

Perspectives about Women's Abuse between a sample of Male and Female Workers at Hadhramout University

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ABSTRACT

Background: Abuse of woman by their intimate partner remains a major social and public health problem that has serious physical, psychological and sexual consequences. **Aim of the study:** was to assess perspectives of males and women workers at Hadhramout University about Women's Abuse. **Subjects & Methods: Research design:** A comparative cross-sectional descriptive design was used. **Setting:** Hadhramout University Colleges. **Subjects:** 240 participants. **Tools of data collection:** open-ended in depth interview questionnaire sheet that were used to collect data. **Results:** Results revealed that the most common type of abuse was emotional abuse in the form of Humiliation (8.4% males & 10% females) and women's negligence (7.5% males & 1.7% females) and its important causes were personality traits of husband (27.5% males & 15.8% females) and personality traits of women (25% males & 11.7% females) and also, intervention of others on their problems (15% males & 10.8% females). Psychological effect on woman as hate of marital life (16.7% males & 14.2% females) and poor communication or discussion with husband (16.7% males & 6.7% females) and behavioral disorder as children maltreatment (26.7% males & 11.7% females) and home leaving (11.7% males & 10% females). On the other hand, psychological effect on children was lack of self-esteem (13.3% males & 8.3% females) and behavioral disorder was deviance (14.2% males & 18.3 females) according to perspectives of participants. **Conclusion:** The most common types of women abuse were humiliation and women's negligence, and lack of self-esteem was the common psychological effect of women's abuse on the children life. The best ways to control of women's abuse according to perspectives of participants' were communication both of them and comply with religious rules. **Recommendations:** Comply religious rules, and training programs with health team about marital life and women abuse.

Keywords: Perspectives, Woman's Abuse, Hadhramout University.

Introduction

Violence against women is the most pervasive yet under recognized human rights invasion in the world. It is also a heavy health problem that saps women's energy, compromises their physical and mental health, and erodes their self-esteem. In addition to causing injury, violence increases women's long-term risk of a number of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical incompetence, drug and alcohol abuse, and depression.^[1,2] Women with a history of physical or sexual abuse are also at increased risk for not planned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and miscarriages.^[3,4]

Violence against women is a topic that is increasingly receiving attention from the media, policy makers, scientists and public health workers alike. All over the world, women are believed to be victims of several kinds of violence, related to their role, socio-economic position and cultural constraints.

Such violence can take the form of public violence such as robbery, assault, and rape by strangers, but it is believed to be particularly prevalent in the private domain, where it is often labeled domestic violence. Violence against women occurs in many societies. Although the past years have seen an increasing body of research on the subject, relatively little remains known about the particular situation of women in less developed countries. In general, women are found to be more afraid of criminal victimization than men, and are most afraid of being victimized outside the home. Many women take far reaching precautions, for instance, not going out alone at night, or even in the day time, or always ensuring that they are accompanied by a male family member.^[5] The United Nations defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats

of arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.^[6]

According to the Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (2005), 47% of every married women reported ever having experienced physical violence since the age of 15 years. Although the majority of those women identified an intimate partner (their current or previous husbands) as the perpetrator of at least one episode of violence, 45% had been subjected to physical violence by a male perpetrator other than their husband, and 36% identified a female perpetrator. Fathers were reported twice as often as brothers (53% compared to 23%); the female perpetrator was most often the woman's mother. Similar studies of women over 45 years or unmarried women have not been conducted.^[7]

In Yemen, according to a World Organization against Torture report, published in 2002, one of the first exploratory studies in August 2000 revealed that 46.3% of the women questioned had experienced violence from their spouses or other family members at some point in their lives.^[8] The Yemen Women National Committee said that "early marriage is a prevalent social phenomenon in Yemen". The 1997 Demographic and Maternal and Child Health Survey found that over a quarter of participants felt that the age (15 years) was an ideal age for girls to marry. There is a feeling that it is better for girls to marry before they lose their virginity and, thereby, their 'honor'.^[9]

Community health nurse works with clients in a wide variety of setting including the home. It is in a key position to detect the signs of violence, to initiate support or encourage people and communities to engage in alternative behaviors. Additionally, nurses working in the community, have the opportunity to identify woman who are experiencing abuse and violence.^[10]

Significance of the study:

Yemen is a traditional society where prevailing cultural attitudes award women low status in the family as well as in the community. Therefore, assess the perspectives of male and women about Women's Abuse it is important subject.

