Violence against women in Iran : why , how and protect against it

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Abstract: Violence in general and violence against women in particular, is a global phenomenon rooted what the wind would seem to study this phenomenon and ways of dealing with it . With that in mind a few tips outlined can be downloaded This requires a comprehensive review of the planning area is adequate visibility For example, the fact that violence against women in Iran for several reasons False belief, education, social issues, often concealing the Most complete and comprehensive statistics on violence are Violence against women in both the public and private domains will apply . In other words, the public sector together with a set of economic, cultural , religious, political , familial , legal , psychological , social and face Each has a large impact on these behaviors are And in the private sphere of the family and the wife dealing with agents In other words, it is the main component and it can be called domestic violence .

The main strategy for the prevention of violence against women can be the first in summary, the general concept of women's empower me. Their empowerment in terms of self-confidence, social skills , such as learning to say no and ..., Economic potential , its scientific and ... The next step should be the role of legislative bodies to Situation more and more laws to protect women against violence noted.

Key words: Violence, women, prevention, advocacy, empowerment

Introduction

Chain acid throwing in Isfahan province in Mehr 1393, once again manifested the ugly face of violence against women from a different aspect. Hurting the feelings of the public on this crime and violation of victims' privacy is still indicative of the lack of proper solutions for controlling and eliminating the assaults and violence against women. The types of violence against women aside, which have been modernized in the recent years, the issue of violence against women should be taken as a heavy fillip on the body of the country's social and cultural structure, reminding people and authorities of the long way that should be still taken and preventing it needs new solutions.

Considering violence and its types which are committed from a long time ago in the world, and our country is not an exception, its different types are ever developing and need new ways for preventing from it. From among the legal actions for legislation and protecting the women for preventing violence against them in Iran, the Family Protection Law enacted on 1391/12/01, can be noted which in spite of great hopes for evolutions in women basic rights, did not take effective steps for doing that, just like the deserted women and children protection law.

But it seems the bill of securing women which has been recently drafted and passed in the parliament and is now under modifications, is among useful and beneficial actions taken for fighting violence against women. It is hoped by the approval of this document, a great proportion of worries about legislation in fighting violence against women are obviated.

This study aimed at identifying the types of violence in public and private areas and determining the reasons for such issue, by investigating the concept of violence and providing the available definitions.

Analysis of violence

In analysis of violence, we must cross the lines of cognitive and psychological motivations and investigate the incidence of aggression in relation with a more general aspect such as social solidarity. In Durkheim opinion, the social issues are analyzable regarding the rate of social solidarity. He believes that aggression is a result of non-solidarity of the individual with a bigger society surrounding him. This non-solidarity can be discussed in two aspects. In one aspect, it is indicative of individual's non-solidarity with a larger society which determines the norms and the official forms of social regulations including the laws and civil and criminal provisions can be seen. In this case, police is the symbol of government's political determination and the law enforcement official. From another aspect, the individual's non-solidarity with the public can be indicative of his/her solidarity or conformity with smaller desired groups. In such situation, the concepts of individual and deviated society are of great prominence and indicate that weakening of integrity and unity of the individual with the bigger society could mean the intensification of his unity with other groups. Durkheim sees the remedy of social issues in establishing the organization of professional groups which facilitate attracting people and their merging into a social totality (Aron, 1370). Otherwise, establishment of antagonist and abnormal groups will be predictable and inevitable. Sutherland (1940) in a study on deviation and its formation somehow modifies the social solidarity theory of Durkheim. The individual inclination for solidarity or deviation from social norms depends on the relatively continuous relationships he makes with others who encourage the normal behavior or deviation from the norms (Aron, 1370).

Hirschi in another study gives a general definition of deviation. Although he also does not address violence directly, his control theory enables a more precise investigation of aggression as a form of deviation and abnormality. Hirschi (1969) believes the essence social control is highly depended on what people expect from their behavior. The assumption of being blamed by the family and friends is enough for most of them to be free of temptation of committing a crime. He argues further that solidarity is a result of four types of social controls. More precisely, weak relationships with the family, peers, and schoolmates cause people to be easily deviated. Moreover, people who agree more on the legitimate opportunities and feel that own more legal chances, show more solidarity.

