

Assessment domestic violence among women in mosul city

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Abstract

Violence against anyone is unacceptable. Violence experienced by women, however, particularly intimate partner violence and sexual assault, represents a unique aspect of the wider social problem of violence, and requires specific attention and solutions. Individual experiences of violence against women must be assessed against the backdrop of historical, social, political, cultural and economic inequality of women. This study aims to Assess domestic violence among women in Mosul City. This descriptive study was conducted in two primary health care centers and Court of Appeal in Mosul during 3 months period from 23 December, 2012 to 7 March , 2013. The study sample consists of (500) women in the location of the study who suffered from domestic violence and agree to participation to answer about questionnaire in a direct interview with researcher. The questionnaire subsumed Part (1) concerns physical domestic violence, and includes (13) items focused on violence related with emotional abuse, Part (2) concerns social domestic violence questionnaire, and consists of (13) items, Part(3) concerns emotional domestic violence, and consists of (18) items. Statistical processing was conducted by the use of frequency(F)and percentage(%). A total of 500 women were enrolled in this study; 33% of women were exposed to physical violence, 37% of women were exposed to social violence, 79% of women were exposed to emotional violence. These percentages take into account that every single one of these respondents has been subjected to at least two of these three types .This study shows the causes that lead to uses domestic violence against women and the impact of violence on the women , family ,children and community. The researcher has recommended a serious cooperation with civil society organizations and international bodies concerned with this issue to determine the extent of this problem because posed by economic burdens and that hinder the development of society, and affect the gross national product of the country.

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Introduction

Domestic violence is variously known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse or spousal partner violence (SPV). It can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation¹. Domestic violence against women is any act of gender based violence that results in psychological, sexual or physical harm or suffering inflicted on women. It includes threats of deprivation of liberty and may take place in public or private life². In addition, Acts of violence against women include forced sterilization and forced abortion, forced use of contraceptives, female genital mutilation, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection³. Globally, it is understood that between 10% and 69 % of women report physical abuse by an intimate partner at least once in their lives⁴. Between 6% and 47 % of adult women worldwide report being sexually assaulted by intimate partners in their lifetime⁴.

In Iraq one in five married women has been a victim of physical domestic violence, while one in three has been subject to emotional violence. Of the women victims of physical domestic violence, 14% were subject to violence during pregnancy⁵.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) states that all member states are obliged to act with due diligence to prevent violations of women's rights, to investigate and punish acts of violence that occur, and to provide assistance and compensation to victims of domestic violence⁶. The most common form of domestic violence against rural women in Sisonke District is physical, psychological and sexual violence that occur in the family. It is assumed that the form of violence is increasingly caused by culture and customs, illiteracy and poverty. With regards to culture, the level of violence is likely to be high if a man is married to more than one wife⁷. There are concerns that polygamous marriages are among the factors contributing to domestic violence among rural women. Finally, it is alleged that there are no available resource centers

for victims of domestic violence. As a consequence of domestic violence in Sisonke District Municipality, many women are at risk of abuses from their families. Abused women are at a high risk of suffering from disabilities, emotional stress, poverty, alcohol dependency, contracting diseases like HIV and AIDS, loss of home and loss of life. Domestic violence also drives kids to the streets because children flee from violent parents and homes⁷. The introduction of apartheid laws in South Africa led to economic and social crisis that resulted in extraordinary high rates of violence. Decades of apartheid state-sponsored violence and reactive community insurrection are highlighted in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission⁸. The apartheid laws oppressed Blacks and deprived them of their human rights. Domestic violence also dominated national public debates and stimulated activism by community-based activism and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)⁹. The nature of the problem was also recognized by the African National Congress (ANC) led government from its relatively early outbreak because of the concern of the ANC for the rights of South Africans at large¹⁰.

Objective of the study

1. Assess domestic violence among women in Mosul City.
2. Classify domestic violence according to its types.
 - A. Physical
 - B. Social
 - C. Psychological (Emotional).

