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### **Effect of a microfinance-based intervention for the prevention of intimate-partner violence and HIV: A multi-centric randomized trial**

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**Background:** Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) can increase women's risk for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The aim of the intervention with microfinance is to assess a structural intervention that combined a microfinance programme with a IPV and HIV training curriculum.

**Methods:** Villages in the rural Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Haryana, India were pair-matched and randomly allocated to receive the intervention (intervention group, n=280) or control (comparison group, n=281). Loans were provided to poor women who enrolled in the intervention group. A participatory learning and action curriculum was integrated into loan meetings, which took place every 2 weeks. Primary outcomes were experience of intimate-partner violence—either physical or sexual—in the past 12 months.

**Results:** In intervention group, experience of intimate-partner violence was reduced by 55%. The intervention significantly reduced the rate of unprotected sexual intercourse with partner ( $p < 0.05$ ), and there was an effect on the rate of unprotected sexual intercourse at last occurrence with spousal partner and HIV incidence but did not reach to significant level.

**Interpretation:** A combined microfinance and training intervention can lead to reductions in levels of intimate-partner violence in programme participants. Social and economic development interventions have the potential to alter risk environments for HIV and intimate-partner violence in rural communities.

#### **Biography**

Kalvinder Kour has been working as Project Head and Site Investigator in Uttarakhand, India for last 2 years. Completing her graduation, she is preparing to pursue her Master's under the Public Health Program. While working in the community, she joined NMP Medical Research Institute and been in-charge of Indo-UK collaborative program preventing violence against women. She is certified safeguarding trainer on a multi-centric research study in northern states of India, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab.

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