Aim of the study:

The aim of the study was to assess perspectives of males and women workers at Hadhramout University about Women's Abuse

Research question:

What are the perspectives of participants about women's abuse?

Subjects and Methods:

I. Research design:

A comparative cross-sectional descriptive design was used.

Study Setting:

This study was conducted at Hadhramout University and its Colleges; Engineer College, Nursing, Medicine, Arts, Administrative Sciences, Environmental Sciences and College of girls, Al-Mukalla City, Hadhramout Governorate, Yemen.

Study Subjects:

A convenience sample consisted of 240 participants working in Hadhramout University and its Colleges and who had accepted to participate in this study and available during two days weekly for each college during the period of study.

Tools for data collection:

An open-ended in depth interview questionnaire sheet including two parts to review the perspectives of participants about women abuse. **Abd- El-Maksoud^[1]**

Part I:

It includes questions to collect data about demographic characteristics of all participants in this study. These data are concerned with age, education, occupation, residence, marital status, duration of marriage, and way of marriage, kind of housing and kind of children.

Part II:

It consists of questions to collect males and females' perspectives about women abuse such as types, impacts of woman abuse on behavior and emotional state of woman and children, causes, contributing factors and control of woman abuse.

Content validity and reliability:

The tools were tested for content validity by panel of experts of community health nursing department. These experts assessed the tools for clarity, relevance, applicability, comprehensiveness, and understanding of the tools, all recommended modifications on the tools were done.

Fieldwork:

The data collection procedure of this study was executed in two months, from September to October, 2014. The researcher started by explaining the purpose of the study briefly to the participants who were met in Hadhramout University and its Colleges and invited to participate in this study, interviewed males and females separately to give them the chance to express their perspectives about woman's abuse. The duration of data collection for the assessment of males and females perspectives about 8 weeks and the time spent with each participant to answer the questionnaire sheet ranged from 30 to 45 minutes according to education level of each participant.

Pilot Study:

Before performing the main study, a pilot study was carried out on a sample of 24 workers in Hadhramout University and its Colleges. The aim was to test clarity of the instructions, the format of the questionnaire, comprehension of the items, and to estimate the exact time required for filling in the questionnaire sheet. The participants involved in the pilot study were excluded from the main study sample.

Administrative and ethical consideration:

Permission has been taken from Hadhramout university and from the Deans of Colleges, that chosen in the study. The agreement for participation of the subjects was taken orally after the aim of the study explained to them, they were given an opportunity to refuse to participate, they were notified that could withdraw at any time stage of the research, also they were assured that the information would be renowned confidential and used for the research purpose only.

Statistical analysis:

The analysis was conducted applying frequency tables with percentage and cross tabulation and Chi-Square test using SPSS program (version 14.0). For all statistical tests, the significance level was set at $P < 0.05$.

Results:

Table (1): summarized the demographic characteristics of the studied participants' according to the table, 43.8% of sample belonged to age group 35 - 44 years, and 83.8% of them were from urban area.

Concerning marital status, 84.6% of the participants' were married. 60.4% of them were married from more than 10 years. The same table reveals that 50.8% of sample lived in separate house and 49.2% lived in shared house, 37.5% of them had high education and above. As regard children sex, 58.3% of participants' had children (males & females) and 11.3% had no children.

Table (2): Displays types of women's abuse according to participants' perspectives. Concerning with males perspectives 8.3% & 7.5% respectively mentioned humiliation and women's negligence compared to 10% & 1.7% respectively of females. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically not significant ($P = 0.13$).

