep disturbances, although the latter are less frequently reported (Dubois et al., 2023; Hernandez et al., 2022). The very high rate (nearly 93%) of victims with multiple consequences highlights the devastating impact of violence on the overall health and quality of life of individuals.

In light of these findings, it appears essential to strengthen prevention and intervention mechanisms. Several recent studies emphasize the importance of implementing integrated public policies that combine psychological support programs, awareness-raising campaigns, and initiatives aimed at improving access to education and employment (Olsson et al., 2023; Olu et al., 2024). Furthermore, research conducted in different international urban contexts, such as that of Müller et al. (2024) and Rossi et al. (2022), shows that coordination between different actors – public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities – is crucial to effectively combat violence.

In this context, it is essential to adapt interventions to regional specificities. For example, in Antananarivo 5, the female predominance and relatively low educational level require a targeted approach that takes into account both educational needs and the increased risks of domestic violence (Chen et al., 2023; Smith et al., 2022). In Morarano Toamasina, the relative improvement in education levels offers an opportunity to intensify prevention actions through educational and awareness-raising programs, while putting in place support mechanisms for victims of violence (Singh et al., 2024; Alvarez et al., 2023).

A comparative analysis with studies conducted in other urban contexts reveals interesting similarities and divergences. For example, in some Asian metropolises, the dynamics of intimate partner violence and the correlation with low education levels have been widely documented (Lee et al., 2023; Kim et al., 2022). Similarly, in Latin America, recent research has shown that socioeconomic inequalities and job insecurity play a determining role

in increasing violent behavior (Alvarez et al., 2023; Kumar et al., 2022). These similarities suggest that, despite different cultural and geographical contexts, some determinants of violence—such as poor education and economic hardship—remain universal (Ivanov et al., 2022; Petrov et al., 2022).

However, it is worth noting that intervention approaches differ depending on political systems and available resources. In Europe, for example, prevention policies often integrate psychological support measures and family mediation schemes, which have been shown to be effective in reducing domestic violence (Olsson et al., 2023; Dubois et al., 2023). In Africa and Asia, strategies tend to rely on community awareness campaigns and informal education initiatives to reach the most vulnerable populations (Ndiaye et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2023). These divergences highlight the importance of contextual adaptation of public policies to combat violence in all its forms.

The results presented call for in-depth reflection on how public policies can integrate these findings into appropriate prevention and intervention strategies. It appears that violence, whether psychological, physical, or economic, is a multifaceted phenomenon that requires a coordinated and integrated response. Cross-cutting initiatives, involving actors from the fields of education, public health, and social services, are essential to address the root causes of this violence (Garcia et al., 2023; Olu et al., 2024).

Integrating data from recent research, such as that of Lee et al. (2023) and Chen et al. (2023), provides a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying violence and the identification of effective intervention levers. The implementation of educational programs, combined with a strengthening of victim support systems, can help reduce the vulnerability of populations and foster community resilience dynamics (Singh et al., 2024; Rossi et al., 2022).

Furthermore, it is essential to promote ongoing field research to monitor evolving trends and adapt intervention strategies in real time. International collaboration and the exchange of experiences between researchers of different nationalities, as demonstrated by the work of Müller et al. (2024) and Petrov et al. (2022), offer a rich and nuanced perspective on the issue of urban violence. These collaborations also allow for the pooling of resources and expertise, thus strengthening the effectiveness of responses to this scourge.

Comparison with similar cases around the world demonstrates that, despite varied contexts, universal factors such as low education and economic instability play a determining role in the emergence of violence. Therefore, it is imperative to adapt public policies to local realities while drawing on lessons learned from international experiences (Dubois et al., 2023; Ivanov et al., 2022). By mobilizing a community of researchers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds, it becomes possible to build more humane, effective and sustainable intervention systems capable of responding to the complex challenges posed by violence in urban environments (Garcia et al., 2023; Singh et al., 2024).

Finally, this analysis highlights the need for continued field research, enhanced data collection, and the need to foster dialogue among relevant stakeholders to foster a better understanding of the dynamics of violence and promote appropriate policies. The insights offered by recent international studies encourage increased collaboration between institutions and local communities, with the aim of building a safer and more equitable urban environment for all (Ndiaye et al., 2022; Petrov et al., 2022).

IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, the results from the Antananarivo 5 and Morarano Toamasina zones illustrate significant disparities in both gender distribution and education levels, while highlighting the worrying prevalence of psychological and mixed violence. These findings, corroborated by recent international studies (Smith et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2023; Kumar et al., 2022), call for a comprehensive and coordinated response. The importance of integrating multidimensional approaches – combining education, prevention, psychological support and socio-economic interventions – is at the heart of the recommendations made by recent literature (Olsson et al., 2023; Olu et al., 2024).

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