Definition

violence against women means every aggressive treatment related to gender which cause physical, sexual, or psychological harm or pain for the women. Such treatment can be accompanied by threatening, coercion, and absolute negation of choice and freedom, in the public or in secret (Motamedi Mehr, 1380).

Types of Violence against Women

Home violence: violence against women in the families is the most prevalent type of violences against them. The studies indicate that the probability of assault and battery, rape, and murdering women by their spouses is higher compared to others (Ezazi, 1375).

Women have been frequently severely injured by their spouses and sometimes they end up dead due to the injuries. The unpredictability of home violence aggressions and the lack of familiarity with women's spirits and behaviors, adds to their pain and torture. The aggressions against women at home may continue from week to week or probably for prolonged years.

Physical violence

Among all the women worldwide, 16-25% are victims of physical aggressions of their spouses. Women usually do not reveal physical aggressions. Some of them may think they deserve assault and battery due to failures in their duties. Some also are afraid of the spouse's revenge on revealing the family secrets, and some do not reveal since they feel embarrassed. There are no protective rules for women in some countries.

Psychological or Feelings violence

Psychological or feelings violence include continuous verbal abuse, harassment, threatening, physical, financial, and personal independence deprivation. For some women, feelings abuse resulted from continuous insults and their husband despotic behavior is more torturing than assaults, since such behaviors decrease their self-confidence and self-esteem (Hanson and Wallace-Capretta, 2004).

Rape and Sexual Assault

Most of women face the probability of rape experience or struggle for avoiding it. In the US, 14-20% of women have experienced a complete rape at least once. In a random sampling of 240 Torontonian women, 40% of them had experienced at least one forced sexual intercourse at the age of 16 (Kar, 1380).

Women are also usually victims of non-touching sexual abuse. In such cases, men by several ways, such as phone calls talk to women using insolent words. More than 50% of women have reported such an experience (Elsan, 1385).

Cultural violence

Traditions and social customs are extracted from principles used by vast or limited range of people in an area for years, something which make the habitants of an area to consider the values of another area as unethical or inhumane. Today, what is known as culture is extracted from these values an ethics. The emersion and continuance of men's dominance culture based on belief that men are the prominent sex, has led to the formation of an innate and latent aggression against women. In fact, several types of verbal behavior and even further, the attitude and mentality of men for torturing women can be taken as cultural violence. Cultural violence is so vast and due to having religious and historical background, needs fundamental cultural actions such as correctly educating the concepts of family, women and recognition of their spirits, feelings, and their specific capabilities.

Financial Violence

Alimony and equivalent remuneration in conjugal life are familiar words for most of people. The legislator by enacting a set of laws, has taken good steps to improve or so-called guarantee the women's human and conjugal rights when she gets separated or is far from her spouse, which are at times very useful and efficient. We can analyze in this regard that considering this regulation and other traditional conditions dominating in Iranian families, most of women are under protection of their spouses and they will face many financial problems in case they lose this protection. This aspect of the protection by spouse sometimes become a leverage for pressuring from some spouses and it has enabled them to use this method for doing aggressive actions against women (Aghababaei, 1384).

Violence against Women from the Viewpoint of Scholars and their Opinion

To answer the question "why there is violence against women", we should consider the academic theories in the field. Investigation of this subject is more of psychology and sociology task (Fani, 1380).

Psychologically, specially based on Fruid's view, aggression is taken as an instinct. This idea whose non-academic basis dates back to pre-Fruid era, is simply based on the fact that people commit aggressive thongs and violence because they are "innately" aggressive. According to this theory, due to innate motivation, people continuously show aggressive behavior and stopping these actions is very difficult, though in civilized societies, the counter-fellow-creature actions are prevented by several reinforcements (Kar, 1380).

Contrary to the theory of innateness, some other psychologists believe that aggression is the result of learned or acquisitive drive for hurting others. The most important basis for this theory is the drive of aggression according to Dollard, Doob, Seido,… or frustration- aggression hypothesis. In short, this theory is based on the notion that frustration, especially when the behavior is not in line with reaching a goal, can create an instigation whose aim is hurting people or objects. In this case, the specific environmental conditions cause emersion of aggression.

