

Review on Risk factors associated with Domestic Violence in the Society

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is not just a problem of the lower and middle classes. Domestic violence is a pervasive problem in the world now that cuts across age, education, social class and religion. Present study was done with the objectives to study the prevalence of domestic violence issue; to measure different types of domestic violence (i.e. physical, sexual and emotional) and to assess the correlation of different socioeconomic factors with occurrence of domestic violence in rural field. There is need for more education, empowerment and sensitization in both men and women to change the patriarchal nature of vulnerable individuals and to break the culture of silence and tolerance against such heinous crime of inhumanity.

Keywords: Domestic violence, education, empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is a serious problem around the world. It violates the fundamental human rights of women and often results in serious injury or death. While statistics vary slightly, women are victims of domestic violence in significantly greater proportion than men. In the U.S., the Department of Justice reports that from 1994-2010, 4 in 5 victims of domestic violence were women.[1] While women do use violence against intimate partners, women's use of violence is distinct from men's use of violence in historical, cultural, psychological, motivational and situational ways. The WHO estimates that 38% of all women murdered are killed by their intimate partner, although recognizes this is likely an underestimation. It also reports that 42% of women who had been sexually or physically abused by their partner were injured [2]. Many people view domestic violence as exclusively part of certain ethnic or racial communities, or as unique to certain classes, within their societies.

In interviews that The Advocates for Human Rights conducted throughout the CEE/FSU region, for example, people often discussed domestic violence in terms of the race, ethnicity, class, education level or age of the abuser or victim. The group or community identified as the victims and perpetrators depended on the country and background of the person being interviewed [2]. This myth conflicts with research that shows domestic violence occurs in all social, economic, religious and cultural groups. Statistics relating to the prevalence of domestic violence are critical to any advocacy effort. Statistics can help document the need for certain programs or raise public awareness of the extent of the problem. International covenants signed by many CEE/FSU countries require signatories to collect statistics on domestic violence. For example, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women recommends that states parties "[p]romote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning

domestic violence, relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and encourage research on the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and on the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women." [3] The WHO reports that over the last decade, there has been a rapid growth in data obtained through household surveys, national health surveys, and demographic and health surveys, [4] among others. The UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, also notes that because of the sensitivity and stigma surrounding issues of violence against women, obtaining quality data remains a problem. According the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. has seen a 64% decline in domestic violence over the last two decades [5]. From 1994-2000, domestic violence declined by 48%, following a similar trend in overall violent crime. From 2001-2010, the rate of decline in domestic violence slowed or stabilized, while the overall violent crime rate continued to fall. Additional information on U.S. domestic violence prevalence as well as prevention programs and their efficacy is available from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. has

COMMON PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The various physical effects of domestic violence include bruises, bruises on or around the eyes, red or purple marks at the neck, sprained or broken wrists, chronic fatigue, shortness of breath,

COMMON MENTAL EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The common mental effects of domestic violence include: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and uncontrollable thoughts, Depression, including prolonged sadness, Anxiety,

seen a 64% decline in domestic violence over the last two decades. [6] From 1994-2000, domestic violence declined by 48%, following a similar trend in overall violent crime. From 2001-2010, the rate of decline in domestic violence slowed or stabilized, while the overall violent crime rate continued to fall. Additional information on U.S. domestic violence prevalence as well as prevention programs and their efficacy is available from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [7].

Effects of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence survivors can face ongoing and challenging effects after enduring physical, mental, and emotional abuse. It can take time for a survivor to adjust to living in a safe environment, especially if a perpetrator was severely violent and/or committed the actions over an extended period of time. While addressing this pain can be overwhelming, the healing process can help survivors develop inner strengths and lessen their fear of safety for themselves and their families [8]. On the journey to recovery, survivors and those who support them should understand that healing takes time. The effects of this trauma can vary widely person to person due to individuals' responses to stress, age, and the frequency and severity of abuse.

muscle tension, involuntary shaking, changes in eating and sleeping patterns, sexual dysfunction, menstrual cycle or fertility issues in women [9].

Low self-esteem and questioning sense of self, Suicidal thoughts or attempts, and alcohol and drug abuse [10].

WHO IS ABUSED

In the past domestic violence was viewed as a phenomenon exclusively affecting

the lower classes. However, when researchers began investigating the causes of family violence in the 1970s, they noticed that although lower-class women at first appeared to make up most victims, domestic violence, in reality, spanned all social and economic groups. Middle and upper-class women were also abused, the researchers found, but they often did not turn to hospital emergency rooms and shelters for help [11]. Instead, they used private facilities and remained largely unknown, unreported, and uncounted by the public agencies that attempt to measure the rates of domestic violence and aid victims. While women of any social class may be victims of abuse, general population studies find that women with lower incomes and less education, as well as minority women, are more likely to be the primary victims of domestic violence [12]. Still, researchers note, classification is not exclusive. Just about anyone, rich or poor, male or female, may be a victim of domestic violence.

