

Violence Against Jordanian Women and the Triangle of Death (Suicide Murder and Open Detention)

DUA'A KHUDEIR
Social worker

Abstract

The aim of this journal is to study socio-cultural display of violent against women in the country of Jordan giving a special focus on Triangle of Death. Researching on this subject is a complex activity. Intimate partner violence or overall violence against women in Arab society is one of the biggest health and safety issues the world is facing. The etiology of violence against in a developing country like Jordan is being studied here. The journal explores the problem and also describes how various social, cultural and personal factors are the reasons behind this.

Keywords Violence, Women, Wife, Jordan

Introduction

Jordan is one of the developing countries in the world. The state of Jordan is very small. It has limited resources. The primary resource which is aiding in the development of Jordan is its human force. It is witnessed that Jordanians use violence as a tool to teach discipline to women and children. The gesture is even considered to be a norm in the social and cultural context of the country. 96% of the population in Jordan is that of the Muslims (Al-Badayne, 2012). On the religious context any kind of violence is not accepted or encouraged as Islam encourages people to develop kindness. However in Jordan it is ingrained in the cultural mindset of the people. This aspect of violence is strictly considered to be a personal family matter for Jordanians. This has a huge impact in the young generations of the society. In the context of the culture and society Jordanian women experience physical, psychological and sexual or emotional violence in end number of ways.

Research Question/Aim

The aim of this research journal is to find out how the culture and society plays a role in the continuation of violence of all kinds against women in Jordan. From the point of view of the cultural factors women are still engulfed by the Triangle of death comprising of murder, suicide or even open detention. Following are the primary research aims:-

1. Identifying the size, forms and types of violence against women in Jordan.
2. The aspect of violence against women and its relevance to culture and social norms of Jordan.

Methodology Proposed

A combination of both qualitative and quantitative methodology is proposed in undergoing this research paper.

Project Aim

The main aim of undergoing this research project is to demonstrate how the society in Jordanian culture considers violence against women as a part of their tradition and culture and a way to keep things well disciplined. For this reason the study explores how far the cultural context can go in maintaining its traditional beliefs.

Research Implications

Prevalence of violence against women is today a global concern. It comes in a variety of sizes and forms but it exists in all parts of this world in every societies. Religion considers human rights as an important aspect. Irrespective of gender, color or race rights of every human is to be protected as per the religion. All around the world conventions are set up to bring forward the various instances where these are violated and it states how the society must change its ways. Even the Jordanian law states in the 60th Jordanian Constitution that. "Jordanians shall be equal before the law". However in reality development of Arab women has been really slow (Department of Statistics, 2009).

Background and Context

To understand the subject it is needed to explore the family structure, family control and gender roles in the families in Jordan.

Family structure- The society of Jordan is patriarchal by nature which means men has the privilege and power in controlling women and children. This is because it is men who has the dominance on social and economic resources (Araji & Carlson, 2012). A hierarchical power distribution can be seen in Jordanian family structures

where men can be considered as superior beings while women and children are the subordinates of men. Even the social structure, culture and law prescribes women of Jordan to obey their husbands (Haj-Yahia, 2005).

Family control - In the Arab society men often impose power to have a dominance over their wives. From when a son is born in a family, the role and expectations of his masculine self is taught to him (Bates & Rassam, 2011). The eldest son is the one who takes control of the house if the father of a house dies. All females are taught to act politely in a submissive and docile manner.

Gender role- The role of gender in a family in Jordanian society is highly differentiated. Behaviour of men and women and their individual roles are defined clearly (Btoush & Haj-Yahia, 2008).

Literature Review

High level of violence awareness in women in Jordan- Physical violence in women in Arab can be found in 27 % to 87% of women. The society considers that using violence is a personal family matter which is strictly followed. 75% of the sample surveyed in this researched agreed being exposed to some kind of abuse in their childhood. In 87% of the cases followed family violence has been reported (Al-Nsour, Khawaja & Al-Kayyali, 2009). A lot of university students has been reporting to be exposed to family violences. As per them the family culture is the first reason and source of violence in the society (Ammar, 2000). Majority of the samples did confessed that their mothers are a constant victim of family abuse and violence. The types of violence covered all physical, psychological, emotional, economical and others. The questionnaire has tried demonstrating the marital satisfaction level of wives (Diop-Sidibe, Campbell & Becker, 2005). The findings show there is a negative level of satisfaction in married women as they all confessed to be going through violent behaviours at home

Tendency of blaming women as victims to abuse- Violence occurring in women has been accepted by them just as the Jordanian men accepts it (Maziak & Asfar, 2003). They even justify it on the context of culture. As per the society and culture family honour is the most important thing. Hence when it comes to family honour even honour killing and other weapons like open detentions, murders or even suicide is committed and justified (Patterson, 2004).

Justified wife beating - A large number of Jordan men considers beating of wives as a necessary instrument under certain situations. They belief the men has the topmost power in the society and their beating of their wives is beneficial for the betterment of the wives. Wives hence must never approach any government agency for seeking help in this regard. It was also sound that education and occupation has a role to play in violence. To adjust certain risk factors women are being beaten in this country by their husbands and fathers or brothers (Khawaja, Linos & El-Roueiheb, 2008). Disobeying a husband, speaking back to the husband or not focusing on the likes and dislikes of husbands are considered as reasons for sch violences. The study made showcased no matter how anguished women are for this violence performed towards them, they still tend to justify it as beneficial things in their lives. Hence it can be said that their cultural upbringing has made them believe this.

