

Social Determinants of Violence against Women (Case Study: Tehran City)

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ABSTRACT— Women are the coaches of healthy people; hence, the inattention to women's health and domestic violence against women can cause a variety of mental and even physical illnesses and this can be considered as a threat to family members' health. Therefore, this paper is written with the aim at investigating some factors determinants of domestic violence. The applied research method is survey and has causal-comparative type, and the questionnaire is the applied technique in this research. The sample group of abused women is obtained from convenience sampling or full coverage due to limited statistical population and consists of all 48 abused married women referred to social work clinics at the time of study and they are considered as the studied group, and 48 married women referred to social work clinics for reasons other than violence and considered as the control group. The data analysis is done by statistical SPSS software through descriptive statistics including frequency, percentage, and inferential statistics including the two-independent-sample t-test. Research results indicate that there is a significant difference between two abused and non-abused samples in terms of independent variables namely the patriarchy, relatives' intervention and making the husband angry by wife. However, there is not any significant difference between experience and violence in wife's father-in-law family between these two groups.

Keywords: Violence against women, patriarchy, violence experience, husband relatives' intervention

Introduction

Men and women are the essential elements of sustainability in family and the continued existence of family relied on their roles. The women's major role in family is important due to upbringing and development. The existence of women will lead to moral and emotional connection between family members. This goal becomes possible if women as the trainers of next generation are in a quiet, safe and without violence environment, but unfortunately the family has been now exposed to damages and insecurity, so that the women experience the violence by their relatives and family members as those who are intimate due to their blood or legal relations instead of positive concepts such as love, empathy, and sacrifice (Azazi, 2001). The family is not merely responsible for fulfilling the physical, material, and emotional needs as well as a space full of warmth and intimacy for members, but in addition to these constructive and useful functions, the family can have numerous destructive functions such as violence. For years, the violence has made the life cold and lifeless for some families. (L Hampton et al, 2009: 16). Domestic violence is an issue which has been kept behind closed doors and numerous studies have been increasingly conducted on women beaten women's experiences in recent years (Segal, 1999: 213). According to WTO results in 2002, the women who have experienced domestic violence are more likely to have chronic pain, gastric disorders, abdominal syndromes, eye diseases, and physical inability to perform practices compared to normal and non-abused women (Dunham, 1997: 26). Therefore, the domestic violence against women is a serious social problem which has grave consequences for victim women in all cultures and ethnic groups (Blanca et al, 2004: 239). According to the importance of this research, its results can inform the policy makers and executives about violence against women in the family and the consequences of this abnormal social action in order to adopt policies for reducing the violence against women, and thus reduce the incidence of domestic violence, and improvement and maintenance of health and strength in family. Furthermore, this research can help to create awareness in authorities of educational organizations including the Ministry of Education, universities, media, health organization, etc. about the fact that the violence against women can impose enormous cost on health system and community health in addition to making crisis for sustainability of social system.

Research history

Violence against women occurs at all ages, genders, ethnicities, educational contexts and socio-economic groups and there have been significant studies on identifying and understanding different types of abusing the family members and intimate people in different countries and led to various findings. Based on preliminary studies on the incidence of domestic violence in our country, the rate of spouse abuse and mistreatment with women has been estimated at a range of 30 to 80 percent. There is violence in all Eastern and Western societies and even there is the violence against men, but the women, children and girls are the first victims of violence (Mohammadkhani, 2006). Several domestic and foreign researchers have studied violence and the causes and roots of this phenomenon and have paid less attention to its individual, familial and social consequences. Most of the domestic studies have mentioned the following reasons as the major causes of violence against women: Other people's intervention (Bag-Rezaei, 2003), patriarchy attitude (Yazdkhasti and Shiri, 2008; Lahsaeizadeh and Madani, 2010), violence experience and observation (Marabi, 2001; Aliverdinia et al., 2011), age difference between spouses (Tavassoli and Monirifar, 2009, Ansari et al., 2009), social-economic status (Heydari-Charvadeh, 2010, Zare and Amini, 2010), low educated women (Taherkhani et al, 2009; Atefvahid et al., 2010), alcohol consumption and smoking (Khani et al, 2010; Atefvahid et al., 2010). A significant number of foreign studies have investigated the relationship between violence and factors such as the socio-economic status (Zhu et al., 2011; Haj-Yahia and Uysal, 2011), available social resources for women (Dehan et al, 2007; Clark et al., 2000), adoption of gender stereotypes (Erchak and Rosenfeld, 1994), commitment to gender roles (Abid et al., 2010), alcohol consumption (Galvani, 2006), number of children (Sambisa et al., 2011), and experience of violence in childhood (Yount and Carrere, 2006).

