



Factors Associated with Wife Abuse among Women Attending Forensic Medicine in Bandar Abbas

Maryam Ghaharpour Gatabi*, Rahmatolah Dadvar, and Ali Rahimi Sadegh

Department of Women Studies, Islamic Azad University, Baft Branch, Iran

*Corresponding author's email: www.m_eilia@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Of problems and dangers in which women are encountered with them on any society is wife-tormenting. The object of this research is to determine and explain factors related to wife-tormenting. Statistic society of the research includes women tormented from their husband in which referred to Bandar Abbas 's forensic medicine on the year of 2011 and from these , about 100 oersond has been selected by randomly sampling method. Required information from questionnaire has been analyzed by descriptive and inference statistic method. The result showed, men by lower education level have has more wife-tormenting and the men who have high addiction, they torment their wife more. Unemployed men have has more wife-tormenting than employed one. Using unauthorized drugs by men have has direct relation to their wife tormenting. Abnormal behavior on men like watching rough films, nightly restlessness, vagrancy and street-walking have has direct relation to their wife-tormenting.

Keywords: Wife-Tormenting, Addiction, Revenue, Unauthorized Drugs, Abnormal Behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays spousal abuse has turned to a major issue in public health and upsets the personal health and welfare of millions of females every year. According to World Bank Group reports, spousal abuse impairs the health of females between 15 and 44 more than any other females' diseases. Based on the definition of World Health Organization Consultation Workshop, spousal abuse is defined as the deliberate use of physical strength accompanied with threatening directed at oneself, others, a group or a population that could exclude physical damages or include the possibility of injury, death, mental damages, growth disorders, or different deprivations. [1]

The current research seeks to find the most important factors behind spousal abuse in the life of females who were referred to Legal Medicine Department in Bandar-Abbas. The painful phenomenon of spousal abuse that in its physical, mental, and sexual aspects threatens the physical and mental health of females across the globe and violates their human rights has emerged most widely as domestic violence. At least 1 out of 5 in the world's female population has been subject to physical or sexual violence from a male or a group of males in their lifespan.

The Theory of Social Learning stresses the effects of social and environmental situations on individuals' aggressive behavior. In this theory, violence and aggression are not considered as inevitable behaviors, but it is behaviors that are known and acquired through punishment and reward. Meanwhile, besides rewards or punishments that individuals experience directly, the rewards and punishments they receive because of their aggressive behavior acquired from role patterns - individuals whose behavior is eyed as a pattern - are also considered here. Based on what we said above, people observe and reflect upon the behavior of patterns and its consequences. If these consequences are positive, the aforementioned behavior will be seen from the observer in similar situations [3].

According to the classic psychodynamic viewpoint which has been derived from Freud's psychoanalysis pattern, marital problems are the consequence of intrapsychic problems of spouses [4]. Based on Behavioral Exchange Model, marital conflicts are largely considered as the outcome of reinforcements or punishments used by any of the spouses against each other or any relation concerning the same [reinforcement and punishment] that spouses exhibit [5].

According to Rational-Emotive Behavioral Theory of Ellis, a couple's dysphoria is not directly related to the actions of a partner or harsh failures in life, but it is mostly because of the confidence and belief the couple have about such actions and failures. Ellis claims that irrational thoughts known through excessive exaggeration, irrelative and irrational inflexibility, and especially absolutism in many cases will conjointly lead to personal neurosis and relational disorder. Therefore, irrational beliefs lead to personal disorders and cause unfounded dissatisfaction in marriage [6].

In Intergenerational Theory, Bowen imagined that in many problematic families, family members often lacked an independent and distinct identity and many family problems emerged because they had not separated themselves psychologically from their parent's family [4]. According to this theory, tension in relations is related to the lack of attachment security; when the attachment security is threatened, anger is the first response [7]. In her research, Shahna Yeylaq studied the relationship between demographic factors and males' violence toward their spouses in Ahvaz and found out that the more educated males and females were and also the more females were satisfied with their marital life, the less their spouses' violence toward them would have been.