Methodology

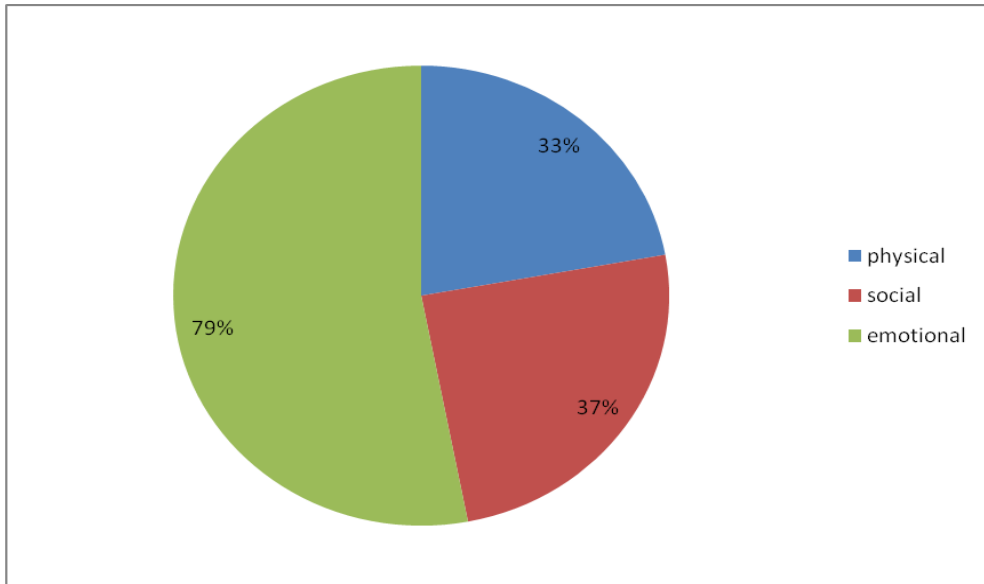
A descriptive design type cross-sectional study was chosen to fulfill the objectives of this research which is conducted in two primary health care (PHC) centers and Court of appeal in Ninawa during the period from 16th of October 2012 to 28th of July, 2013 .

The local ethical committee approved this study. The study sample consists of (500) women who exposure to domestic violence and agree to answer about questionnaire. The questionnaire data was

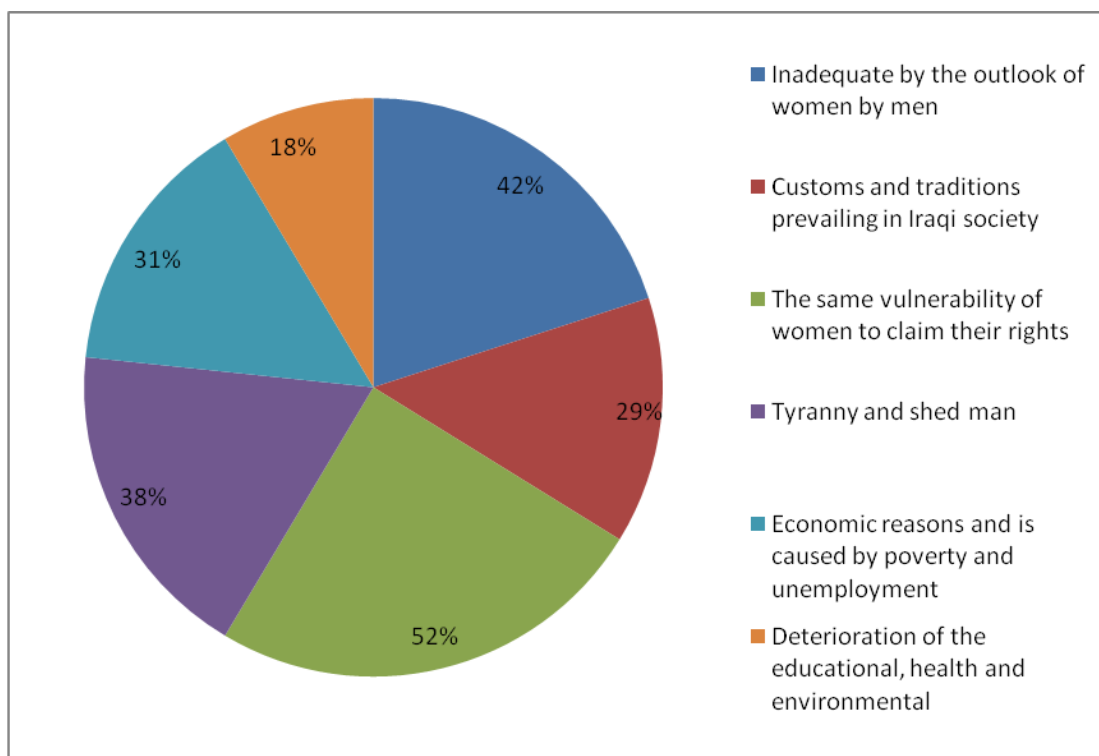
filled by the researcher in a face-to-face interview.

