

Can educating women be a cure for domestic violence?

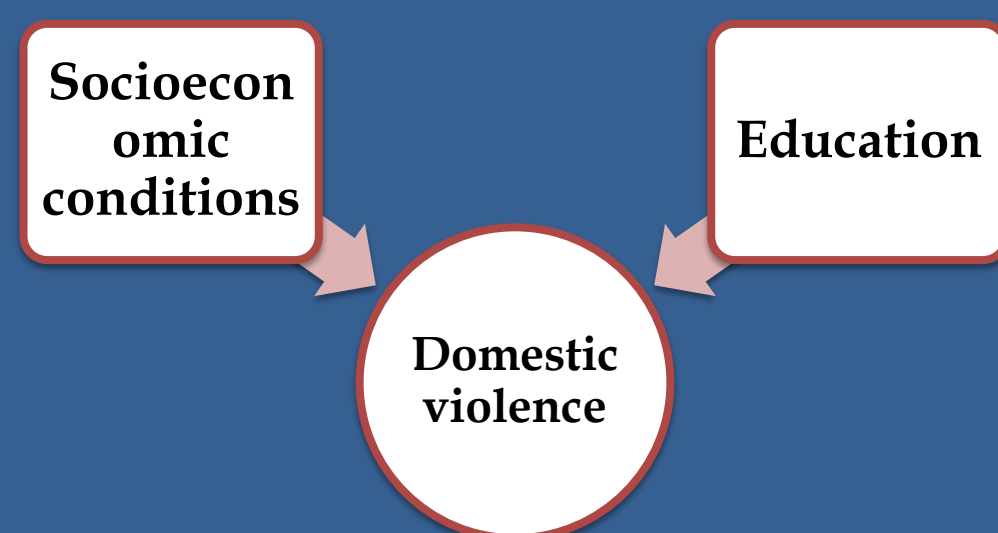
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INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is a controversial topic that requires learning numerous factors to understand the reasons why it is happening and how we can deal with it. One of the factors is education. Some studies found that educated women are less likely to be an object of violence (Marium, 2014), while other findings suggest that educating women might intensify the level of violence at their home (Noughani and Mohtashami, 2011; Marium, 2014).

Since the issue exists in all countries looking at them closely can help us understand the nature of domestic violence. Although domestic violence is not a new tendency, it is still a rather new topic in national and international agendas. Hence there is the lack of data for many countries, this has led to broader pictures and conclusions.

Our assumption is that the more developed the country, the more educated the women along with men and, thus, the less the violence.



Based on this assumption, at the end, we will analyze if educating of women can change the level of violence, as well as, their attitudes toward violence.