In order to do a descriptive study of domestic violence against females in Oroumieh, Arefi [9] showed in his research that females between 17 and 32 had experienced the most violence; also, 50 to 60% of females who were subject to their spouses' violence had only elementary education and 25% of them were illiterate. Moreover, 50%, 25.7%, and 23.2% of females were subject to physical, mental, and financial abuse, respectively.

Taheri's findings [10] about the rate of physical violence against females referred to Legal Medicine Department or other healthcare centers in Zanjan Province showed that most of such females, being housewives or carpet weavers, were villagers and illiterate or had only elementary education or lower; their husbands were born in a village, too, and being illiterate or having only elementary education or lower, often worked in the agriculture sector or were just retailers.

The findings of Eftekhar et al. [11] about the personal traits of spousal abuse victims referred to legal medicine centers showed that females' marriage in younger ages, low education, and unemployment were among the effective factors of spousal abuse by their husbands. In his research on factors contributing to spousal abuse by males in Tehran, Hemmati [12] showed that variables such as age, number of children, education, social satisfaction, negative adduction, self-esteem, and economic and social position are directly related to violence in general [physical and emotional], while other variables like the ideology of patriarchy, tendency to accept spousal abuse, viewpoints on females social role, and violence socialization are indirectly related to general violence.

According to the studies implemented in Iran, the rate of physical and mental spousal abuse was high in the Iranian society, and varied in different provinces [13]. The results of the above-mentioned research on spousal abuse and its contributing factors were: most of spousal abuses were reported to be in mental form and not physical or battering; also the research findings showed that mental abuse was more than physical violence in Iranian families [14].

Despite scientific and cultural advances, spousal abuse is one of the most popular types of domestic violence that sometimes could cause irredeemable damages to children and families. Physical and verbal violence are among the highly popular social plights females suffer from. Based on this, the current research was carried out on females referred to Legal Medicine Department in Bandar-Abbas with the aim of identifying the factors related or contributing to males' tendency toward spousal abuse.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Taking the current research subject into account, Descriptive Survey Method was used as the appropriate method, considering the type of the research whose goal is to describe the properties of a situation or a subject in a realistic, systematic, and objective manner. The statistical population of the research includes all females who were referred to Legal Medicine Department in Bandar-Abbas in 2011. According to Bandar-Abbas Legal Medicine Department experts, 148 individuals were referred to the department as being subjected to spousal abuse. Based on the Morgan Table, 100 of females referred to Bandar-Abbas Legal Medicine Department in 2011 were selected as the research statistical sample. The sample size was determined through reference to Morgan Table and sample size determination methods used in descriptive surveys, and the (statistical) sample itself was selected through Simple Random Sampling Method. The research was implemented through library and field study and the studied population included females, who were subject to spousal abuse and referred to the General Department of Legal Medicine in Bandar-Abbas in 2011, from which 100 were randomly chosen. Data was collected through single or multiple choice questionnaires of 34 questions and reference to library card-indexes. Based on the studies concerning the research hypothetical sources and interview with some individuals from the statistical sample, a list of factors contributing to spousal abuse instances in the case of females referred to Bandar-Abbas Legal Medicine Department in 2011 was prepared. The above-mentioned list was submitted to the supervising professor and some of the experts whom were asked to comment on each of the factors mentioned both in general and detail. This way, the face validity of research tools was determined, and then, to determine the content validity, 100 questionnaires were distributed among the sample individuals. After all the questionnaires were filled out, some of their questions were checked and revised, and the questionnaires (research tool) were rewritten with 24 questions. Cronbach's Alpha Calculation Method was used to determine the reliability of questionnaires. Results showed that the reliability of 24-question questionnaires for 100

individuals equals 0.91 which is quite a high reliability for this research tool (questionnaire). The data gained through the research was analyzed using descriptive and inference statistical methods such as average, standard deviation, t-test, and correlation coefficient.

