

Prevalence, Factors, and Impacts of Spousal Violence

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Abstract

This survey research was conducted to explore prevalence, factors, and impacts of spousal violence. Through the accidental sampling technique, 197 persons (98 couples and 1 widow) were participated in this study. Data were collected through questionnaires. Prevalences of physical, mental, and both physical and mental violence committed within the previous year were 10.7% (wife = 13.1% husband = 8.2%), 38.8% (wife = 38.4% husband = 39.2%), and 6.6% respectively. The frequency and severity of violence were reported by the majority of the abusers as "seldom" and "slight degree." Through Chi-square or Fisher's exact, factors contributing to physical and mental violence were as followed: poor relationship among parents/guardians, experiencing physical or mental abuse as a child, experiencing physical illness, extended family, living in others' homes, and demanding communication patterns. The contributing factors of physical violence included age, job dissatisfaction, improper nourishment, lack of mothers' love, experiencing sexual abuse as a child, the history of suicidal attempts, the personality types of dependence, passive aggression, borderline, or affective one, acceptance of physical violence, rare religious practices, less than 10 years marriage, 1 child or less, and higher decision-making power. The factors of mental violence were the followings: gambling, child physical punishment, animal assaults, problems with friends as a child, parents' divorce, not being raised by parents, unequal power between parents, alcohol, drug, or verbal abuse among parents, job-unrelated stress, obsessive-compulsive personality, anger communication types, and the husband-leading family. The respondents who experienced physical or mental violence inflicted by their spouses had more physical illness than those who did not. The mentally abused persons were more likely to play gambling. Several negative feelings, physical symptoms, and unhealthy behaviors were also reported. It is suggested that anyone having personal or family characteristics as well as family background mentioned above be received more attention to prevent them from committing violence. In addition, the ones who are experiencing the violence should be provided with physical and mental care services.

Key words: Prevalence, factors, impacts, spousal violence