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Identifying the Factors Affecting Spousal Abuse of Women

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A B S T R A C T

The present study aims to identify and explain the factors associated with spousal abuse. The study population consists of women clients who are abused by their spouses referred to the coroner of Iran. Required information is collected through a researcher made questionnaire. Data obtained from the questionnaire implementation is analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The results showed that less educated men are more wife abuser and spousal abuse of men who have a higher addiction is more. Unemployed men are more wife abuser than employed men are. Illicit drug use by men is related to their spousal abuse. The destructive behaviors in men, such as watching violent movies, night sleepless, roaming the streets and gadding around have been associated with their wife abuse.

Keywords: Identifying, Spousal Abuse, Abused, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Spousal abuse has become now a major problem in public health and annually it hampers the personal health and comfort of millions of women. According to world banks, spousal abuse more than any other female diseases has caused the health loss and damage of 15 to 44 years old women. The reports indicated that the most common form of abusing in various countries, including Iran, is physical and somatic. It seems that women of every socioeconomic class are abused by their spouses (Khan, 2000; Ondicho, 2018). However, according to the evidences, women of lower socioeconomic class are the victims of domestic violence far more and with reduced household income, particularly the women's income this problem becomes greater. With increased access to the media, such as satellite, vulgar and destructive internet sites, friendships out of family principles, and religious beliefs weakness in some men and their attitude towards Western liberal culture as well as the tendency of such men to communicate with women other than their wives and friendships out of family environment and marital principles are some important obtained reasons for the men's tendency for abusing their wives (García-Moreno et al., 2015). According to the World Health Organization counseling workshop, spousal abuse is the intentional use of physical force or power, to threaten or make tendency on him/herself or the other or even on a group or community (Gracia & Merlo, 2016). It can be with no physical injury or combined with the probability of causing injury, death, psychological - psychological harm, growth disorder or different deprivations (Browne, 2016; García-Moreno et al., 2015).

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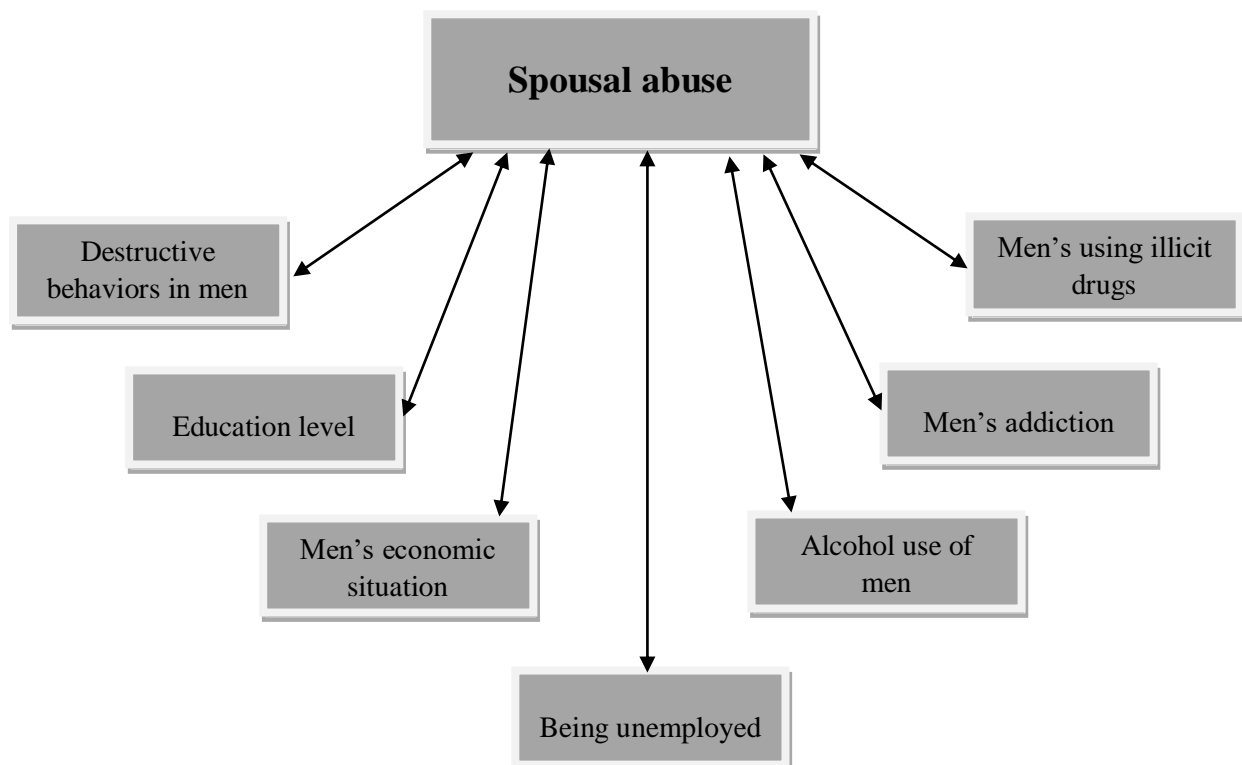
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The present study aims to explore the question that what are the most important factors associated with spousal abuse of women who have referred to the coroner of Bandar Abbas. In other words, in this study it will be investigated that among various economic, social and other factors, what properties and characteristics are the most influential on wife abuser men.