RESULTS

The table below show the age of females abused by their spouses. Based on this table and graph, from a total of 100 abused females, 5 or 5% were under 20, 61 or 61% were between 21 and 30, 31 or 31% are between 31 and 40, and only 3 or 3% are 41 or older.

The table below shows the factors related to spousal abuse of (the studied) females by their spouses. Spearman Correlation Test was used to determine the relation between the aforementioned factors and spousal abuse of females.

Table 1. Table 1. Statistical distribution of age of females abused by their spouses

Age	Frequencies	Percentage
Under 20 years	5	5
21 to 30 years	61	61
31 to 40 years	31	31
41 years and older	3	3
Total	100	100
Mean: 28.86	Standard Deviation: 5.64	

Table 2. Correlation matrix factors related to spousal abuse

Variables	Spousal Abuse	
	R	P
Watching violent movies	0.56	0.001
Nightly insomnia	0.58	0.001
Wandering	0.54	0.001
Nightly gatherings of friends	0.29	0.003
Education level	-0.20	0.03
Drug addiction	0.43	0.001
Economic status	-0.24	0.01
Employment status	-0.25	0.01
Alcoholism	0.15	0.01
Using illegal drugs	0.60	0.001

The table above shows that factors such as destructive behavior (watching violent movies, nightly insomnia, wandering, street wandering, nightly gatherings of friends), education level, drug addiction, economic status, employment status, and using illegal drugs are positively correlated to spousal abuse with a confidence level of 95%.

DISCUSSION

The goal of current research was to identify the factors related to spousal abuse of females. The research findings showed that all the factors studied excluding alcoholic beverage consumption, relate to spousal abuse. The results also showed that males' level of education is correlated with spousal abuse of females. Low level of males' education is an important factor contributing to relations based on misbehavior. Such findings correspond to the results achieved by Eftekhari et al. (11), Seyf Rabi'i et al. (14) and Hemmati (12). Researches have shown that education level could be a cause of decrease in sternness and misbehavior toward females. The males who have a low education are not aware of females' rights and proper conduct toward them, and this leads them to misbehavior toward females.

Findings on factors related to spousal abuse of females referred to Legal Medicine Department showed that drug consumption, or actually males' addiction, causes males to misbehave their spouses or in other words, the females whose spouses use drugs are exposed to physical and mental misbehavior. The current research results concerning the aforementioned fact correspond to the findings of Sey Rabi'i et al. (14). Since drug addiction causes aggression, and decreases individuals' ability to control their anger and refrain from dangerous behaviors, it is significantly related to spousal abuse, and is considered an important factor of such abuse.

On the other hand, the research findings showed that males' low economic status or in fact their (low) economic power correlates with spousal abuse: males with lower economic power abuse their spouses more. Economic pressure causes depression and isolation and makes individuals assume a violent and aggressive manner and react even with the slightest stimulation. These results correspond to Nazparvar's results (15).

Results showed that males' unemployment also contributes to spousal abuse. In fact, these results showed that females with unemployed spouses are subject to more spousal abuse. Unemployed males spend most of their

time in home and have more conflict with their spouses. Being under mental pressure caused by their unemployment, they have a potential for conflict.

According to the current research, destructive traits are among the factors that are significantly related to spousal abuse. Destructive behaviors such as nightly gatherings with friends, wandering, nightly wandering, and watching violent movies could cause spousal abuse. Males behaving destructively and out of family virtues abuse their spouses more. This group of males' dependence on friends, and entertainment is more than family, and they react negatively when faced with their families' demands. These results correspond to the research results of Nazparvar (15) and Eftekhari et al. (11). Commitment to family, and relation and attachment to family members are among the factors stressed by experts as being behind families' peace and reinforcement.

Founding special centers with experienced lawyers in family issues could help females get acquainted with their rights and use them and the help of these lawyers when necessary. It is necessary that these centers be governmental and their expenses are covered by governments.

Also, females exposed to severe mistreatment must have a secure place to take shelter in, and such facilities shall correspond to their society's cultural conditions.

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