DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: ONLY IN SORROW AND WITHOUT JOY

Abstract:
The article deals with the concept of domestic violence, its types and negative consequences, as well as the characteristics of domestic violence in the XXI century factors affecting the deviant behaviour, i.e. gender, sexual orientation, social environment, etc.

Key words: domestic violence, relationships, victim, addiction, partner.

Introduction
Domestic violence occurs when a current or former intimate partner exerts dominance and control in a relationship through physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, resulting in the victim’s physical or emotional trauma. Domestic violence includes stalking and dating violence. Other terms used for domestic violence include intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, family violence, spousal abuse, dating violence, wife abuse, and battering.

Domestic violence exists within all cultures, ethnicities, faiths, age groups, education levels, income levels, and sexual orientations. Domestic
violence can occur between many different kinds of couples: married or unmarried couples, couples who live in rural areas and urban areas, those that cohabitate or live separately, couples that had been formerly married or had dated, and between heterosexual or same-sex couples. Furthermore, sexual intimacy is not required to be present in a relationship in order for domestic violence to occur.

While the statutory term for domestic violence in most states usually includes other family members besides intimate partners, such as children, parents, siblings, sometimes roommates, and so forth, practitioners typically apply the term *domestic violence* to a coercive, systemic pattern of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse between intimate partners. Victims of domestic violence can be both male and female; however, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence involves women as victims and men as perpetrators. For this reason, many organizations concerned with domestic violence focus their attention and services specifically on violence against women and their children.

**History**

The domestic violence movement, also referred to as the battered women’s movement, has a long history, although it picked up steam with the advent of the feminist movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1971, Erin Pizzey opened the first battered women’s shelter in Chiswick, England. The first shelters in the United States opened their doors in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; Pasadena, California; and Phoenix, Arizona, in 1972. Soon thereafter, a shelter opened in Boston, Massachusetts, and Casa Myrna Vasquez, also in Boston, opened its doors as the first shelter providing services primarily for Latinas [1].

**Types of Abuse**

*Physical violence* involves the use of force, possibly resulting in physical harm, disability, or death. Examples of physical abuse include hitting, scratching, shoving, grabbing, biting, throwing, choking, shaking, kicking,
burning, physical restraint, use of a weapon, or otherwise causing intentional physical injury to the victim.

*Sexual violence* occurs when one forces or compels a person to engage in a sexual act or experiences sexual contact against his or her will. If a participant cannot communicate his or her willingness to engage in a sexual act for any reason, including but not limited to disability, illness, and alcohol or drug intoxication, and the sex act is nonetheless attempted or completed by a perpetrator, an act of sexual violence transpires. In addition, sexual violence sometimes occurs within physically or emotionally abusive relationships where the victim agrees to sexual activity solely as a means to avoid additional abuse or intimidation. Examples of sexual violence include rape (including marital and date rape), attempted rape, inappropriate touching, unwanted voyeurism or exhibitionism, sexual harassment, or any other type of sexual activity to which one does not willingly agree.

*Psychological violence* is also commonly called emotional abuse and refers to behaviors of intimidation, control, or coercion resulting in emotional trauma. Examples of psychological violence include stalking; limiting or controlling the victim’s activities or behaviors; isolating the victim from contact with friends or family; limiting or denying the victim’s access to basic or financial resources; destroying the victim’s personal property; abusive behavior toward a victim’s loved ones; verbal threats; humiliation; put-downs; and any other behaviors intended to cause emotional pain, embarrassment, diminishment, or powerlessness.

A relationship does not have to include all of the above behaviors in order to be considered abusive; a partner who attempts to wield dominance and control within a relationship through any threat or act of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse is committing an act of domestic violence.

As defined by the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC), *stalking* is “a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention, harassment, and contact.” Today,
stalking is considered to be an example of abusive behavior within the framework of domestic violence because the dangers that victims face frequently continue even after they leave an abusive relationship. Research has indicated that many victims of domestic violence have experienced stalking behavior from a current or former intimate partner. Examples of stalking behaviors include following the victim, sending unwanted gifts and notes, repeated harassment such as phone calls or showing up at the victim’s place of work, and other behaviors that a stalker uses to inappropriately invade the victim’s life. These incursions may increase in frequency as a stalker tries to exert more control over a victim, sometimes in response to the loss of control he or she experienced at the end of the relationship. When stalking behaviors escalate, they may lead to outright threats or incidents of physical violence.