Although some other scholars are in doubt about the relationship between frustration and aggression, since aggressive behavior is not always related to preventive and confounding environmental condition, these conditions are emphasized on in creation of aggression. The difference between these two theories is that in innateness theory, the innateness and naturalness of this human behavior becomes prominent, but in "driving" theory, the creation of aggression based on environmental conditions and due to specific motives and not because of internal pressures is emphasized (Kar, 1370).

Social Learning Theory

Although social learning theory is stemmed from psychology, it is more discussed in social sciences. This theory proposed by Albert Bandura, after precise assessments and experiments especially on children in terms of aggression type, emphasizes on learning and acquisition of violence through observation and

imitation. From this viewpoint, behavior through imitation (imitating the family members' behaviors or others) is also learned through direct experience. If this behavior is useful for reaching to a goal in an environment, the chances of its incidence are increased, even without any external rewards, especially if this behavior provides a pattern valuable and important to the observer (Mohammadi, 1383).

Functionalist Theories
Functionalists view on family violence justifies violence. They assume family as a group in which members with different genders and age groups are in close relationship with each other for a long time. Contrary to other groups, the hierarchy in this group is not arranged based on expertise, capability, or competency, but it is based sex, age and financial power. Different interests in this heterogeneous group lead in covert or overt controversies. These controversies eliminate the proper characteristics and functions of the family, so they should be obviated. Obviation of family controversies is viable using the power tools and in some cases aggression. In such cases, violence naturalize the routine life and family continues its basic functions in which, the women are responsible for familial tasks and men are responsible for communicating with outside world and making a living (Moazami, 1382).

Social Structure Theories (tension, conflict)
The more conflicting situations and incidents threatening the family are, the more the probability of aggressive behaviors in the family will be. This is confirmed by some studies on relationship between tension and violence, since the families less exposed to several tensions, went through lesser violence. Tension in these studies meant the incidents at working place, Offenses and being summoned to the police station and the court, sicknesses, and other familial problems, though it is not inevitable the tension creating situations always lead in familial violence. The probability of such behavior increases when the aggressive person through observation or experience, concludes that violence is a proper response to conflicting situations. Additionally, he should believe in the legitimation of such behavior and suspect by using violence, the positive strength will increase for him (Moazami, 1386).

Feminist Theory
The scholars of this field believe the main reason for violence is the existence of patriarchal authority structures in the society. This authority structure can be observed in the organizational hierarchy of social identities and relationships. Moreover, there are ideologies advertised in the society which emphasize on the legitimation of this inequality (hierarchy). Family, as the core institute of patriarchy, is centered on social inequality and women and children exploitation, and the society ideologues try to keep it (Molaverdi, 1385).

Factors in Violence against Women
It can be argued that violence against women has never been the result of a single factor anywhere around the world, and everywhere violence is imposed on women, it is the results of several dependent factors. Even when a man torture his wife physically or sexually because of false excuses, we are not facing a single factor, but several factors can be mentioned such as the man's educational level, his family rank, the way of his trainings and growth in childhood, the effective social trainings, several physical and mental illnesses, poverty in childhood or contemporary, his occupational status, and several more factors. It can be argued that a specific factor such as the man's poverty or illness at the moment is never a factor for committing aggressive behavior against his wife. The importance of this matter makes us investigate the factors causing this antisocial and indecent behavior.

The psychological and ethical factors, religious and dogmatic reasons, financial, cultural, political, and legal issues are amongst the factors of violence against women. Some of these factors create violence and some worsen or sometimes sustain the violence. The researchers tried to investigate these factors in this section.

The psychologists believe men, due to physical differences and more physical strengths, are more likely to commit violence against women, as the testosterone which is a male hormone sometimes make men so angry that they may threaten their lives or others' lives. Also, most of the times, the mental illnesses such as depression, antisocial, paranoid, mental weakness, mental failure, and mild mania lead men show aggressive behavior against women.