Noticing spousal abuse reasons will increase the awareness. In this regard, it should be noted that spousal abuse may be done with many and varied reasons and the result is that the marital warm center falls into risk. To prevent this love center to be injured, the need and importance of exploring this problem in the family is one of the things that is considered by researchers. It is recommended for couples to understand each other's roles, respect their spouses, be like a soul in two bodies, after marriage connive at issues which threaten their marital life, be patient in times of trouble, and consult with those who the experts of family principals. Research conducted on this issue has shown a range of factors associated with spousal abuse, some of which are referred below. Whisman, Dixon, and Johnson (1997) in a classification of marital problems, considered physical abuse as the factor that has the most negative affect on relationships and illicit relations as the second traumatic factor(Henning & Feder, 2005). The couples establish a set of communication patterns and problematic behaviors are merely implementing those patterns. Patterns include mutual isolation, mutual blame and expectations, isolation(Askari, 2018). The couples who are dissatisfied with their relationship cite the following undesirable behaviors for example, being critical, being cold, not helping with household chores and not supporting(Al-Atrushi, Al-Tawil, Shabila, & Al-Hadithi, 2013; Gill, Begikhani, & Hague, 2012).

Failure to communicate is one of the most common problems that are cited by dissatisfied couples. Ten behaviors that prevent the association of the couples are as follows: nagging, interrupting each other's speech, turning problems to catastrophe, quarreling on inconsequential things, overgeneralizing, deviating from the main topic, being full of expectations/ threatening, insulting, ridiculing and criticizing.



METHODOLOGY

Regard to the study issue, this research is conducted using descriptive survey (survey) that is the suitable method for the research type. The aim of this kind of study is to describe the features of a situation or an issue objectively, really and regularly. The study population consists of women clients who are abused by their spouses and referred to the coroner. According to the coroner experts, 148 subjects have referred to this center as being abused by their husbands. Data collection tool in this study is a questionnaire including 34 questions with multiple and single answers option, and library note taking is applied. Based on studies conducted on theoretical references of the research, as well as interviews with a number of samples, a set of relevant factors and components to spousal abuse of women referred to coroner is obtained and arranged. The initial mentioned list is provided to the Supervisor professor and a number of experts and they are asked to give opinion about the individual components, and write their comments in detail. Thus, the formal validity of research tools is demonstrated. The Cronbach's alpha is used to determine the reliability of the method. The results showed that the reliability of the questionnaire for 30 subjects and 24 items in the questionnaire is equal to 0.91. This indicates the high reliability of the survey instrument. Data derived from the study, using descriptive and inferential statistical methods including mean, standard deviation, T-test and Pearson correlation, are analyzed.

RESULT

The following table shows the mean and standard deviation of influential factors that may be treated as characteristics and features of the spouses of the women who are abused and can be effective on spousal abuse. In fact, the following table is a set of behaviors and characteristics of husbands that can be influential for women domestic violence. Hence, these behaviors and characteristics are calculated with regard to the form of Likert, so that it is never equal to zero; very rarely equal to 1, seldom equal to 2, occasionally equal to 3 and is always equal to 4 in women abused by their husbands. The mean and standard deviation of the behavior and characteristics of the spouses of the women who are abused by their husbands are as the table below.