METHODOLOGY

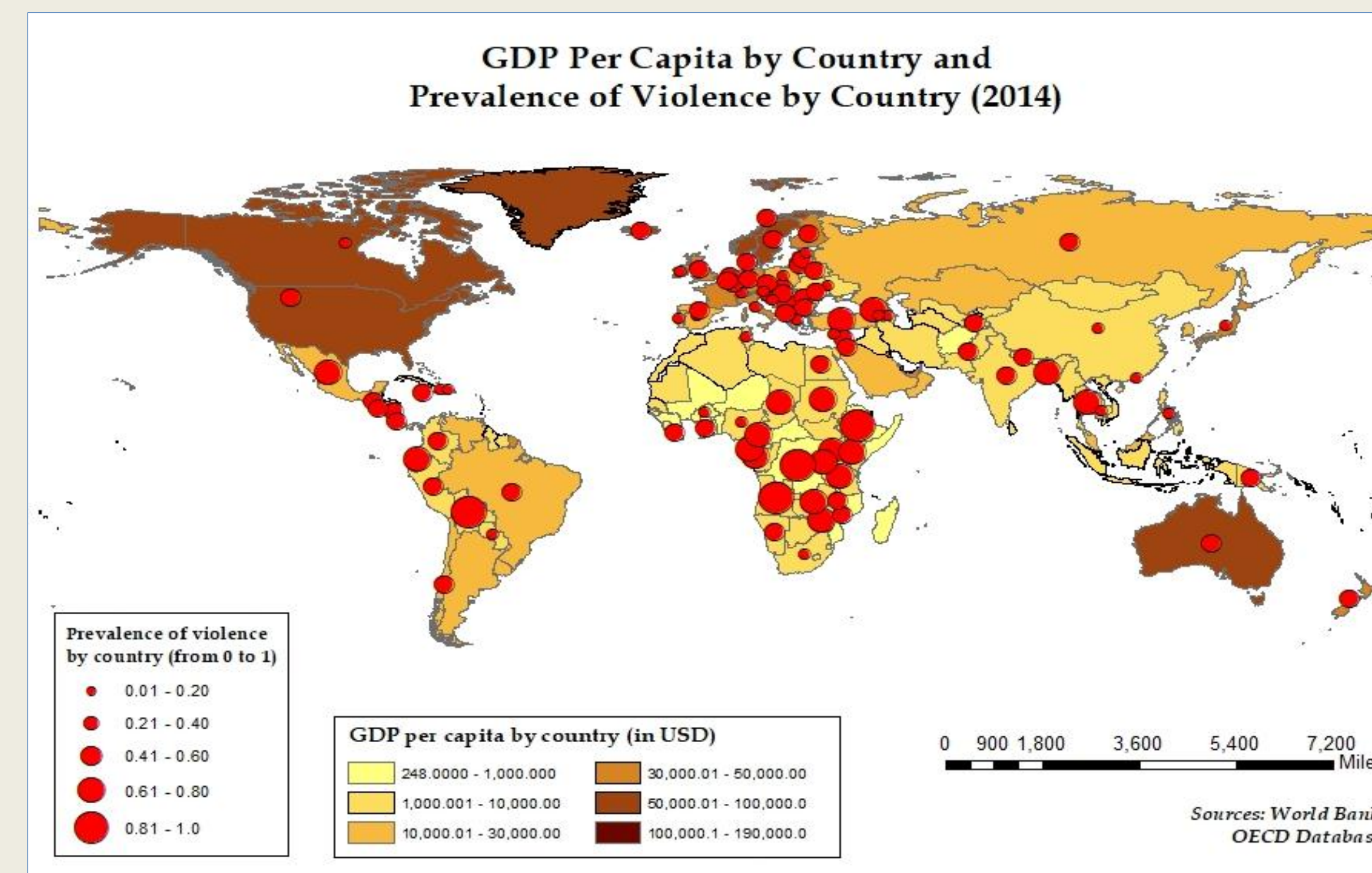
The research covers all countries in the world, for which necessary data is available. Key variables of the research are following:

- 1. GDP per capita.** Socioeconomic conditions are more likely to impact the violence happening in a family, hence, the poster first provides the data on the relationship between GDP per capita of countries and the prevalence of domestic violence.
- 2. Prevalence of domestic violence** that shows the percentage of women ,who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some time in their lives.
- 3. Proportion of female graduates.** To find this percentage, first I found the total number of women and the number of women who graduated from tertiary education in 2014, then I calculated.
- 4. Females' attitudes toward the violence.** The higher the figure, the more the women, who agree that a husband/partner is justified in beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances.

RESULTS

Overall, women experienced less physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some time in their lives in countries with higher GDP per capita, but in a handful of cases like China and Australia this conclusion does not hold. Despite the fact that GDP per capita is low in China, women said that they had not experience much domestic violence. As for Australia, the higher living standards in this country did not prevent domestic violence from happening (Figure 1).