Table (3): Presents impact of women's abuse on children's life according to participants' perspectives. Regarding participants' perspectives about psychological effect on children's life, the results showed that 13.3% & 6.7% respectively of males mentioned the major effects were lack of self esteem, children withdrawal and poor scholastic achievement compared to 8.3%, 1.7% & 2.5% respectively of females. Also, the above table clarifies that 14.2% & 8.3% of males compared to 18.3% & 10.0% of females respectively reported the major impacts of women's abuse on children's behavior were deviance and aggressive, the difference between perspectives of males and females statistically not significant ($P > 0.05$).

Table (4): Illustrated impact of women's abuse on their life according to participants' perspectives. Regarding participants' perspectives about psychological effect of abused women on their life, the results showed that 16.7% & 10% of males mentioned the major effects were hate marital life, poor communication and discussion with husband and inability of cope with life compared to 14.2%, 6.7% & 8.3% respectively of females. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically not significant ($P = 0.103$). The participants' perspectives related to behavior effect among males and females 26.7, 11.7 & 10% respectively reported that the major impacts were children maltreatment and Home leaving. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically significant ($P = 0.01$).

Table (5): Reveals causes of women's abuse related to husbands' and wife's characteristics according to participants' perspectives. Regarding males & females perspectives about causes of women's abused related to husband characteristics, the results showed 27.5%, 15.8, 10%, 6.7% and 8.3% respectively reported the majority of causes were personality traits of husband (jealousy, suspicious and authorities), aggressive and low income. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically not significant (**P = 0.162**). On the other hand, males perspectives about causes of women's abused related to wife characteristics, 25%, 8.3% & 4.2% respectively of them reported personality traits of women (disclosure of secret, nervousness, selfish & waster), wife negligence and insufficient affection compared to 11.7% & 5.8% respectively of female perspectives. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically significant (**P = 0.02**).

Table (6): Shows the contributing factors affecting women's abuse according to participants' perspectives. Concerning with males perspectives 15% & 7.5% respectively reported that the most contributing factors were interference of others on their problems and life pressure compared to 10.8% & 9.2% of females. The difference between males and female perspectives statistically significant (**P = 0.004**).

Table (7): Displays perspectives of participants' about control of women's abuse. Regarding males perspectives 19.2% & 12.5% respectively reported that communication both of them and comply with religious rules were the best methods to control of women's abuse compared to 10% & 12.5% respectively of females. The difference between males and females perspectives statistically significant (**P = 0.01**).

Discussion

Violence against women is not new. Throughout history for thousands of years in particular societies, women have been victims of violence. Wives were considered the property of husbands, subject to their wishes and demands and the husband had the right to beat her, from this perspectives, the silence surrounded this problem Gurley

^[11]. Yemen is a traditional society where prevailing cultural attitudes bestow women low status in the family as well as in the community. Maraver., et al^[12]. Therefore, this study was designed to assess the perspectives of males and women workers at Hadhramout University about Women's Abuse.

Regarding the participants' responses toward the types of woman abuse, both males and females stated emotional abuse in the form of humiliation about nine percent and women's negligence about five percent and more than three quarters of them stated more than one of types of woman abuse, according to their perspectives. Country Assessment on Violence against Women (2010) stated that women in Yemen are subjected to various forms of violence, including physical and psychological abuse within the family, deprivation of education, early marriage, forced marriage, exchanged marriage. But, these present results had perspectives for a sample of males and females workers in Hadhramout University, Al- Mukalla City, South Yemen, this may be that cultural reasons made South Yemeni women mention sexual issues less often, as we found that respondents were reticent about discussing sexual incidents and most of participants in this study had high level of education and above. Similarly, Hassan ^[13] mentioned that seventy two percent out of 200 women reported that psychological abuse had more impact on them than physical abuse. On the contrary, Heise., et al ^[14] found that the most common type of woman abuse was physical abuse.

