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IMPACT OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence against men can take many forms, such as emotional, sexual and physical abuse, and threats of abuse. Intimate Partner Violence against women by their partners has been acknowledged as an important form of partner abuse from the beginning of domestic violence research and feminists typically argue that IPV is committed only by men against women although women can certainly abuse their male partners. Male victims of domestic violence have been seriously neglected in public policy, but they are not rare at all because they are not reporting. Although the prevalence and consequences of women violence directed towards men in intimate relationships has been somehow established in western countries, but the research on violent against men in intimate relationships is far less developed in eastern countries. This article discusses the types of intimate partner abuse against men and types of violence in intimate relationships and some possible consequences of sustaining IPV among men by female partners and evaluated the empirical research that examined the impact of intimate partner violence on male victims. General knowledge about this phenomena has increased over the years, therefore, it is expected that the number of victims who are looking for help become more as they reported in having difficulty of specific services for their needs and the help lines always are targeted completely towards female victims. In eastern countries this subject is not yet completely studied; therefore, the goal of this study is to investigate intimate partner emotional abuse on men and the consequences of this phenomenon which is largely neglected in social science research. The empirical research on intimate partner abuse on males in western countries and organizing specific services and help lines for their needs for victims should be an area of interest in further research.

Keywords: Intimate Partner, Violence, male victims, emotional and physical abuse

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1. INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV), which includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse of one partner by another, is a national social and health problem affecting thousands of individuals and families. According to World Health Organization, intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical violence, such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating and sexual violence such as forced sexual intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion. Emotional abuse, such as insults, belittling, constant humiliation, intimidation (e.g. destroying things), threats of harm, threats to take away children. Controlling behaviors, including isolating a person from family and friends; monitoring their movements; and restricting access to financial resources, employment,

education or medical care. These types of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

Women typically suffer more physical and psychological injuries than men who experience female perpetrated violence. Male victims of domestic violence have been seriously neglected in public policy, but they are not rare at all, they can also be victims and they're just less likely to report it. However, the researchers have revealed the significance of IPV on male victims in western countries. Much data have been collected that confirms that women, in the overwhelming majority of cases, are the victims of violence from a partner. An emerging question raised within the field is, "What about the men who are also victims of domestic violence? There is little statistical data recording men as victims of intimate partner violence in eastern countries.

Some possible consequences of intimate partner violence on male victims are; control, dependency, isolation and children who are exposed to the violence. Guilt, shame, helplessness, hopelessness, despair, responsibility, low self-esteem, health and economic impact, loss of jobs, and sustaining IPV is a significant predictor of PTSD, are some of the other impacts of intimate partner violence on male victims.

The study of intimate partner violence against men is important to better understand this problem and to create public policies in order to prevent against it. General knowledge about this phenomena has increased over the years, therefore, it is expected that the number of victims who look for help become more as they reported in difficulty specific services for their needs, and as help lines are targeted completely towards female victims. In eastern countries this subject is not yet completely studied; therefore, the goal of this study is to investigate intimate partner emotional abuse on men and the consequences of this phenomenon which is largely neglected in social science research.

2. Types of intimate partner violence

2.1 Physical violence: Use of physical force which is leading to death, disabilities, injuries, or harm. Scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one's body, size, or strength against another person are included in Physical violence.

2.2 Sexual violence: Categorized in to three 1) using physical force to drive a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, even maybe the act is not completed; 2) attempted or completed sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act e.g., illness of person, disability, or alcohol or other drugs usage, or because of pressure; and 3) abusive sexual contact.

Threats of physical or sexual violence using words, gestures, or weapons to communicate the intent to cause death, disability, injury, or physical harm.

2.3 Psychological/emotional violence: Trauma to the victim causing by any acts, threats, or coercive tactics. Emotional abuse can include, but is not limited to, humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, and denying the victim access to money or other basic resources. It is considered psychological/emotional violence when there has been prior physical or sexual violence or prior threat of physical or sexual violence.

3. Types of Violence in Intimate Relationships

Intimate partner violence has been categorized into four type's 1) intimate terrorism, 2) situational couple violence, 3) violent resistance, and 4") mutual violence control. Intimate Terrorism: One partner control the other one through physical violence, through manipulation, intimidation, isolation, and psychological abuse. Situational Couple Violence: This is the most common type of domestic violence which occurs every day between the intimate partners might emerge by heated arguments in which one partner escalates the incident into a violent one by using physical force. Situational couple violence can range from mere argument to severe and life threatening situations. Violent Resistant: The term used to describe that what happens when the victim of intimate terrorism retaliates against the primary aggressor is violent resistant. Interestingly, this response to domestic violence contradicts the theory of learned helplessness in Battered Women's Syndrome. Mutual Violent Control: Mutual violent control is when both partners in the intimate relationship attempt to control each other. According to Hines et al, in intimate partner violence, 50 % comes from husbands and the other 50 % comes from the wives.