Result :

Fig (1): classification of domestic violence among women



Fig(2) Causes of violence against women



Table(1) The effect of physical violence on women

Variables	F	%
Leave marks on the women body	125	76
Transient physical impairments	5	3
Dangerous injuries	35	21

Discussion :

Fig (1) shows classification of domestic violence among women

- 3% of women were exposed to physical violence.
- 37% of women were exposed to social violence.
- 79% of women were exposed to emotional violence.

These percentages take into account that every single one of these respondents has been subjected to at least two of these three types.

Recent studies suggest that violence is a general phenomenon for all societal and cultural classes and it is an approved method in dealing with women in developing and developed countries. For example, in a survey of 3,000 Croatian men, 85% of these males confessed that they had beaten women both outside and within the family. In Egypt, one out of

every three women was beaten by the spouse at least once during the marriage. It was also confirmed by the International Organization for Women (Aonigm) that the most famous images of violence against women in different places of the world at the present time is circumcision. Annually, 120 million girls are subjected to this form of mutilation. The data provided by Amnesty International regarding certain specific examples of violence against women, indicate that the latter take different forms, including rape, which includes seven hundred thousand women each year in the United States. The ratio of women killed by their husbands is 50% of the total killings in Bangladesh. Britain's police force receives a call every minute from women subjected to violence within the home, asking for help. Our results agree with the study that conducted in Sivas, Turkey 2006 by Faruk K. and Orhan D. In their study the found that emotional violence was the most frequent type of violence

(53.8%), followed by physical violence (38.3%).

Our results partially agree with the study that conducted in Uganda 2003 by Michael A. and et al. In their study found that emotional violence was the most frequent type of violence (40.1%), followed by physical violence (24.8%).

The figure (2) shows the motives or reasons that led to the use of violence against women by men

42% of women are considered inferior by men, that women are unable to defend herself, especially as her physique is weaker, and she is not able to defend herself from a man who is physically stronger.

According to certain customs and traditions in Iraqi society, 29 % of the sample interviewed stated that a man is not considered a man unless he hits a woman, whether she is his wife, his daughter, or even his sister. Women receive no consideration, as they are the equivalent of housemaids, and are trained to blindly obey to their husband. They have no say when it comes to decision-making

Women are equally vulnerable when it comes to claiming their rights for fear of seeing their family and marital relationship disintegrate, losing their children, and also because they are ignorant of the rights granted to them by Islam. 52% of the women interviewed stated that those fears were what prevented them from claiming any rights.

38% of the women interviewed stated that the tyranny and injustice imposed by the husband allows him to consider himself as the boss in command who rules. This situation prevents women from discussing anything with the husband.

Economic reasons and poverty : poverty and unemployment—there are many men who are without work—affect women in that the man is unable to meet the demands of home and family and even the cultural requirements of being a man. 31% of the women interviewed stated that this was a leading cause of domestic violence. Suffering from permanent neurological disorders, men who endure these conditions are responsible for causing a lot

of problems for women, their family, and society as a whole.

18% of the women interviewed stated that education is a main cause of violence against women.

In a previous study that was conducted in Sudan—(Nutrition Center and Rural Development, 2006)—it was found that 30% of women answered that they were subjected to violence by a husband, a father, or even a brother because of the latter's addiction to drugs or alcohol; 7% of them answered because of infidelity; 10% because of jealousy; 15% because of poverty or low income status, and 5% because of the husband's parsimony¹¹.

The table (1) shows The effect of physical violence on women

Beatings : beatings leave excessive marks on the married woman's body. According to statements, these women were beaten with a stick or sharp tools which left traces and marks on their bodies. 76% of all women sampled stated that their bodies bore the marks of such beatings. Temporary physical impairments, such as eye swelling and the inability to see for a period of time, as well as temporary loss of hearing represent 3% of the women interviewed.

Serious wounds : Many of the married women interviewed admitted that they had contracted serious injuries as a result of being hit by blunt tools or a sharp object, or having been pushed. These women also stated that they needed medical care. Out of this group 21% stated that they even needed intensive medical care.

The statistics recorded by the Moroccan Ministry of Justice illustrate a significant rise in cases of assault and battery leading to death, and exceeding 29% of all cases of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases against married women resulting in temporary disability accounted for 54% of all incidents. Furthermore, assault and battery leading to permanent disability increased by 24%.¹²

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