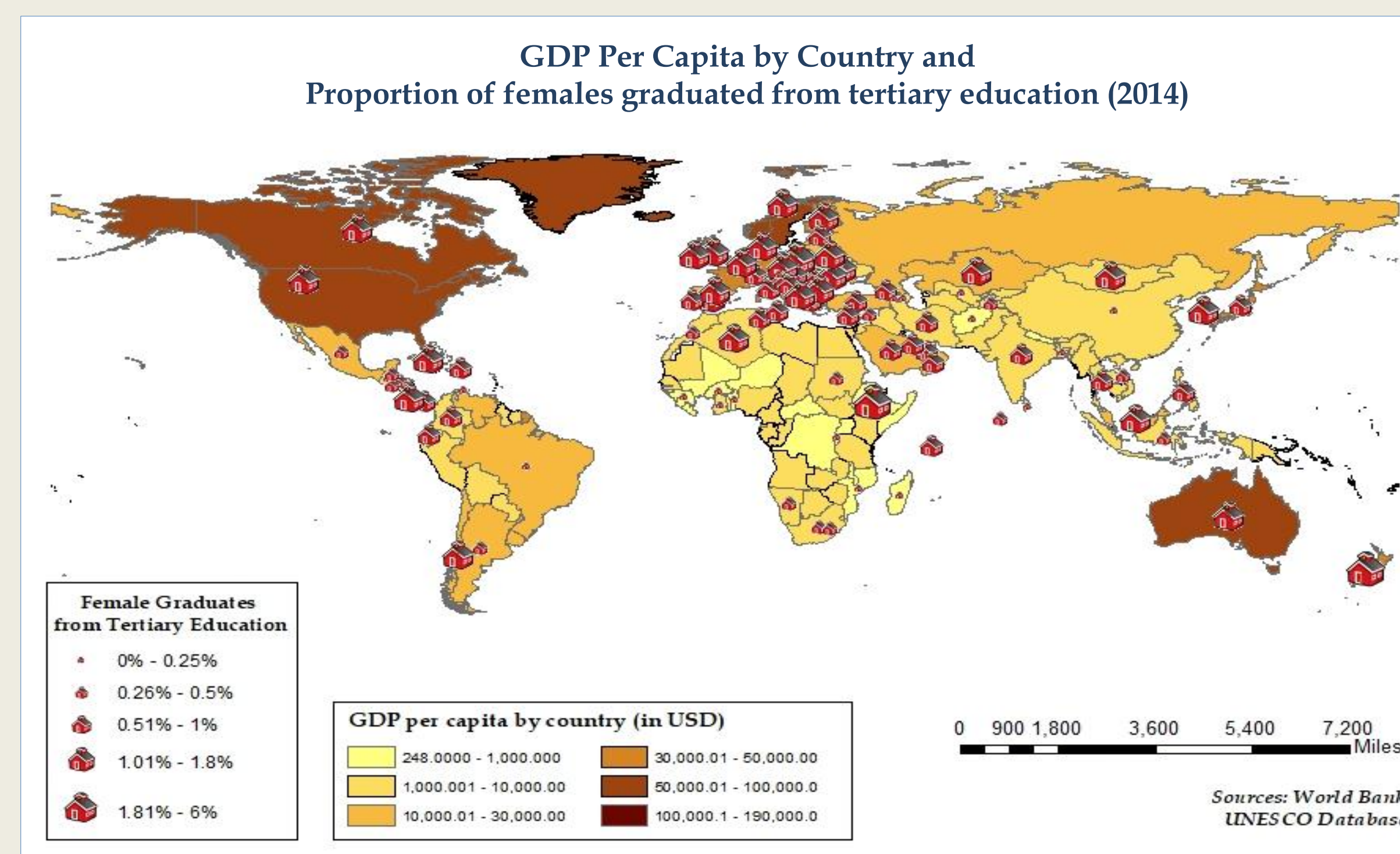
FIGURE 1



The figure 2 demonstrates that a very small proportion of females (maximum around 6 percent), regardless where they inhabited, were graduates from tertiary education. However, comparing countries looking at their GDP per capita levels has not given one picture. Although higher percentages can be seen in rich countries, the same proportions can be seen in poor (e.g.Ethiopia) and middle-income countries (e.g. Kazakhstan).

The same conclusion applies to the lower percentages. Though poor countries tend to have lower proportions of graduated women, Brazil, a middle income country also has the lowest figure.

FIGURE 2



DISCUSSION

As the GDP per capita, the higher proportion of graduates among females could not prevent violence from happening (Chart 3) in rich European countries, US and Australia. Nevertheless, women in this countries are less likely agree that their partners/husbands are justified in conducting violent acts toward them.

Still, the lack of data for many countries impedes reaching one strong conclusion about educated women's impact on the level of domestic violence. In particular, we cannot study this relationship for most African countries, where females think that men are justified in conducting violent acts toward them.