Summary of experimental background

Most of these studies investigate the factors influencing the violence as well as descriptive study on different type of violence. The main approach of these studies has been seeking for analyzing the spouse abuse and considered the factors which have affected the incidence of spouse abuse in Iran and most of the urban population. There are differences in obtained results of studies. These differences include the extent of violence, investigation of variables and their relationships with husband's violence against wife. For instance, the extent of spouse abuse is reported ranging from 47 percent (Rabiei and Rahmati, 2002), to 81 percent (Shams-Esfandabad and Emamipour, 2003). The main causes of domestic violence in domestic studies are as follows: couples' low education, women's economic dependence on her husband, large number of children, couples' low socio-economic status, husband's low income level, drug addiction, unemployment, patriarchal attitude, other people's intervention, violence in his parental family, and watching the beaten mother by father. The most important causes of violence are as follows according to foreign studies: accepting violent male norms, gender competition, and available resources to women, patriarchal structure, and experience of violence in childhood, watching the father's violence against mother, couples' low educational levels, and spouse's socio-economic dependence on husband, addiction and alcohol consumption.

Theoretical framework of research

Learning theory

According to this view, the individual behavior is learned in people's company with people in society. This view refers to the role of family and peers in violence commitment. Bandura claims that most of the human behavior types are learned through observation and during the process of modeling. Burgess and Akers have also considered learning the deviant behavior mainly through processes of strengthening and its essential mechanisms namely the encouragement and punishment and believe that the continuation or suspension of any behavior depend on encouragement or punishment; in other words, the encouragement will lead to continuation of deviant behavior like other social behavior by communication with others (Raeisi, 2003: 140). Albert Bandura believes that most of the human behavior types are learned through observation and during the modeling process (Salimi and Davari, 2007, 403). According to this theory, the way of behavior which we show is learned during the childhood; and the violence is learnable. The human does not have the aggressive nature and this behavioral method especially in childhood is taught by parents, brother, sister, boyfriend or girlfriend. A large number of studies have approved the hypothesis of violence cycle. In other words, the adults' violence and abuse are the results of violent behavior which they have experienced or seen during the childhood. (Chibucos & Leite, 2005)

Based on longleftarrow theory, the violence victim provides the background for violence, its emergence, its incitement, and commitment for violent person. In fact, the violence against women is often justified. Couples, who have verbal argument in order to solve their problems, are likely to be involved in violence and often the one with weaker verbal skills compensates this shortcoming with violence and it is concluded as women incite their husbands and do behavior which make them angry, the main factor of husbands' violence will be created (Albut and Wallace, 2009: 231).

Radical feminism theory

Radical feminism emphasizes on inherent differences between men and women in society, and this feminist perspective more focuses on how men control women and also their violence against women (Tarzi, 2009). According to radical feminism, the gender has social structure based on patriarchy system and the women's obedience is a political truth. Kate Millett argued in 1970 that the realm of sexuality was the main concept of power and indicates the male domination and women subordination. In this

regard, the sexuality is defined and controlled by men (Lobasz, 2011). In fact, after Kate Millett's view, the radical feminism view has considered the sex as a fundamental tool for women's oppression. They believe that the patriarchal system exploits the women's work and becomes owner of their bodies, and all forms of domination and subordination have an inextricable connection with male sexual identities. Nowadays, the radical feminists have put more emphasis on women ability to find ways to adapt and link with each other. The value of this theory refers to women reliance on intrinsic properties, rationality and their common experiences against oppression. The women who tend to talk about their common experiences, have positive influence because they know how to take advantage of their knowledge and this enable them to share in life experiences about disparities. In this open space, they can see the experience of oppression against themselves as a collective experience which is related to wider social structures. Being able to understand the practical power gives them a sense of empowerment and hope to change some things rather than the sense of being blamed due to the social inequalities which they experience (Bridgema, 2011). The network theory focuses on couples' relations and kinship network and suggests that due to the less and weaker inter-network relationships, the couples perform their duties better. Therefore, if a network is strong, the couples cannot make necessary decisions because they should act in accordance with terms and conditions of network and accept the other people's intervention in their life (Riahi, 2007: 120). Given this background, we are seeking to investigate the patriarchy variable according to feminist theory, violence experience and observation in family according to social learning theory, the relatives' intervention variable in terms of network, and woman's incitement of husband according to longleftarrow theory between both abused and non-abused samples. According to theoretical hypothesis of this research, the patriarchy, experience of violence in family, relatives' intervention and woman's incitement of husband can create domestic violence against women. Therefore, the main research questions are as follows: What social factors do affect the violence against women? And is there any difference between both samples in terms of studied variables?