*Dating violence* is a form of domestic violence that has been receiving much attention in recent years from the research and practice community (those who work with abuse victims). However, there are a few notable differences between dating violence within adolescent and young adult couples (high school and college age) and domestic violence within older couples who perhaps live together, have children in common, or are married. Many young people who are involved in dating relationships experience unhealthy and abusive behaviors, but the problem is often overlooked because the relationship is less likely to be viewed as long-term or dependent in nature. Young people in relationships today do not necessarily view their relationships as long-term, as relationships were once assumed to be. In addition, both men and women view relationships as being more casual in general today, compared to previous generations.

Statistics show that dating violence is a serious problem among youth. Research suggests that college students are highly vulnerable to dating violence because so many are involved in romantic relationships during these formative years. Dating violence research has produced interesting findings regarding the relationship between gender and victimization. Early research on adolescent
Dating violence suggested that females were more likely than males to be victimized by their dating partners. Some studies have reported similar dating violence victimization rates for males and females [2, c. 162–184].

According to a recent study of approximately 2,500 college students attending two large southeastern U.S. universities, 24% of males perpetrated physical violence against a partner, 32% of females perpetrated physical violence against a partner, 57% of females perpetrated psychological abuse against a partner, and 50% of male respondents perpetrated psychological abuse against a partner [3, c. 1667–1693]. This is consistent with a Fact Sheet distributed by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), which reports that 1 in 5 college students say they have experienced violence within a current dating relationship, about a third have experienced dating violence within a previous relationship, and over half of acquaintance rapes on college campuses occur within the context of a dating relationship.

**Research**

The purpose of the study is to identify the pattern of manifestations of domestic violence depending on the level of education of the respondents, their gender and lifestyle. Fourteen couples (14 female respondents, 14 male respondents) were interviewed, 14 participants with higher education and the other half with secondary or specialized secondary education.

According to the results obtained, the respondents' perception and assessment of conflict situations is ambiguous. 71, 4% of the respondents report that they experience such kind of domestic violence as beatings. About half of the respondents (43%) believe that alcoholism, drug addiction and threats of physical influence are some kind of violent encroachments. Physical punishment of children (25%) and systematic swearing (21, 4%) are somewhat less often assessed as violence. The majority of the respondents do not consider constant fights without expletive language, prohibition or refusal to engage in a particular activity to be manifestations of family violence. According to the responses
received, the respondents’ perception of non-physical actions (or inactions), e.g., scandals, abuse, any restrictions as manifestations of violence is more clear, particularly in the respondents with the higher level of education.

The main factors of family violence include alcoholism, severe socio-economic situation in the country and drug addiction. It is noteworthy that almost every third respondent assumes that the causes of domestic conflicts are fed by the family itself. However, many point to the low level of culture of family relations, as well as their inability to solve problems peacefully.

89.3% of the respondents noted the influence of the press, radio and television on the level of aggression in the family. At the same time, it should be noted that the scenes of violence in art works transmitted through the media, according to the respondents, have a more negative impact on the family than the reports of violence and crimes in reality. 50% of the participants identify themselves as victims of domestic violence who applied for help. The respondents tend to resort to other relatives (29%) or the police (14.3%) for help. It should be noted that about a third of the respondents (33.2%) look at the prospects of reducing the level of domestic violence pessimistically, believing that no one is able to really influence this process. Nevertheless, a fifth of the respondents (20%) believe in the effectiveness of the efforts made in this direction by special psychological services and the police.

**Conclusion**

The prerequisites for domestic violence include extreme jealousy or possessiveness, the need for control, rigid stereotypical views on gender roles, isolation from friends and family, economic control, extreme insecurity regarding the self or the relationship, etc. However, there is no way to identify a victim prior to the person’s victimization, since this form of violence is pervasive in all cultures, faiths, educational levels, income levels, and sexual orientations. The domestic violence movement, with the help of the women’s
movement, has made many strides toward improving the criminal justice system’s response to the crime of domestic violence.

References


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