

Economics and Intimate Partner Violence: Reducing Risk Through Economic Solvency



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Background



- Poverty is a consistent risk factor for IPV
- The cycle of poverty and violence makes it difficult for many women to escape

But what is the state at which a woman is no longer at risk for IPV *based on her poverty status?*

Jewkes, 2002, United Nations, 2006

Creating a Model of Economic Solvency



- Definition of Economic Solvency

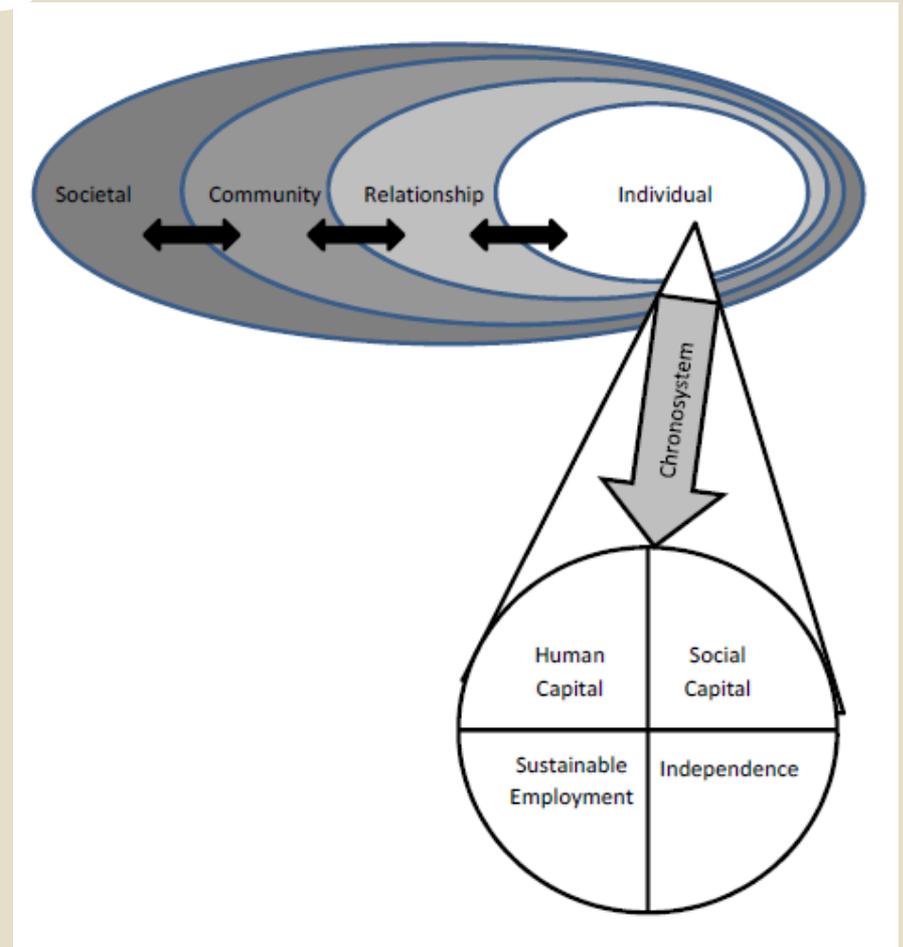
“a long-term state that occurs when there is societal structure that supports gender equity and external resources are available and can be used by a woman who has necessary human capital, sustainable employment and independence.”

(Gilroy, Symes, & McFarlane, 2014)

Theoretical Model of Economic Solvency



- Within the framework of the social ecological model
- Four factors: human capital, social capital, sustainable employment, independence



Creating a Model of Economic Solvency



- Human Capital - a person's acquired knowledge, skills, and attitudes
- Social Capital - the ability to access and use a network of individuals for a person's own welfare
- Sustainable Employment - a paid position that provides sufficient income and benefits to provide for the woman and her family's needs over time
- Independence - the means to earn sufficient income to meet family financial needs as well as decision-making power about finances

Simmons et al. 2007, Larance, & Porter 2004, Ford-Gilboe, et al., 2009, Walker & Kellard, 2001

