

*Original Article***The Study of Domestic Violence Factors among Women in Abhar City, Iran****Ghadimi Mahdi<sup>1</sup> and Sadeghi Mehri<sup>\*2</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the present study was to explore the relationships between lack of understanding in life, cultural and belief differences of couples, patriarchal culture, and the feeling of relative deprivation with men's violence against women. So, One hundred and twenty-five working women of Abhar city (Zanjan Province in Iran) were selected using simple random sampling. The participants completed researcher-made questionnaire. The results indicated that there were significant positive relationships between lack of understanding in life, cultural and belief differences of couples, patriarchal culture, and the feeling of relative deprivation with men's violence against women.

**Keywords:** lack of understanding in life, cultural and belief differences of couples, patriarchal culture, feeling of relative deprivation, domestic violence

**INTRODUCTION**

Domestic Violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another [1], or domestic violence as a "pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner [2].

Men's violence against women in families is influenced by psychological, social, and economical factors. In elaborating on theories such as the functionalism theory, there are such theories as the social construction theory (tension and opposition), feministic theory, Relative deprivation theory, necessity theory, and frustration-aggression theory [3].

Domestic violence is related to the issues and problems of women's health in a majority of cases. A large proportion of attacks against women ranging from body bruise to bone crack [4]. The victims of domestic violence report symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and stress [5]. In this people, behaviors such as , unhealthy eating habits, misbehaving, alcoholism, and suicide [6] and involuntary pregnancy, and baby loss at childhood [7]. Despite of the common policy for controlling domestic violence in numerous countries, the prevalence of such misbehaviors are still high in both industrial and developed countries. According to a quantitative research performed on 48 members, between 10-69% of women are the victims of domestic violence [8].

There are different reports of violence and in developed countries such as Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, England and America. For example, in a survey on American nation, 28% of women had report to at least one of the violent behaviors from their husbands [9]. Alcohol consumption plays a main precipitating role in the incidence of domestic violence [10].

Research on domestic violence against women is difficult .Many women are reluctant to disclose abuse because of perceptions of shame, fear of blame or reluctance to be 'disloyal' to their partner [11]. Thus this study focuses on Examine of the causes and reasons for domestic violence in working women of Abhar city (Zanjan Province in Iran).

**Research hypotheses:**

1. There is a relationship between lack of understanding in life, and men's violence against women.
2. There is a relationship between cultural and belief differences of couples, and men's violence against women.
3. There is a relationship between patriarchal culture, and men's violence against women.

4. There is a relationship between the feeling of relative deprivation, and men's violence against women.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method of the present research is *descriptive* (Causal-comparative research). One hundred and twenty-five working women of Abhar city (Zanjan Province in Iran) were chosen for this study. The subjects were selected and tested through simple random sampling. The measurement tool for this research is a researcher-made questionnaire. This questionnaire involves factors contributing in domestic violence (e.g. Cultural Differences, Understanding in life, Patriarchal culture, Relative Depravity). The validity of this questionnaire via content validity gained. The value of the reliability coefficient for the whole scale via Cronbach's alpha was reported 0.75 and for sub scales was reported between 0.65 to 0.78.

## RESULTS

For data analysis in this research, the descriptive statistical test, mean, standard deviation, higher and lower extremes was used. In the infernal statistics, different statistical tests such as Pierson's correlation test, was performed. The descriptive data findings on the working women are presented in table 1.

**Table 1.** Descriptive data findings in variables

Variables	Mean	SD	Lower Extreme	Higher Extreme	N	Alpha Index	General Alpha Index
<b>Violence</b>	23.13	1.58	17	24	125	0.70	0.75
<b>Cultural Difference</b>	17.19	2.84	8	24	125	0.65	
<b>Lack of Understanding</b>	19.10	2.34	11	24	125	0.78	
<b>Patriarchal Culture</b>	21.57	2.98	12	27	125	0.75	
<b>Relative Deprivation</b>	14.19	2.94	6	18	125	0.72	

The findings related to the analysis of the simple relationship between the violence variables and its sub measures are presented in table 2.

**Table 2.** Correlation findings in variables

Variables	Statistical Indexes	R	P	N
<b>Lack of Understanding in Life</b>		0.57	< 0.001	125
<b>Cultural and Belief Differences of Couples</b>		0.35	< 0.001	125
<b>Patriarchal Culture</b>		0.23	0.008	125
<b>Feeling of Relative Deprivation</b>		0.320	< 0.001	125

As shown in table 2, there is a meaningful relationship between lack of understanding in life, and the violence against working women, with the correlation index of 0.57 and  $p < 0.001$ . There is a meaningful relationship between cultural and belief differences of the couples and the violence against working women, with the correlation index of 0.35 and  $p < 0.001$ . There is a relationship between patriarchal culture, and the violence against working women, with the correlation index of 0.23 and  $p = 0.008$ . There is a meaningful relationship between Relative deprivation, and the violence against working women, with the correlation index of 0.32 and  $p < 0.001$ .

## DISCUSSION

Adducing to the cultural theory [12], there is a relationship between the cultural and belief differences of the couples and the violence of men against women. In explaining the relationship between cultural and belief differences of the couples, and the violence of men, the reduction of violence statistics requires a long-term cultural activity with its starting point in the family institution, that is performable by women. Women, with their training role, by educating the future men, can create a change in the view about women. This way the next generation can survive the dangers of violence against women. The mass media with its critical role in educating and informing can become an important band to the structural violence against women in the society. According to the theory (tension, conflict) of Darendrov, and regarding the concluded results from the present research, there is a relationship between lack of understanding in life and men's violence against women. In explaining the relationship between lack of understanding in life, and violence, the couple should prevent further growth of this

important issue in the family by improving their skills of verbal relationship, respecting the mutual opinions and values, the culture of listening to each other's speech, recognizing each other's needs and feelings at a suitable moment. Unfortunately, most of the nowadays conflicts and tensions in families are due to the lack of understanding between the couples. It is offered that the authorities try to form the workshops before marriage, and inform the couples on this issue.

According to the patriarchal theory and regarding the resulted findings of this research, there is a relationship between the patriarchal culture and men's violence against women. In explaining the relation between patriarchal culture and men's violence, parents can play a training role by participating their girls and boys in the problems and hardships of life. Teach their children that the power of one person does not give him the right to be more dominant over others indecision making. The patriarchal culture in families causes the family members to lose their self-confidence. It is offered that the authorities and the mass media programmers present more information to the families in this regard.

According to Festinger's theory, and adducing to the results of the present research, there is a relationship between relative depravity in life and men's violence. In explaining the relationship between relative depravity in life and men's violence, with the existence of technology, in different areas of life and the increase of needs in different quantitative and qualitative dimensions, results in the creation of emulation among families, that this issue spreads further (Rafi pour, 1986). It is offered that the authorities and programmers provide facilities for the work and marriage of the youth.

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