Concerning with impact of women's abuse on children's and women life according to participants' perspectives stated deviance nearly sixteen and half percent and lack of self-esteem ten percent as most effects on children's life and children maltreatment nineteen percent, hate marital life fifteen and half percent, poor communication and discussion with husband nearly twelve percent and home leaving eleven percent as most effects of women's abuse on woman life. Women and children may be the most frequent victims of family violence because as Gelles ^[15] points out they have no place to run and are not strong enough or do not possess sufficient resources to inflict costs on their attackers. Battering at home constitutes

by far the most universal form of violence against women and is a significant cause of injury for women of reproductive age. Yet, it is not the sort of act that commands public attention because it happens behind closed doors and because victims fear speaking out. Ilika., et al^[16] noticed that only one in 100 battered women in the United States ever reports the abuse she suffers, and most women who are raped know their attackers, as do forty percent of female murder victims.

The present study revealed that nearly one quarter of participants mentioned the causes of woman abuse were personality traits of husband and aggressive about ten percent and personality traits of women eighteen and half percent and wife negligence seven percent. These results agreed with Kandeel and Toama^[17] who found that negligence was considered as cause which provokes violence. About thirteen percent and about nine percent of studied sample (males and females) stated the intervention of others on their problems and stress of life as a contributing factors leading to woman abuse. It may be due to the financial reasons may actually be much more prominent in Yemen, with living standards lower than in Egypt. This result disagree with Abd- El-Maksoud^[1] who mentioned that the majority of participants' perspectives in study conducted on a sample of male workers in Zagazig University about woman abuse stated inequality of education as a contributing factors leading to low discussion, bad communication and gradually one spouse neglects the other leading to the abuse, and agree with Ilika., et al^[16] reported that more than half of their studied sample mentioned economic demands as a reason to domestic violence.

Regarding to the perspectives of participants' about the best methods of control of women's abuse, the current study revealed about two third of female and male suggest combined solution to control of women's abuse, while about fifteen and thirteen percent of them reported that the communication both of them and comply with religious rules were the best methods to control of women's abuse. It may be due to Religion is the most important cultural and value component impacting and shaping trends and tendencies of people in Yemen. Since 2003, the Ministry begins an intensified

program to activities religious discourse and develops preachers' skills to denounce violence, extremism and prejudice and to follow moderate and modest course, which represent the origin and spirit of Islam. Women's National Coalition (WNC) communicated with the religious institutions encouraging them to develop a supportive religious discourse to women's rights, and participated in several training workshops and seminars for male and female preachers and Imams. Some of these activities were funded by the United Nations Population Fund. WNC solicited assistance from religious scholars and Islamic Sharia jurists for the activities that it has implemented, including studies, and for the preparation of the legal amendments from an Islamic perspective. FVPSA.^[18]

Conclusion:

The study results bring about the conclusion that the most common types of women abuse were humiliation and women's negligence, and lack of self-esteem was the common psychological effect of women's abuse on the children life and also, this study concluded that the comply religious rules and communication with both couple were the best ways to control of women's abuse according to participants' perspectives.

Recommendations:

On the basis of the current study findings, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Comply religious rules.
- Giving girls the opportunity in the selection of their future husband
- Educating girls about family life through all levels of education.
- Compulsory pre-marital counseling and offering health educational sessions to all expected couples before marriage about family life and sexual life, stressing on not using violence for treating any family problems.
- Health education through mass media to all family members about the importance of treating girls and boys by the same manner and education about woman abuse, its causes, and how to prevent its occurrence.
- Training programs to health team about marital life and woman abuse.
- Further researches needed to produce more accurate estimate of prevalence and incidence of woman abuse.

