



**PREVALENCE, TYPES AND AFFECTED AGE GROUPS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN IN ELOBEIED, SUDAN**

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence has become a very widespread phenomenon, all around the world, it has immediate effects women's health, which in some cases, is fatal. In Sudan the studies in domestic violence were limited, one study carried out by Awad 2004 reveal that the prevalence of domestic violence was 41.6%. This cross-sectional analytic community based study was carried out in Elobeid Town, North Kordofan State, Sudan. The study aims to investigate the prevalence of domestic violence among married women, to determine the more affected age group, and to find out the most common types of violence against women. Data were collected with pretested questionnaire and focus group discussion. Stratified random sample technique was used to fulfill the objectives of this study. Sample size of 384 married women in their household was chosen using the formula $n = (z^2 p q / d^2)$. The women provided data on sociodemographic characteristics and abuse by the husband. Univariate and multivariate analysis was carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 15 (SPSS). Abused was reported by 350 married women (91%) who experienced all types of domestic violence in their lifetime, classified into controlling behavior reported by 286 women (74.5%), threatening behavior reported by 181 women (47.1) and physical violence reported by 154 (40.1%). The more affected age group were in age 35-45 (31.8%). The main reasons of violence include, financial (64.2%), conflict with husband's relatives (45.4%), refuse sex by wife (44.9%), go out home without permission (40.4%). Common reactions reported by the women included try to stop violence (51.1%), tell the relatives (53.1%), tell the friends (34%), and tell the neighbors (29.7%). The study recommended that, Awareness raising of the community about domestic violence and culture of silence on domestic violence should be eliminated through continuous sensitization and empowerment.

KEYWORDS: domestic violence, prevalence, types.

INTRODUCTION

Violence within intimate relationships, known as domestic violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, and/or partner abuse, has been documented as a national and international epidemic (Eckhardt et al. 2013).

Intimate partner violence is one of the most common forms of violence against women and includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and controlling behaviours by an intimate partner (WHO2012).

Domestic violence has much greater prevalence than has been assumed (WHO2012).

Violence is a leading worldwide public health problem. Interpersonal violence is responsible for the death of approximately 73 000 people a year in the European region. Violence among young people is the third leading

cause of death. The European region has some of the highest and lowest injury mortality rates in the world. The risk of death from interpersonal violence in low and middle income countries is 14 times higher than in high income countries. Violence against women is endemic in the region: between 5% and 45% of women in Europe have reported that they have been assaulted by an intimate partner at some time in their lives (Putnirat et al 2009).

A growing number of population-based surveys have measured the prevalence of IPV, most notably the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women, which collected data on IPV from more than 24 000 women in 10 countries, representing diverse cultural, geographical and urban/rural settings. The study confirmed that IPV is widespread in all countries studied. Among women who had ever been in an intimate partnership.

- 13–61% reported ever having experienced physical violence by a partner;
 - 4–49% reported having experienced severe physical violence by a partner;
 - 6–59% reported sexual violence by a partner at some point in their lives; and 20–75% reported experiencing one emotionally abusive act, or more, from a partner in their lifetime(WHO2012).

A prevalence of more than 40% has been reported in America and British studies (Crowel 1996).

METHOD AND MATERIALS

Study design

A cross-sectional analytic community based study design was used to fulfill the objectives of the study.

Study area

Location

Elobeid is the capital of North Kordofan State. Its area have estimated by 81km² and the distance from Khartoum is about 560km. Elobeid is connected to Khartoum by an asphalt motorway, a railway line and air flights taking off its airport several times a week.

Population

The population of the Town estimated by 440483 people. There are 38000 houses, 40000 families[Sudan census2009].

Study population

Married women in household in Elobeid Town.

Sampling

Sample size

The sample size was determined using the following formula.

$$n = (z^2 p q / d^2)$$

Where:

z is the value of the standard normal variable corresponding to 95% level of significance.

P is the prevalence of domestic violence (*p* = 0.5) and (*q* = 1 –*p*) since no prior information exist.

d is a marginal error (*d* =0.05)

Accordingly a sample of 384 household was obtained.

Sampling technique

The households were chosen by the method of stratified random sample technique. The households in Elobeid city are currently divided in to class one, class two and class three, which considered as strata, where the households was selected from each strata of Elobeid town so the total number of household selected were 384 households.

The sample was divided over the town following a process of stratified sampling combined with systematic sampling with probability proportional to size to distribute the sample over the selected district where selection was at random in each stage.