An important factors in violence against women is men's non-compliance to ethics. Islam mentions components such as Arrogance, selfishness, prejudice, greed, envy, avarice as the cases of disgruntle and religious authorities have strongly emphasized not marrying ill-tempered men (Ansari, o.54).

Unemployment: the studies indicate people who have a job enjoy more self-confidence, so they show less violence (Rafiyi Far, 1380). Addiction to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or even flying pigeons, intervention of others in marital life, irresolution, and man's behavioral modeling (from the father, brother, or friends).

Improper Choices: cultural, financial and social inequality of the spouses, forced, early, and improper marriages make the spouses tolerance difficult. The man's remarriage, Greed, lying, improper friends, asking unconventional sexual relationships, and man's complaining or indifference toward woman can facilitate the incidence of violence in family (Rafiyi Far, 1380).

Cultural norms such as improper decisions, confining women for going out, belief in patriarchy such as bullying and egocentrism, and lack of attention to family members' ideas, single decision-making in life plans such as buying or selling a house, car, or home appliances, the husband's indifference toward wife's emotional and spiritual needs are all indicative of this issue (Laali, 1378). The man's fatigue and work pressures, problems outside home, lack of discipline in life and wife's indifference toward housework, wife's trying to keep up with others and non-compliance of her demands with husband's income, fault-finding and complaining, choosing the wrong time for talking with the husband about problems and shortages, non-abeyance, lying, lack of mutual understanding due to forced marriage, lack of interest for her husband, and not having a son all facilitate violence in the family (Rafiyi Far, 1380).

Financial Factors: poverty is also an important factor for girls not staying at the father's home, at least until the proper time for marriage, and the family do not opposed to her marriage at an early age, especially when the man's family is more economically prosperous. This is the issue responsible for creating the high age difference problem. The girl at an early age may marry an old man or at the presence of other wives, may marry him just for better financial conditions and she is forced into such marriage. Such forces themselves are a kind of violence happening in the father's home.

Public and social beliefs: the attitude toward women is obviously different in modern and traditional societies. While in the modern societies, numerous efforts have been put for preserving women' rights and the attitudes are gradually being more humane, in traditional societies, the patriarchic attitude based on authority still rules. The power of such attitude has formed traditions and regulations which consider women as the second sex and in some cases a property of men. Forced marriages, early marriages, and the likes root back to such attitude (Kordovani, 1379).

Pointless Honor Dogmatism: although the expansion of urban life and industrialization in modern societies has decreased the violence against family members, especially the women, for honor disputes, this is more manifested in the eastern and traditional societies. In these societies, women and children are considered as the man's honor and reverence, and it is him who rules with full authority. While in the urban areas, the specific state offices deal with the major disputes of the couples, in less developed or developing areas, these disputes are resolved by the powerful member of the family or authorative elder persons, and they justify the violence against other members of the family, especially the women, in this way. "as the major reasons for honor killings are dogmatism, personal revenge, jealousy, being suspicious, close mind, existence of a third person, getting rid of the spouse which is an obstacle, and loss of honor. It is of note that honor disputes leading in murder are more committed by the men. It is less observed that a woman commit a murder by her own or without a company" (Nazparvar, 1376).

Conclusion

After the investigations on violence against women, we can obtain a general and holistic perspective about the causes and reasons behind this issue and by challenging the authorities and ordinary people minds, observe the results of such thoughts and proceedings. By recognizing the point that violence against women is not specific to Iran and it is a global issue and it is always the result of different cultural, financial, psychological and legal factors, it can be said women in 21st century are still exposed to various types of physical, sexual, and psychological valences. Categorizing the types of violence against women into the three types, a specific solution for preventing each is considered. But generally, and in basic stages, firstly the women's empowerment as the most important and basic action should be considered and it should be the core criterion for plans of decision-makers. Empowerment is a term which itself teaches major and rooted concepts such as cultural trainings for men in order to obviate the false and traditional thoughts on being the prominent sex compared to women and total authority for ruling them. It also trains women about their rights and the ways for preserving them against violence in order to free them from the cultural and financial hardships. On the other hand, obviating the social, financial, legal, and legitimate inequalities can

also be a useful action. The law should go to the direction in which any men can not impose violence against women under protection of it.

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