Table (1): Demographic characteristics of studied sample

Socio-demographic characteristics	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Age:								
▪ 25-	52	43.3	39	32.5	91	37.9	13.25	0.001
▪ 35-	39	32.5	66	55.0	105	43.8		
▪ 45 and more	29	24.2	15	12.5	44	18.3		
Residence:								
▪ Rural	26	21.7	13	10.8	39	16.3	5.174	0.023
▪ Urban	94	78.3	107	89.2	201	83.8		
Marital status:								
▪ Single	9	7.5	4	3.3	13	5.4	4.789	0.188
▪ Married	99	82.5	104	86.7	203	84.6		
▪ Divorced	5	4.2	9	7.5	14	5.8		
▪ Widower	7	5.8	3	2.5	10	4.2		
Way of marriage:								
▪ By them self	16	13.3	19	15.8	35	14.6	0.596	0.742
▪ By family	97	80.8	96	80.0	193	80.4		
▪ Others	7	5.8	5	4.2	12	5.0		
Duration of Marriage:								
▪ < 10 years	52	43.3	43	35.8	95	39.6	1.411	0.145
▪ > 10 years	68	56.7	77	64.2	145	60.4		
Kind of house:								
▪ Separate	61	50.8	61	50.8	122	50.8	.000	0.551
▪ Shared	59	49.2	59	49.2	118	49.2		
Level of education:								
▪ Illiterate or read & write	9	7.5	18	15.0	27	11.2	3.659	0.166
▪ Middle education	66	55.0	57	47.5	123	51.3		
▪ High education & above	45	37.5	45	37.5	90	37.5		
Children sex:								
▪ No children	16	13.3	11	9.2	27	11.3	5.485	0.140
▪ Male only	23	19.2	13	10.8	36	15.0		
▪ Female only	15	12.5	22	18.3	37	15.4		
▪ Both sexes	66	55.0	74	61.7	104	58.3		

Table (2): Types of women's abuse according to participants' perspectives

Types of women's abuse	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Type of women abuse:								
▪ Women's negligence	9	7.5	2	1.7	11	4.6	11.18	0.13 P > 0.05
▪ Physical abuse	6	5.0	2	1.7	8	3.3		
▪ Deprivation of privileges	1	0.8	0	0	1	0.4		
▪ Sexual abuse	1	0.8	0	0	1	0.4		
▪ Humiliation	10	8.3	12	10.0	22	9.2		
▪ Deprivation of liberty	0	0	1	0.8	1	0.4		
▪ Depreciation of self- worth	2	1.7	5	4.2	7	2.9		
▪ More than one of above	91	75.8	98	81.7	189	78.8		

P < 0.05 (statistically significant)

Table (3): Impact of women's abuse on children's life according to participants' perspectives

Impact of women's abuse on children's life	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Psychological effect:								
▪ Children withdrawal	8	6.7	2	1.7	10	4.2	12.63	0.08 P > 0.05
▪ Poor scholastic achievement	8	6.7	3	2.5	11	4.6		
▪ Disrespect their parents	7	5.8	3	2.5	10	4.2		
▪ Lack of self esteem	16	13.3	10	8.3	26	10.8		
▪ More than one of above	72	60.0	87	72.5	159	66.3		
▪ All of above	1	0.8	3	2.5	4	1.7		
▪ Do not Know	6	5.0	7	5.8	13	5.4		
behavioral disorder:								
▪ Deviance	17	14.2	22	18.3	39	16.3	12.13	0.09 P > 0.05
▪ Aggressive	10	8.3	12	10.0	22	9.2		
▪ Addiction	4	3.3	2	1.7	6	2.5		
▪ Home leaving	7	5.8	2	1.7	9	3.8		
▪ Imitation of their father later	3	2.5	3	2.5	6	2.5		
▪ More than one of above	62	51.7	71	59.2	133	55.4		
▪ All of above	0	0	2	1.7	2	0.8		
▪ Do not know	17	14.2	6	5.0	23	9.6		

P < 0.05 (statistically significant)

Table (4): Impact of women's abuse on their life according to participants' perspectives

