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FIFERI MURNI: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY MALE PARTNERS. PREVALENCE AND WOMEN'S STRATEGIES. ILLUSTRATION FROM JAKARTA AND WEST JAVA - INDONESIA. THESIS ADVISORS : PIMPAWUN BOONMONGKON Ph.D., ORATAI RAUYAJIN M.A.Dr.P.H., SUPHOT DENDOUNG Ph.D., SUCHIELA TANCIANAN M.A., KRITAYA ARCHAVANTTKUL Ph.D. 188 p. ISBN 974-662-772-4

The objective of this study is to describe the cultural, political and socio-economic context which perpetuates violence against women, to describe the magnitude and forms of domestic violence against women and strategies women use to cope with violence.

A cross sectional study using, socio-cultural, feminist and social support approach, complemented by qualitative and quantitative methods was conducted in 1998 - 1999 in Indonesia. Due to the assumption that violence happens in every level of society, Tangerang, Jakarta and Pangalengan, West Java were chosen as research sites representing middle and lower class society, respectively. Three hundred women who were or had been married with the age range of 15 - 64 years, were interviewed face to face by using structured questionnaire and 20 couples, were selected and interviewed in-depth. Six additional key informants were also interviewed in-depth. The way of women's interaction with their husbands and men's behavior toward their wives were observed in 6 households.

The findings show that the percentage of women experiencing violence by their male partners was 33.3 per cent. Four types of violence were evident: psychological abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse and economic abuse. Violence against women by their male partners was related to socio-cultural construction and religious teaching about gender, power and unequal sexual roles, which produced high stigmatization and blaming of the victim by society. These conditions influenced women's strategies to cope with their abusive husbands.

It is recommended that there is a need to emphasize policies for women's rights in the household and every social institutional level. Women should be empowered in terms of knowledge about reproductive health and rights, and have their economic status and social networks strengthened. Most importantly, Muslim religious text should be reinterpreted and the use of gender sensitivity approach should be encouraged in all levels of social institutions, including health care services.