



Investigating Social Factors Affecting the Incidence of Domestic Violence Against Women in Urmia City¹

Afsaneh Tavassoli², Nashmil Beygmohammad-Balanji³

Received: 2024/03/27

Accepted: 2024/07/13

INTRODUCTION

This article addresses the issue of violence against women worldwide and its significance. Statistics indicate that at least one-third of women globally have experienced violence, and this problem is increasing every year. The article presents international studies that show the prevalence of violence against women ranging from 24 to 43 percent in different parts of the world. Cultural and social differences have also contributed to a more precise definition of violence against women. Studies in Iran also show that violence against women is a social problem. Domestic violence is generally defined as any violent behavior intended to harm and cause pain to others. The United Nations defines domestic violence as any gender-based violent behavior that results in physical, sexual, psychological or suffering for women. Various social factors can contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence against women. Violence against women is a sociological issue that stems from social and cultural gender disparities and differences. There are different theories to explain this phenomenon, including the conflict theory, which argues that violence arises from conflicting interests, the empowerment theory, which suggests that violence occurs due to women's inability to access resources and capabilities, and the cultural theory, which emphasizes that violence reinforces aspects of masculinity and power-seeking in culture. Each of these theories points to different factors contributing to violence against women and

1. doi: 10.22051/IJOSED.2024.46774.1037

2. Associate Professor, Department of Women and Family Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics, Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran. Corresponding Author.
Email: afsaneh_tavassoli@alzahra.ac.ir

3. M.Sc. Department of Women and Family Studies, Alzahra University (Urmia Branch), Tehran, Iran.
Email: beigmohamadnashmil@gmail.com

proposes strategies and solutions to address this issue. However, a more in-depth examination of the causes and mechanisms of violence against women is necessary for a comprehensive understanding of this issue.

Additionally, commitment to cultural values and beliefs that either reinforce or diminish violence can also be effective in reducing violence against women within families. Factors such as commitment to religious beliefs, spousal selection methods, and family interventions can also play a role in explaining husband-to-wife violence within families. Finally, a thorough examination of the various factors contributing to violence against women within families is needed for a complete understanding of this phenomenon. Additionally, combining different theories and utilizing interdisciplinary approaches to study this issue can lead to better experiences and more effective solutions for combating violence against women in families.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this research, a descriptive-analytical cross-sectional method was employed. Firstly, two healthcare centers in Urmia city were randomly selected after obtaining ethical approval. Then, women who met the criteria for participation in the study were chosen by providing an introduction letter and clear explanations. A questionnaire consisting of demographic information and types of domestic violence was used. Samples were collected through convenient and accessible sampling. The data were analyzed using SPSS software, and appropriate statistical tests were employed to examine relationships and differences. Percentage and correlation coefficients were used to analyze quantitative data, while Fisher's exact test was used to analyze qualitative data. A significance level of 0.05 was considered in this study. In light of the data in Table 2, more than half of the women in the sample are over 31 years old. 55% of the sample women have husbands of the same age, while 41% have husbands younger than them. 34% of the women have 2 children. 39% of the women have education levels below diploma. The evidence shows the sample is at an average level, in terms of literacy.

Types of domestic violence as follows:

Physical violence: Creating fear, corporal injury, imposing restrictions, denying access to healthcare, sleep deprivation, forced drug use, etc.

Sexual violence: Sexual behavior accompanied by coercion, manipulation, or lack of consent, forced virginity or genital inspection, verbal sexual abuse, non-consensual touching, etc.

Economic violence: Controlling access to financial resources, preventing an individual from using their capital, limiting access to resources that the victim may need, or exploiting the victim's economic resources.

Psychological violence: Violent behavior that undermines dignity, honor, and self-confidence. Includes constant criticism, belittling, verbal abuse, mockery, insults, humiliation, and constant threats of divorce or remarriage.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate a significant correlation between the COVID-19 crisis and the dimensions of violence against women. The women in the study understood the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on all dimensions of violence against women. These results are consistent with other studies conducted in this field. The results of this study show a significant correlation between patriarchal beliefs and violence against women. In other words, according to the women in this study, patriarchal beliefs have an impact on all dimensions of violence against women. Overall, the results of this study suggest that traditional upbringing can be considered as one of the effective factors in increasing violence against women in the COVID-19 crisis. Primary education and learning in the family, school, and peer groups, along with the influence of the media, can promote violence in society. As a result, individuals inclined to use violence to force others to comply with their demands are educated.

Furthermore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the responsibilities and duties of women at home have increased, and they have acted as defenders of family health. These additional duties and responsibilities for women can lead to factors such as dissatisfaction, stress, and discomfort, which in turn increase the likelihood of violence against women. According to the results of this study, the number of children women have is not directly related to violence against women. However, women with four or more children experience the lowest levels of violence, while women with three children experience the highest levels of violence.

The level of violence against women and the number of their children are related to each other. However, further and more accurate research is needed to understand this relationship. Based on the results of this study, violence against women varies based on their education levels. Women with postgraduate education experience more violence compared to others. Violence against women also varies based on their husbands' occupations. Domestic violence against women whose husbands are laborers is higher, and this group of women experiences more violence compared to others. Violence against women also varies based on their income levels, and the average scores of domestic violence against women with an income between 3 to 6 million tomans and lower is significantly higher than women with higher incomes. The relationship between violence against women and their husbands' income is statistically significant, with domestic violence being lower for women whose husbands' income is between 6 to 9 million tomans and higher.

CONCLUSION

In general, the results indicate that the economic factor has a significant impact on domestic violence against women in Urmia city. In comparison to other factors, this factor has a stronger relationship. In Urmia, patriarchal power and gender inequality are deeply rooted, and families and social relationships are often characterized by



imbalance and strong hierarchies. The World Health Organization's recommendation to prevent violence against women includes strengthening women's economic rights and addressing gender inequalities, providing access to formal employment and wages, and providing at least secondary education. In 2015, the United Nations launched the Essential Services Package for women and girls experiencing violence, which emphasizes the importance of providing coordinated multi-sectoral services. Primary health care centers should support the victims and provide information about the perpetrators to the police and relevant authorities. Paying attention to the cultural beliefs of the victims and alignment with the local culture and structures is also important.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Patriarchy, Income, Women, Urumia City.
JEL Classification: J12, D1, G5,

COPYRIGHTS



This license allows others to download the works and share them with others as long as they credit them, but they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.