Quantitative Validation of the Model



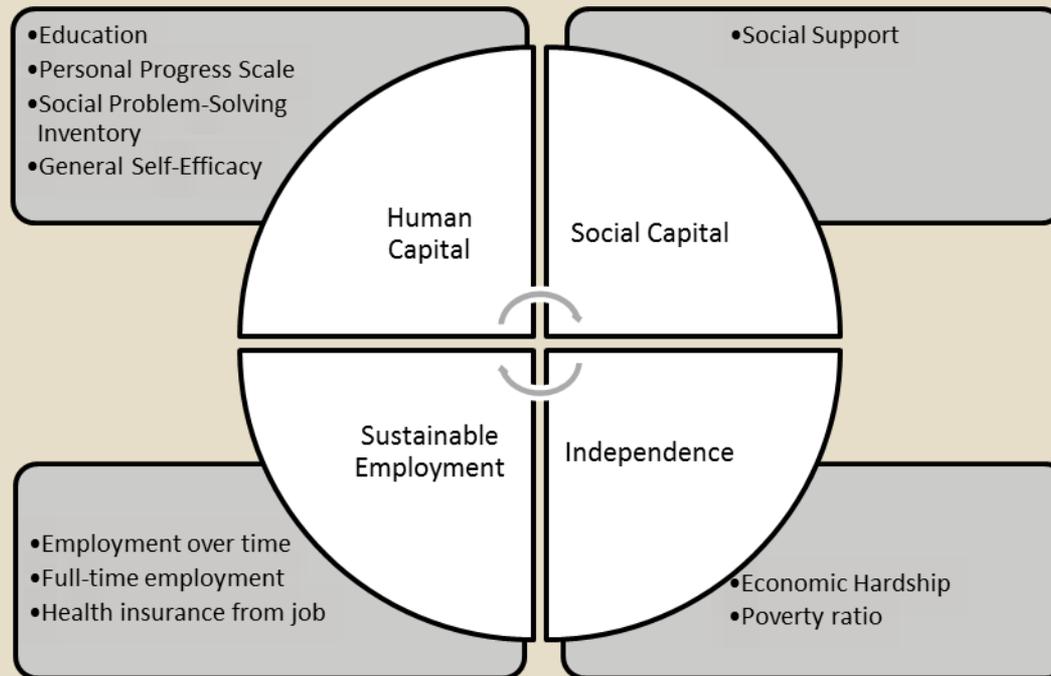
- Population

- 280 women who were part of the Mother Child Study
 - ✦ Mean age 30.7 years
 - ✦ Education: 32.9% less than high school, 19.3% high school grad, 42.1% some college, 5.7% college graduate
 - ✦ Race/ethnicity: 25.2% black, 57.5% Hispanic, 10.8% white, 6.5% other
 - ✦ All women had reported intimate partner violence and had at least one child between 18 months and 16 years at the beginning of the study
 - ✦ Women were recruited while either seeking safe shelter or a protection order

Quantitative Validation of the Model



Instruments



Quantitative Validation of the Model



- **Confirmatory Factor Analysis**
 - Examination of the full measurement model yielded adequate fit with the obtained data, $\chi^2(258) = 386.39$; *adj.* $\chi^2 = 1.50$; RMSEA = .049; NNFI = .928; CFI = .938; SRMR = .080
 - Composite reliabilities were adequate for all constructs, ranging from .628 to .760
 - Individual indicators were significant ($\alpha < .05$) except for marginality and the presence of overtime or a second job

Qualitative Validation of the Model



- Population

- 21 women residing in a battered women's shelter
 - ✦ Mean age 39
 - ✦ Education: 9.5% less than high school, 23.8% high school, 47.6% some college, 19.1% bachelor's degree or higher
 - ✦ Race/ethnicity: 47.6% black, 19% white, 23.8% Hispanic, 9.6% bi-racial
 - ✦ 61.9% had at least one child living with her at least 50% of the time
 - ✦ All women reported intimate partner violence

Qualitative Validation of the Model



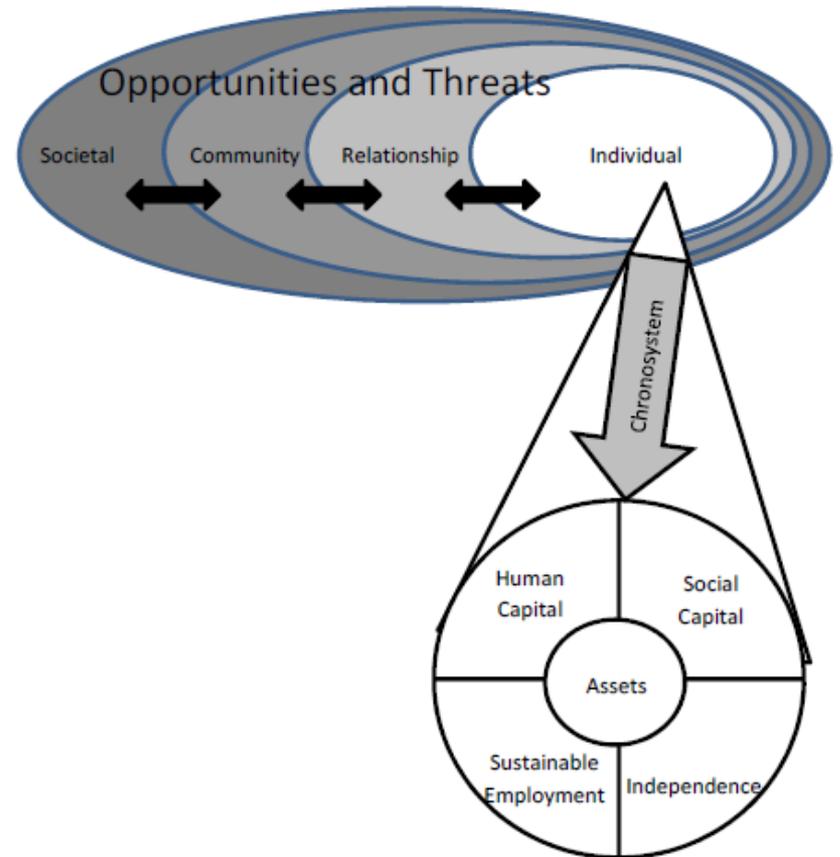
- Emerging concepts
 - Employment
 - Independence
 - Human Capital
 - Assets
 - Social Capital
 - Opportunities and Threats

Qualitative Validation of the Model



- Concepts applied to the Model

- Original four factors retained
- A fifth factor added: assets
- Acknowledgment of opportunities and threats added to the social ecological model



Implications



- Findings support multi-factoral interventions to address poverty-based risk for IPV
- The theoretical model gives us a template to think about measuring economic solvency in women who have experienced IPV

References



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