Research methodology

The research method is survey and has causal-comparative type, and the questionnaire is used as the technique of this research. The standard questionnaire of measuring the violence against women is applied in this regard. This questionnaire contains 32 items and 4 factors. The first factor, which consists of items 1-16, measures psychological violence; the second factor, consisting of items 17-27, measures physical violence, and third factor including items 28-30 evaluates the sexual violence, and the fourth factor containing the items 31-32 measures the economic violence (Rahimi, 2008). The researcher-made questionnaire in the form of Likert scale is used to measure other independent variables of research and it contains the patriarchy variables with 9 items with components such as the men dominance in marital issues such as the time to have children, place of residence, relatives and neighbors visits, wife's friend visit; the violence observation and experience in father-in-law family with 8 items including the components namely the threat to mental health such as verbal dispute, restriction of commuting, keeping respect, controlling the phone calls in the father-in-law family; the husband relatives' intervention with 6 variables including the components such as intervention in matters such as the life expenditure, travel time and procedure, familial meetings); the woman's incitement of husband with 11 items including the objection, stubbornness, rivalry, boasting him about the relatives, controlling the husband partial behavior. The content validity is applied to evaluate the validity of measurement tools; in other words, the experts' views are utilized to evaluate the validity of measurement tool and study the conceptual space. Furthermore, Cronbach's alpha coefficient is used to assess the reliability of questionnaire. Alpha value is equal to 0.81 for violence observation and experience in family, 0.75 for patriarchy, 0.72 for husband relatives' intervention, and 0.83 for wife's incitement of husband. Due to the limited statistical population, the abused women group has the convenience or full coverage type and includes all married abused women referred to social work clinics at the time of study. A total of 48 abused married women are considered as the studied group and 48 non-abused ones as the control group.

Research hypotheses:

- There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of violence experience and observation in father-in-law family.
- There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of patriarchy rates.
- There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of husband relatives' intervention.
- There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of woman's incitement of husband.

Research findings

The collected data from both samples are analyzed by T-tests. The average ages of abused and non-abused groups were 37 and 35 years respectively. According to results of this research, the patriarchy, husband relatives' intervention, women's incitement of husband are significantly higher in abused women than non-abused ones, but there is not any significant difference between two samples in terms of violence observation and experience in father-in-law family.

Data explanation: Social determinants of violence against women

Hypotheses test

There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of violence experience and observation in father-in-law family.

T-test is used in this study to investigate the difference hypotheses for two independent samples.

Levene's test is the first and most important factor in analysis of two independent samples. If significance of Levene's test is less than 0.05, we use the results of second row which accepts the inequality of variances for both groups. Here, t-test is utilized to investigate the violence experience and observation in father-in-law family in both abused and non-abused women.

Group statistics of t-test for violence experience and observation in father-in-law family

Violence experience and observation in father-in-law family	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Average standard deviation
Non-abused women	48	2.1083	0.484	0.069
Abused women	48	3.3167	0.990	0.142

Results of t-test tables for independent variable of violence experience and observation in father-in-law family

Violence experience and observation in father-in-law family	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for equal mean			Mean difference at the level of 95%	
	F	Significance level	t-statistic	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Maximum	Minimum
Equality of Variances	23.094	0.00	-1.309	94	0.194	-0.5242	0.1076
Inequality of Variances			-1.309	68.247	0.194	-0.5258	0.1091

According to obtained results, significance level and mean of both groups as well as the mean difference at maximum and minimum levels, it can be concluded that there are almost equal rates of violence experience and observation in father-in-law family and its mean among the abused and non-abused women and these two groups do not have significant differences with each other. Therefore, the hypothesis, under which there is a significant difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of violence experience and observation in father-in-law family, is not confirmed.

There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of patriarchy rates in family.

In this case, the researcher tries to investigate and compare mean difference or similarity between the patriarchy rates in family by evaluating the results of t-test for both independent samples and utilizing the results of this test.

Group statistics of t-test for patriarchy

Patriarchy in family	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Average standard deviation
Abused women	48	3.7083	0.39615	0.0571
Non-abused women	48	3.2388	0.51745	0.0746

Results of t-test tables for independent patriarchy variable in family

Patriarchy	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for equal mean			Mean difference at the level of 95%	
	F	Significance level	t-statistic	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Maximum	Minimum
Equality of Variances	5.341	0.023	4.991	94	0.00	0.2827	0.6562
Inequality of Variances			4.991	88.007	0.00	0.2825	0.6564

The inequality of variance is utilized in these two groups according to obtained results of table above for patriarchy in family, the mean difference in both groups, and the significance level of 0.023 which is less than 0.05 as well as f-test equal to 5.342. T-value is equal to 4.991 in this test for inequality of variances and the significance level is less than 0.05. Accordingly, it can be argued that the patriarchy rate in family and its mean are not equal in abused and non-abused women. Based on the mean rate of 3.2388 for non-abused group and 3.7058 for abused group, and also the mean difference at the level of 0.95, it can be concluded that the mean patriarchy rate in family is higher in first group as the abused women. In other words, the more patriarchy in family will lead to less violence and vice versa. Therefore, this hypothesis, under which there is a difference between abused and non-

abused women in terms of patriarchy in family, is confirmed. There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of husband relative's intervention.