WHO ARE THE ABUSERS

Like victims of domestic abuse, batterers come from all socioeconomic groups and all ethnic backgrounds. They may be male or female, young or old, but by definition they share one common characteristic: they all have a personal relationship with their victims. During 2004 men were equally likely to be victimized by a stranger (50.2%) or nonstranger (48.1%), whereas women were more likely to be victimized by someone they knew (64.1%) as opposed to a stranger (34.3%). Nearly two-thirds of rape and sexual assault victims knew their assailant (65.1%). Rates of violent victimization by an intimate partner toward women increase as household incomes go down, according to Callie Marie Rennison and Sarah Welchans in *Intimate Partner Violence* (July 2000,) [13]. Single people were victimized by

violent crime much more often than married or widowed people in 2004. Never-married people experienced violent crime at a rate of 39.4 per one thousand people, and divorced or separated people experienced violent crime at a rate of thirty-three per one thousand people. These rates were more than three times higher than the rates of violent crime experienced by married and widowed people [22]. Married people experienced violent crime at a rate of 9.7 per one thousand people, whereas widowed people (who tend to be older, on average) experienced violent crime at a rate of four per one thousand people.

Women as Abusers

As Amy Holtzworth-Munroe points out in "Female Perpetration of Physical Aggression against an Intimate Partner: A Controversial New Topic of Study" (*Violence and Victims*, April 2005), until the early twenty-first century, "it was politically incorrect to even consider studying female aggression when conducting research on marital violence." However, as surveys reveal, a substantial minority of perpetrators of intimate partner violence are women. Intimate partner violence has traditionally been understood as a method to gain power and control in a relationship. Research indicates, however, that that model may be useful mainly for understanding male batterers. By contrast, Poco Kernsmith notes in "Exerting Power or Striking Back: A Gendered Comparison of Motivations for Domestic Violence Perpetration" [14] that female batterers "appear more motivated by the desire to maintain personal liberties in a relationship where they have been victimized." Motivation for battering is important to consider; so, too, is the impact and pattern of abuse. L. Kevin Hamberger addresses these issues in "Men's and Women's Use of Intimate Partner Violence in Clinical Samples:

Toward a Gender-Sensitive Analysis" (*Violence and Victims*, April 2005) [15]. While some surveys find that women initiate domestic violence nearly as often as men, Ham-berger argues that in evaluating those results, research must also assess the impact and context of intimate partner violence. In his review, he used a model that included gender differences in key elements of partner violence, including the initiation of the pattern of violence in the relationship, how often each partner initiates violence, the physical and mental health impacts of domestic violence, behavioral and emotional responses to being victimized by violence, and the motivations of the batterer [21]. He concludes that, even in relationships in which women also use violence against their partners, "women are disproportionately victimized by partner violence compared to men."

National Crime Victimization Surveys

The NCVS are ongoing federal surveys that interview eighty thousand people from a representative sample of households biannually to estimate the amount of crime committed against people over age twelve in the United States [16]. While the surveys cover all types of crime, they were extensively redesigned in 1992 to produce more accurate reports of rape, sexual assault, and other violent crimes committed by intimates or family members. In National Crime Victimization Survey: Criminal Victimization, 2004 [17] finds that the rate of violent crime was 21.1 per one thousand population in 2004. Although the 2004 NCVS's criminal victimization estimates are the lowest since the NCVS began in 1973, the numbers are still staggering: 5.1 million violent crimes were committed in 2004 (rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). Over half a million (578,350) violent crimes were committed

against intimate partners. More than one out of ten people (11.2%) who were victims of violent crimes in 2004 were victimized by intimate partners. Women were victimized by intimate partners at a greater rate than were men 20.8% of female victims named an intimate partner as the offender, compared with only 3.8% of men [18]. In rape and sexual assault cases, 17.4% of women reported that the rapist was an intimate partner, 2.7% of female rape victims reported another relative was the perpetrator, and 46.9% reported a friend or acquaintance was the perpetrator. Women identified offenders as an intimate, friend, other relative, or acquaintance in about two-thirds of violent crimes (64.1%), whereas more than half of male victims identified the offender as a stranger (50.2%). Women were also more likely to report that their offender was another relative (8.8%) than men were (5.6%). Although men continued to experience higher rates of violent victimizations than women, the rates for both genders declined from 1993 to 2004. Rates among people from most racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups also declined from 1993 to 2004 [19]. The most significant annual declines in violent crime rates were observed among males and Hispanics. According to *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2004*, almost half (49.9%) of all violent victimizations were reported to the police in 2004—35.8% of rape and sexual assaults, 64.2% of aggravated assaults, and 44.9% of simple assaults. Female victims were more likely to report violent offenses than male victims. Two-thirds of African-American women (66.9%) and Hispanic women (65.1%) and about one-half (52.1%) of white women reported the violent crimes they suffered; 45.1% of African-American men, 41.6% of Hispanic men, and 45.8% of white men reported violent crimes [20].

CONCLUSION

Different studies have evaluated physical violence by type and severity of physical violence. Various experienced forms of violence against women have reported, for instance; slapping, pushing, hitting with hands, beatings with fists, kicking, hitting with a belt, pushing, throwing objects, burning, strangling and stabbing. Moreover, violence has been classified by severity of violence from mild and minor injuries such as bruises and abrasions without serious injury or damage to severe or sustained violence such as fractures and burns. In all studies, low severity violence and without serious damage, such as slapping and hitting with fists and kicks, has been more common than severe violence such as burning and

fracturing. Women who were subjected to violence may face a lot of problems and consequences. Some of these problems can interfere with social and family role and it results to failure doing housework, care of children, and away from work. Also some psychological complications, have been reported such low self confidence, anxiety and mental disorders as. Each of these issues can lead to complications and consequences of its own. For this reason there is need for more education, empowerment and sensitization in both men and women to change the patriarchal nature of vulnerable individuals and to break the culture of silence and tolerance against such heinous crime of inhumanity.

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