4. Impact and risk factors of Intimate Partner Violence on Male Victims

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a national health problem, which includes psychological, physical, and sexual abuse of one partner against another. The researchers have found that how Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has

impacted on male victims of intimate partner violence. "Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Men Who Sustain Intimate Partner Violence" study explored that the link on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to men's victims who seek help after being abused by their female partners. Findings from this study showed that 16 % of the victims were agreed that they had sustained minor acts of psychological and physical abuse during arguments with their female partners which are lead to PTSD. According to National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS 2010) Children who were witness of domestic violence, they learnt that violent behavior as an acceptable form of communication and children when they become mature will be domestically violent with violent intimate partners and they grow up in a climate of insecurity and anxiety. They may apparent behavioral problems like abuse alcohol or drugs when they become elder. Men who are victimized in a violent relationship can have multiple problems that are a direct result of such abuse. Intimate partner violence can effect on control, dependency, and isolation, guilt, shame, helplessness, hopelessness, despair, and responsibility of male victims; Low self-esteem, health and economic impact, loss of jobs, and impact on children who are exposed to the violence are some of the other impacts of intimate partner violence on male victims. Various researchers attempted to find the risk factors for IPV. Witnessing of inter-parental abuse or childhood abuse and low educational level are some of the risk factors of intimate partner violence.

5. Discussion

This paper explored male victims of intimate partner violence and types of intimate partner abuse against men and types of violence in intimate relationships and the possible consequences of sustaining IPV among men by female perpetrators which all researches have done in western countries. According to a 2010 national survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Justice, in the last 12 months, physical violence against men was more than women and over 40% of severe physical violence was directed at men.¹⁵ Men were also more often the victim of psychological aggression and control over sexual or reproductive health. Despite this, few services are available to male victims of intimate partner violence.

"Today, IPV is recognized as a serious problem, which affects the personal and familial well-being". Straus reported that men are not considered traditional victims of intimate partner violence, but between 2007 and 2009, male who denounced cases of IPV in Porto, compute for a relevant portion of all the victims of IPV.²⁵ General knowledge about this phenomena has increased over the years, therefore, it is expected that the number of victims who look for help become more. In so many cases, men did not report that they have abused by their intimate partner, particularly because they afraid of being an object of ridicule. Men and boys are less likely to report the violence and seek services due to the following challenges: the stigma of being a male victim, the fear of not being believed, the denial of victim status, and the lack of support from society, family members, and friends.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) used by women against men is a phenomenon that has received little attention, and research on IPV has shown that men are frequently the targets of IPV by their female partners. National family violence surveys showed that, at least 12% of men sustained some sort of physical aggression from their female partners, and 4% sustain severe violence. Researches also showed that IPV by women against men is associated with various mental health problems in men, such as depression, stress, psychosomatic symptoms, and general psychological distress Thus, IPV by women against men, like other forms of family violence, can be considered a significant health and mental health problem. In a eastern societies, because of culture of masculism and sex inequality, it is expected that men are not abused by women, but currently in western societies, where there is greater gender equality, the rate of male victims of IPV is significant. The research on intimate partner violence against men in western countries somehow are fulfilled but there is dearth of psychological research in eastern countries in this area therefore, scholars, community providers, and mental health practitioners in eastern countries still have much to learn about this social problem. Study and research on intimate partner violence by female partner against male partner in eastern countries, should be an area of interest in future research.

6. Conclusion

This paper examined the impact of male victims of intimate partner violence. Several studies have revealed that men experience significant psychological symptoms as a result of intimate partner violence and also examined the linkage of intimate partner violence and PTSD which is considered as the important consequences of IPV and requirement of specific services for their needs and considering helpline for their problems. This paper, after an overall review of the relevant literature, concluded that male victims of intimate partner violence receive little or no protection from the justice system. In eastern societies, because of culture of masculism and sex inequality, it is expected that men

are not abused by women therefore have not been studied, but currently in western societies, as well as eastern countries, the greater gender equality become important, and the rate of male victims of IPV is significant. In final intimate partner violence against men in eastern countries is not yet completely studied and there is a dearth of psychological research in this area. Further research in this area shall be studied.

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