Methodology

Research Design

For this research both qualitative and quantitative research has been made. Interviews were conducted using survey through structured questionnaires with close end questions. For the purpose of achieving an analysis for the research aims the following methodologies has been used:-

- Jordanian literature has been reviewed. The definitions and violence problem has been studied in this literature.
- Variations in education level has been studies and has been found to be the reason for differences in the violence types, forms and sizes.
- The culture of Jordan is studied to be having the maximum reason for such violences in women in Jordan.

Participants

1854 woman has been chosen to participate in this survey from 12 different governorates in Jordan.

Data Collection

Data has been collected by survey interview conducted using the questionnaires. The local staff conducted it with 3 researchers. The staff conducting the research has prior experience in the data collection technique. A 96.5% response rate has been achieved. Using the help of the Jordanian Census Department a random 16 sample blocks were chosen. From each block 10 random houses has been selected. Microsoft Excel software has also been used for generating such blocks. The researchers has been given a sheet having information about geographic aspects and census. As a preliminary investigation researchers studied 10 reported cases of violence of women associated with the concept of Triangle of death. Randomly 1854 wives has been chosen.

Questionnaires has been first distributed to North Jordanian regions. For the research a time span was also informed to the participants. Respondents were informed why this study was being performed, what methods were to be used and how is it going to be used. They were also informed that their opinions were all confidential.

Data Analysis

The analysis of data showcased that women has varied definitions of violence. These are emotional, physical, financial, psychological, sexual, educational, health, economic, human rights and many more. All these are also considered to be very serious by them. The analysis showcased that the problem is of grave size and has crossed alarming rates. Women of all social status are affected by violence. And as per the data culture and beliefs are playing a big role.

Ethics

The entire research study has been performed on ethical grounds. Every participant has been informed about the study before the study was made. They had the clarity about why this survey is being made, he rights the participants has, the survey process, method of data collection and methods used. The participants also understood that the information provided by them are kept confidential. It was a voluntary study and hence all were free to either participate or not.

Findings

It was found that the satisfaction level of married women collided with the level of violence they experience from their husbands. Violence against women is a health concern. To understand it many definitions has been found.

- The 1993 Universal Declaration on Eliminating any violence types against women considers violence as any time of gesture or act which is partial to the female gender and violence based on physical harm, sexual nature or any psychological suffering made towards women (Stevens, 2016). Such acts also includes coercion, deprivation of freedom, and occurs both personally and publicly. Such acts includes rape, harmful physical acts, violence conducted by people other than the husband, forced removal or any kidn of secual natured harrasments (Zurayk, Sholkamy, Younis & Khattab, 2007).
- As per the National Framework for Family Protection, any force, threats or actual hurt made intentionally by one person to another resulting in any wound, injury, deprivation or death is considered as violence. Any pain of physical or psychological nature is violence (Ncfa, 2013).
- **a) Physical violence-** Deliberating using physical force or threats against an individual causing any harm physically comes under physical violence.
- **b) Emotional violence-** Any act of insult, neglect, rejection, intimidation or scorning causing mental issues and disturbances come under emotional violences.
- **c) Psychological violence -** Any harmful act caused intentionally for causing emotional or mental suffering is psychological violence (Oweis, Gharaibeh, Al-Natour & Froelicher, 2009).
- **d) Sexual violence-**Any act of sexual nature conducted against the will of a person.
- **e) Economic violence-**Depriving women to work or getting education to uplift their economic conditions comes under economic violence.

There are various reasons for such violence were found to be the following:-

- a) **Cultural reasons -** The Literature of Jordanian culture and many other studies showcases that Jordanian people believe in strictness in their approach when it comes to children and women. A married woman for example is considered as a complete property of the husband and hence the culture states any way can be used by the husband even violent approaches to discipline his wife and his children (Okour & Hijazi, 2009).
- b) **Economic reasons-**If there is a declination in the economic condition of the earning man of a household then their is a noticed increased in violence attitude to maintain discipline in their wives and children. So, violence is a medium where the father or the husband releases his anger, frustration, boredom or failures (Kulwicki, 2002). Poor economic condition of the wives also leads to the occurrences of high levels of violences in Jordanian men.
- c) **Education -** Ignorance of the society, culture and academics is found to be another major reason for women facing suicides, murders and open detentions in Jordan (Haarr, 2007). Uneducated people do not have better ways to deal with their problems. Beating up the child or the wife is conceived to be a way out to solve problems.
- d) **Family Issues-**Family issues like a step father emerging in a situation where a husband dies and the wife marries again (Gharaibeh & Al – Ma ' aitah, 2002). Majority of the times violent approaches are used by the stepfather to treat his wife and children from the first marriage.
- e) **Environmental reasons-**Social relations and environment is deteriorating in Jordan. The best perceived

way to deal with changing environments is violence.

Concluding Statement

The national sample states the result of the survey. The same sample and conclusions may not hold true for all regions in Jordan. This is an overall research made to find out how culture has impacted the reasoning and decision making of people in Jordan in their approaches to treat women with extreme violence behaviours. More research is recommended to go into further depths of the matter. In general the overall above findings can be considered to be applicable to majority of women in Jordan. The most legal way to improve the condition is empowering women with education and social acceptance.

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