FIGURE 3

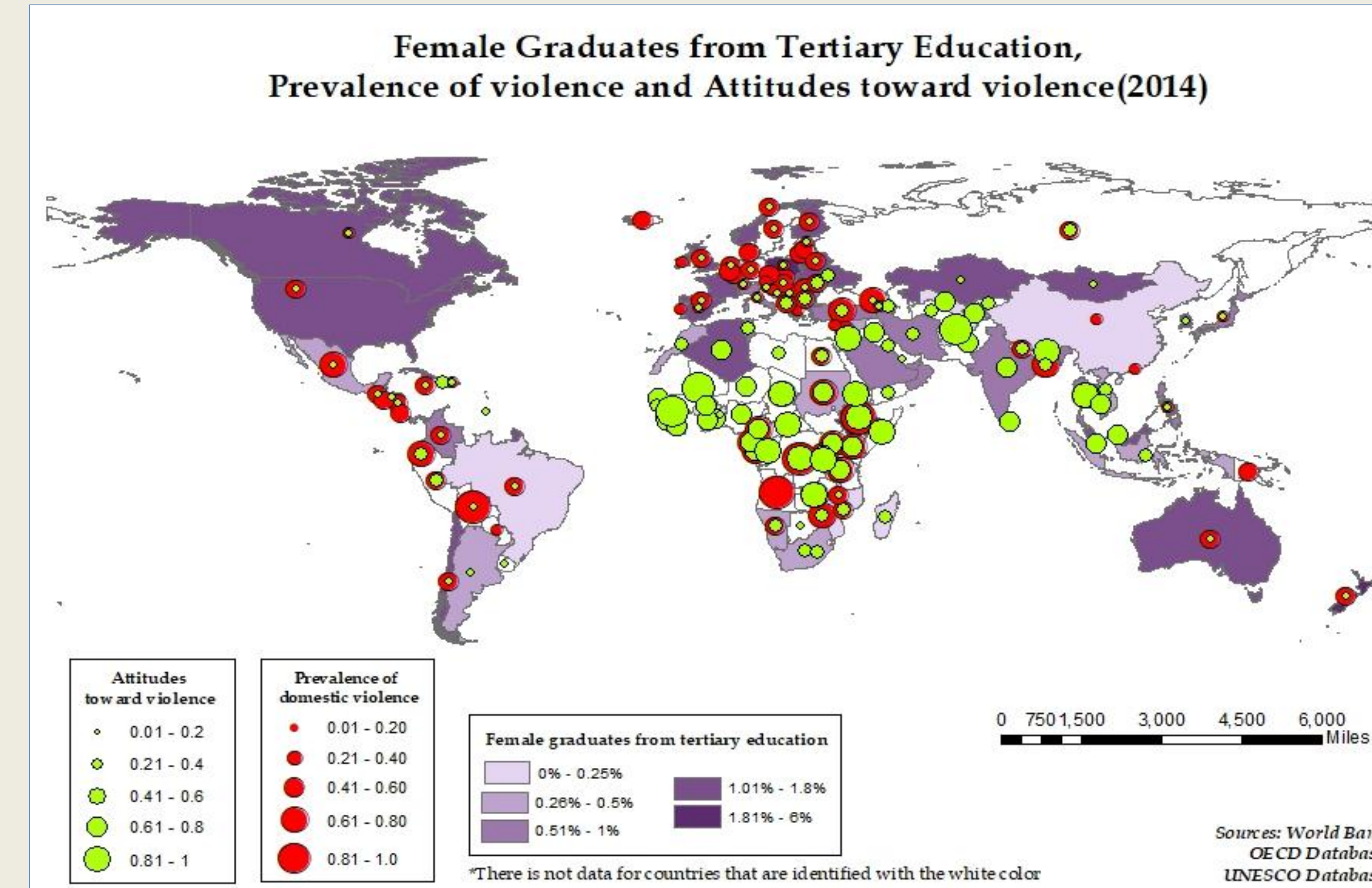


FIGURE 3a

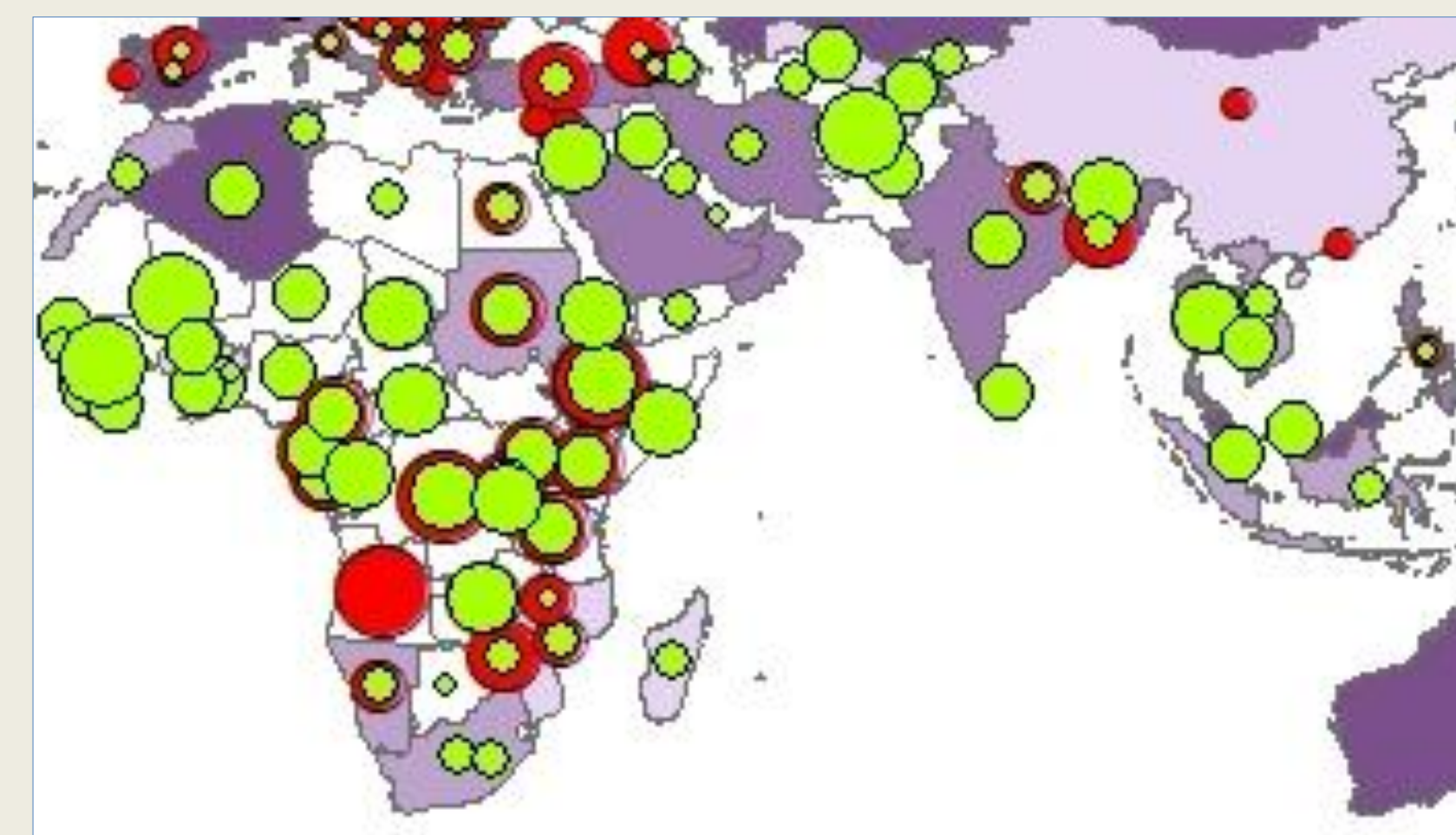


FIGURE 3b



FIGURE 3ac



Figure 3a: The continent of Africa, Middle East and South Asia
Figure 3b: Europe
Figure 3c: North and South Americas

Meanwhile, looking at the graph, we can assume that cultural norms and traditions can influence the violence level in societies. Men tend to play a great role in a family in most African, Middle East, South Asian and Central Asian countries, This might have caused our map to become more “green” in this part of the world, while females in countries with strong democratic norms and values like Europe, Canada and the US are less likely to “approve” the actions of their partners/husbands.

CONCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Although logic and intuitive thinking lead us to think that education can be a cure for domestic violence, the current research has not proven this thought for most countries. However, this might be a case because of limitations of the research, namely, the lack of data, looking at only one year, also, not considering educated male, which can also improve the situation.

Nevertheless, a range of rich and middle-income countries have demonstrated that if you educate females, then they will less likely to approve the violent actions of their husbands/partners.

REFERENCES

1. Marium, S. (2014). Women's level of education and its effect on domestic violence in rural Bangladesh. *IOSR J Hum Soc Sci*, 19, 40-45.
2. Noughani, F., & Mohtashami, J. (2011). Effect of education on prevention of domestic violence against women. *Iranian journal of psychiatry*, 6(2), 80.



Photos are from the project of Uzbafashion dedicated to November 25, International day for the elimination of violence against women.