**Climate Change, Asset Ownership, and Intimate Partner Violence among Agricultural Households in Ghana.**

**1.0 Introduction**

The prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Ghana in recent times has engendered utmost attention. The Ghana demographic Health Survey in 2022 indicates that 41.6 percent of women within the age group of 15 to 49 who have ever had intimate partners have suffered some form of IPV; also, 12.2 percent of women report to have experienced some form of physical violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (GDHS, 2022).

Recent research confirms evidence of climate change being an important driver of IPV (Mannell et al., 2024; Dehingia et al., 2023), and likely to be worse among agricultural households. Climate change may disrupt productivity and economic stability (Aydinalp & Cresser, 2008) of agricultural households which can potentially escalate tensions and provoke conflicts within the household. The adverse effect of Climate Change on IPV is worrisome as it has become a public health issue in Ghana.

Moreover, women empowerment has the potential to mitigate the negative influence of climate change on IPV. Economic independence through assets ownership by women may reduce the risk of IPV by empowering women to make meaningful decisions in the face of abuse (Periera et al., 2017; Anderson, 2021). Women Asset ownership among agricultural households may influence the vulnerability of women to IPV in the face of evolving climate systems.

However, empirical evidence of the relationship between women asset ownership and IPV diverge across countries (Peterman et al., 2017). Therefore, identifying the dynamic relationship between climate change, women assets ownership on IPV in the Ghanaian context is imperative in addressing this important public health concern in Ghana. While significant research has focused on the impact of climate change on IPV, there is dearth in knowledge in how women asset ownership moderates the potential effect of climate change on IPV. By examining these interactions, this research can inform gender-sensitive strategies that can mitigate the effect of climate change on IPV, contributing to evidence-based policy recommendations tailored to the Ghanaian context.

**2.0 Research Objectives:**

1. To assess how asset ownership among women in agricultural households moderate the relationship between climate change and IPV in Ghana.
2. To investigate the effect of climate change on IPV among agricultural households.
3. To examine the relationship between women assets ownership and IPV among agricultural households.

**3.0 Methodology**

A quantitative approach will be employed by using two waves of the Ghana Demographic Health Survey – 2008, 2022 – which contains indicators of IPV, women assets ownership, climate change, among other control variables. The study will utilize this longitudinal cross-sectional data to analyze how changes in women asset ownership and climate change impact IPV overtime.

**4.0 Expected Outcomes**

The results are expected to reveal that women assets ownership is a protective factor that significantly reduces the effect of climate change on IPV among agricultural households in Ghana. The study may also show that women assets ownership reduces IPV while climate change may significantly increase the likelihood of IPV among agricultural households in Ghana.

**5.0 Policy Implications**

The findings from this study will have important implications for policy and practice by strengthening women’s land and property rights and promoting women’s financial independence in Ghana. This will empower women to be resilient and less vulnerable to the incidence of IPV in the face of climate change in Ghana.

**6.0 Conclusion**

The study aims to empirically examine the interactive effect of climate change and women’s economic empowerment on IPV in the Ghanaian context and to contribute to the development of pragmatic gender-based strategies that can improve climate adaptation and reduce the prevalence of IPV.

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