Impact of women's abuse on their life	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Psychological effect:								
▪ Hate marital life	20	16.7	17	14.2	37	15.4	9.16	0.103 P > 0.05
▪ Poor communication and discussion with husband	20	16.7	8	6.7	28	11.7		
▪ Inability of cope with life	12	10.0	10	8.3	22	9.2		
▪ More than one of above	46	38.3	49	40.8	95	39.6		
▪ All of above	21	17.5	35	29.2	56	23.3		
▪ Do not Know	1	0.8	1	0.8	2	0.8		
behavioral disorder:								
▪ Home leaving	14	11.7	12	10.0	26	10.8	16.40	0.01 P < 0.05
▪ Revenge from husband	1	0.8	3	2.5	4	1.7		
▪ Deviance	5	4.2	5	4.2	10	4.2		
▪ Children maltreatment	32	26.7	14	11.7	46	19.2		
▪ More than one of above	60	50	70	58.3	130	54.2		
▪ All of above	1	0.8	10	8.3	11	4.6		
▪ Do not know	7	5.8	6	5.0	13	5.4		

P < 0.05 (statistically significant)

Table (5): Causes of women's abuse related to husbands' and wife's characteristics according to participants' perspectives

Causes	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Causes of women abuse related to husband characteristics:								
▪ Personality traits of husband	33	27.5	19	15.8	52	21.7	10.49	0.162 P > 0.05
▪ Low income	8	6.7	10	8.3	18	7.5		
▪ Addiction	1	0.8	1	0.8	2	0.8		
▪ Aggressive	12	10.0	12	10.0	24	10.0		
▪ Impotence	2	1.7	1	0.8	3	1.3		
▪ Treason	4	3.3	2	1.7	6	2.5		
▪ More than one of above	52	43.3	72	60	124	51.7		
▪ Do not Know	8	6.7	3	2.5	11	4.6		
Causes of women abuse related to wife characteristics:								
▪ Personality traits of women	30	25.0	14	11.7	44	18.3	17.76	0.02 P < 0.05
▪ Wife negligence	10	8.3	7	5.8	17	7.1		
▪ Unwilling to share resource in home	0	0.0	6	5.0	6	2.5		
▪ Dishonest	1	0.8	1	0.8	2	0.8		
▪ Infertility	3	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.3		
▪ Imitation of others	5	4.2	4	3.3	9	3.8		
▪ Insufficient affection	5	4.2	7	5.8	12	5.0		
▪ More than one of above	62	51.7	78	65.0	140	58.3		
▪ Do not know	4	3.3	3	2.5	7	2.9		

Table (6): Contributing factors affecting women's abuse according to participants' perspectives

Contributing factors	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
▪ Interference of others on their problems	18	15.0	13	10.8	31	12.9	23.88	0.004 P < 0.05
▪ Inequality of education	4	3.3	2	1.7	6	2.5		
▪ Contradicting opinion	4	3.3	0	0.0	4	1.7		
▪ Life pressure	9	7.5	11	9.2	20	8.3		
▪ Deference of socialization	9	7.5	0	0.0	9	3.8		
▪ Increase of family size	3	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.3		
▪ Inequality of age	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.4		
▪ Ambition of one couple	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.4		
▪ More than one of above	57	47.5	81	67.5	138	57.5		
▪ Do not Know	14	11.7	13	10.8	27	11.3		

P < 0.05 (statistically significant)

Table (7): Perspectives of participants' about control of women's abuse

Control of women's abuse	Males (120)		Females (120)		Total (240)		X ² test	P-Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%		
▪ Limit others interference	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.4	19.99	0.01 P < 0.05
▪ Communication both of them	23	19.2	12	10.0	35	14.6		
▪ Discuss the problem with experience people	6	5.0	2	1.7	8	3.3		
▪ Comply with religious rules	15	12.5	15	12.5	30	12.5		
▪ Equality between partners	2	1.7	2	1.7	4	1.7		
▪ Caring of her family	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.4		
▪ Mass media	3	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.3		
▪ More than one of above	65	54.2	82	68.3	147	61.3		
▪ All of above	1	0.8	6	5.0	7	2.9		
▪ Do not Know	4	3.3	0	0.0	4	1.7		

P < 0.05 (statistically significant)

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