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of affecting factors on women abuse

Characteristic (behavior)	Mean	Standard deviation
Smoking, cigarette, hookah, etc.	2.83	0652
Drug use (opium, heroin, etc.)	2.23	1.324
Alcohol use	3.26	0.938
Watching violent movies	1.89	1.262
Night sleepless	1.84	1.405
Roaming the streets and gadding around	1.94	1.384
Using illicit drugs	1.67	1.576
Overnight meetings with friends	2.93	1.296

Table above about behavior and characteristics of the spouses of the women who are abused by their husbands, shows that the most important feature and behavior of them is alcohol consumption with the mean of 3.26. After that are overnight meetings with friends with the mean of 2.93, smoking, cigarette, hookah, etc. with the mean of 2.83, respectively. The least important behavior and characteristics of the spouses of abused women by their husbands is the consumption of illegal drugs with the mean of 1.67.

Spousal abuse appears in different types that have been determined in the following table. The following table using the statistical distribution of the mean and standard deviation shows

the occurrence degree of each of the physical and emotional abuses in the studied sample.

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation of each of the types of women spousal abuse

Characteristic (behavior)	Mean	Standard deviation
Cursing	3.38	0.85
Beating	3.43	0.685
Pushing	2.07	1.401
Threatening to Divorce	2.51	1.131
Threatening to beating	2.14	1.33
Threatening to expelling from home	2.73	1.398
Disrespecting in front of children	2.24	1.281
Disrespecting in front of relatives	2.47	1.226
Shouting and screaming	2.37	1.33
Breaking furniture	2.09	1.429
Neglecting the expectations	2.27	1.369
Sexual harassment	2	1.497
Mocking in front of others	2.06	1.469
Backbiting and lying about you	2.09	1.407
Humiliating you	2.69	1.16
Reminding your weaknesses and flaws	2.69	1.211

According to the results of the occurrence degree of each of spousal abuses in the table above, the most important and the most common type of domestic violence is beating with the mean of 3.43 and then cursing is the important spousal abuse with the mean of 3.38. Studies also show that the lowest form of spousal abuse in the clients of Bandar Abbas coroner is sexual harassment with the mean of 2.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to identify factors associated with spousal abuse of women. Results of the research showed that all studied factors (with the exception of the consumption of alcohols) are related to domestic violence. The results showed that the education level of men is related to women spousal abuse. Low levels of education and training of men is an important factor in relationships based on abuse. This finding is consistent with the results of Seifert, Lambe, Anders, Pueschel, and Heinemann (2009), Boxall, Rosevear, and Payne (2015) and Wright and Tokunaga (2016). Research has shown that people's level of education may reduce the severity of the misbehaviors towards women. Men who have low levels of education are less aware of the women rights and appropriate behavior towards them that leads to the abuse toward women.

Findings of factors associated with spousal abuse among women referred to the coroner indicate that drug use and addiction in men by virtue is the reason for their abuse towards women. In other words, women whose husbands use drug are at risk of being abused physically and psychologically. The results of this study are consistent with the research results of Root and Brown (2014) and Barnawi (2017) are consistent. As addiction causes aggression, loss of anger control, and avoiding risky behaviors, it has a significant correlation with spousal abuse, and is considered as an important factor in relation to domestic violence.

On the other hand, the findings suggest that bad economic situation of men and indeed their economic power is associated with spousal abuse. Men who have weak economy power may have more abuse. Economic pressures lead to depression and individuals' isolation. They

Identifying the Factors Affecting Spousal Abuse of Women

have aggressive mode and react to the slightest action. The results are consistent with Kulwicki, Aswad, Carmona, and Ballout (2010).

On the other hand, the results show that male unemployment is associated with domestic violence. In fact, the results suggest that women with unemployed husbands suffer spousal abuse more and are at greater risk of domestic violence. Unemployed men spend most of their time at home and have more conflicts with their wives. They are disturbed for involvement and psychological stress of their unemployment.

Destructive behaviors are among those factors that were significantly associated with domestic violence in the present study. Destructive behaviors such as overnight meetings with friends, roaming the streets, gadding around, and watching violent movies lead to spousal abuse. In fact, men who have destructive behaviors outside the framework of family are more spousal abusers. The dependence of this group of men on friends, fun, and entertainment is more than their dependence on family and they show negative reaction towards family requests. Commitment and loyalty to the family and having attachment to family members are among factors that have always been emphasized by pundits to strengthen and comfort the family.

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