Group statistics of t-test for husband relative's intervention between abused and non-abused women.

Husband relative's intervention	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Average standard deviation
Non-abused women	48	1.8229	0.60573	0.0874
Abused women	48	2.1542	0.88389	0.1275

Results of t-test tables for independent variable of husband relative's intervention

Husband relative's intervention	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for equal mean			Mean difference at the level of 95%	
	F	Significance level	t-statistic	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Maximum	Minimum
Equality of Variances	7.780	0.006	-2.142	94	0.035	-0.6383	-0.0241
Inequality of Variances			-2.142	83.169	0.035	-0.6383	-0.0236

Based on the statistics of tables and significance level equal to 0.006, the t-test has the f-value of 7.780 and degree of freedom less than 0.05 between abused and non-abused women in terms of husband relatives' intervention. In this case, we have used the tests for inequality of variances as the t-value is obtained equal to -2.142 and the significance level equal to 0.035. According to mean value of 2.1542 for abused group and 1.8229 for non-abused group and also based on the maximum and minimum levels statistics, it can be concluded that the mean of husband relatives' intervention variable is higher in abused group and the non-abused group. Therefore, the hypothesis, under which there is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of husband relatives' intervention, is confirmed.

There is a difference between abused and non-abused women in terms of wife's incitement of husband.

Group statistics for wife's incitement of husband between abused and non-abused women:

Wife's incitement of husband	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Average standard deviation
Abused women	48	1.6958	0.5641	0.0814
Non-abused women	48	1.3958	0.4603	0.0664

Results of t-test tables for independent variable of wife's incitement of husband

Wife's incitement of husband	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for equal mean			Mean difference at the level of 95%	
	F	Significance level	t-statistic	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Maximum	Minimum
Equality of Variances	2.960	0.089	2.855	94	0.005	0.0913	0.5086
Inequality of Variances			2.855	90.362	0.005	0.0912	0.5087

Due to the significant level of 0.089 which is higher than 0.05, the equality of variances is confirmed in both groups. According to Levene's Test which is obtained equal to 2.960 and the significance level of 0.089, we have used the results of first row in the table. According to the t-value equal to 2.855 and the significance level of 0.05, it can be argued that there is a difference between both groups. Furthermore, the mean incitement of husband is equal to 1.69 in abused group and 1.39 in non-abused group and this claim is approved according to maximum and minimum levels of table. Therefore, the more wife's incitement of husband, the more violence is seen in family and vice versa.

Discussion and conclusion:

This article is written with the aim at investigating the impact of social determinants of domestic violence against women. The obtained results indicate that there is a significant difference between the abused and non-abused women in terms patriarchy, relatives' intervention, and incitement of husband, but there is not any difference between these two samples in terms of experienced and observed violence. According to feminism, the violence against women has roots in unequal structures of society and thus the patriarchy at the macro and micro levels. Walbi and Hartmann as two feminists believe that the patriarchy is the main causes of men dominance and violence against women. In support of this theory, the results of Eidi (2005), Saberian

(2003s), Mohammadi (2005), Skomachra (2001), Fisher et al (2007) suggest that there is a significant relationship between patriarchy and spouse abuse, so it can be argued that the results of conducted research and feminist perspective are line with findings of this research and thus they can be applied for statistical population. According to network theory, Elizabeth Bott believes that the more relatives' intervention will lead to more family disputes such as the possibility of domestic violence. According to content of this theory, the results of research by Saberian (2003), Raeisi-Sarteshnizi (2001) and Fisher et al (2007) suggest that there is a significant correlation between relatives' intervention and women abuse. Therefore, the results of previous studies and theory content are consistent with results of this study and can be applied for studied statistical population, but this result is not consistent with research findings by Haghdoost-Oskouei (2000). According to longleftarrow theory, the women created the context for violence, Soliz believes that the factors such the disloyalty, too much complaint, and shortcoming in doing the housework will lead to husband's anger and thus violence against wife. On the basis of this theory, the results of research by Saberian (2003) and Mirlis (1999) indicate that there is a significant correlation between the incitement of husband and spouse abuse; hence, it can be concluded that the findings of previous studies and content of longleftarrow theory are consistent with this research and can be applied for statistical population.

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