Data Collection

In this study interview with respondent using a structured pre-coded questionnaire was used to collect data from study group. The questionnaire was constructed in a way that the respondents could respond easily, based on the main objectives of the study. The questionnaire was developed in English and translated into Arabic, it was reviewed by many health professional, sociologist, and psychologist. Socio-demographic data of the participants was collected including age of respondents/ husband, age at married, duration of marriage, occupation (respondents/ husband), education (respondents/ husband), monthly house hold income, using a close-ended questionnaire, information was collected regarding controlling, threatening, and physical abuse experienced by their husband.

The interview was conducted by ten trained female interviewers, they were graduate of faculty of medicine and health science, department of health science, Kordofan University.

Also five focus group discussions were conducted with currently married women in the selected communities to gather deep information from the victims of domestic violence, regarding the magnitude of the problem, and types of violence, A total of 5 focus group involving 55 married women were conducted. Female were purposely selected from the study area.

Ethics

Ethical permission for the study was obtained prior to data collection, by contacting and receiving approval from the Ministry of Health of the city. Verbal informed consent was taken from all the women and they were assured that all the information would be kept confidential. Women who refused to participate were replaced by women residing in the next neighborhood who fulfilled the criteria.

RESULTS

Table (1) shows the prevalence of domestic violence among 350 abused married women, most of them (81.7%) were suffered from controlling behaviors, half of them(51.7%) were reported threatening behavior, and less than half of them (44%) were reported physical violence.

Table 1: the prevalence of domestic violence among abused women in Elobeid.

Domestic violence	Frequency		Total	%	Not experienced	%
	Always	Sometimes				
Controlling behavior	131	155	286	81.7	64	81.3
Threatening behavior	91	90	181	51.7	169	48.3
Physical behavior	61	93	154	44	196	56

(n= 350).

Regarding the controlling behavior that reported by abused women, table (2) shows that all married women (100%) were suffered from shouting, the majority of them suffered from criticising in public (69%), half of them suffered from restriction their social life(51.1%), third of them surfed from restriction their movement

totally (35%), less than third of them suffered from avoiding food and drinking (29.4), third of them (34.6%) and near the third(31.8%) of them suffered from avoiding wearing to them and to their children respectively.

Table (2) the prevalence of controlling behavior among abused women by type in Elobeid.

Abusive behavior	Frequency		Total	%	Not experience	%
	Always	Sometimes				
Criticizing her in public	88	111	199	69	87	31
Restriction her social movement	54	90	144	50.3	142	49.7
Restriction her movement totally	47	53	100	35	106	65
Refusing to supply her with drinking or food	30	54	84	29.4	202	70.6
Refuse providing clothes	51	48	99	34.6	187	65.4
Avoiding wearing to children	38	53	91	31.8	195	68.2
Shouting at her	131	155	286	100	0	0

(n=286)

Table (3) shows the threatening behavior that the abused women experienced by their husband. All of abused women were threatened with having another wife (100%), most of them were threatened with a fist(95.5%),the majority of them(84.5%) were threatened with divorce,three quarter of them were threatened with

throwing thing to them (77.3%), more than half of them were threatened with divorce and taking children(55.8%), and the near percent of the women were threatened with weapons including knife, stick, sharp tools and weapon(55.2%).

Table 3: The prevalence of threatening behavior among abused women in Elobeid.

Abusive behavior	Frequency		Total	%	Not experience	%
	Always	Sometimes				
Throwing thing at her	57	83	140	77.3	41	22,7
Threatening with fist	72	101	173	95.6	8	4.4
Threatening with divorce	64	89	153	84.5	28	15.5
Threatening with divorce and taking children	38	63	101	55.3	80	44,7
Threatening with weapon(stick,knife)	47	53	100	55.2	81	44.8
Threatening with having another wife	91	90	181	100	0	0.0

(n=181).

Figure (1) shows the distribution of physical violence among physically abused married women, the majority of physically abused women were suffered from shoving (97.4%), and punching body (94.8%), two third (64.3%) of them were suffered from punching with

food,(66.2%)of them suffered from trying to choke with their husband, more than half of physically abused women were suffered from used of weapons (knife, stick, sharp tools and weapon) by their husband (57.8%).

Table 4: The distribution of abused and control group according to the age (Year) in Elobeid. (n=350)

Age	Abused group		Non abused group	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Less than 15	04	1.1	1	2.9
15-25	74	21.1	5	14.7
26-35	92	26.3	13	38.2
36-45	115	32.9	7	20.6
Above 45	65	18.6	8	23.5
Total	350	100	34	100

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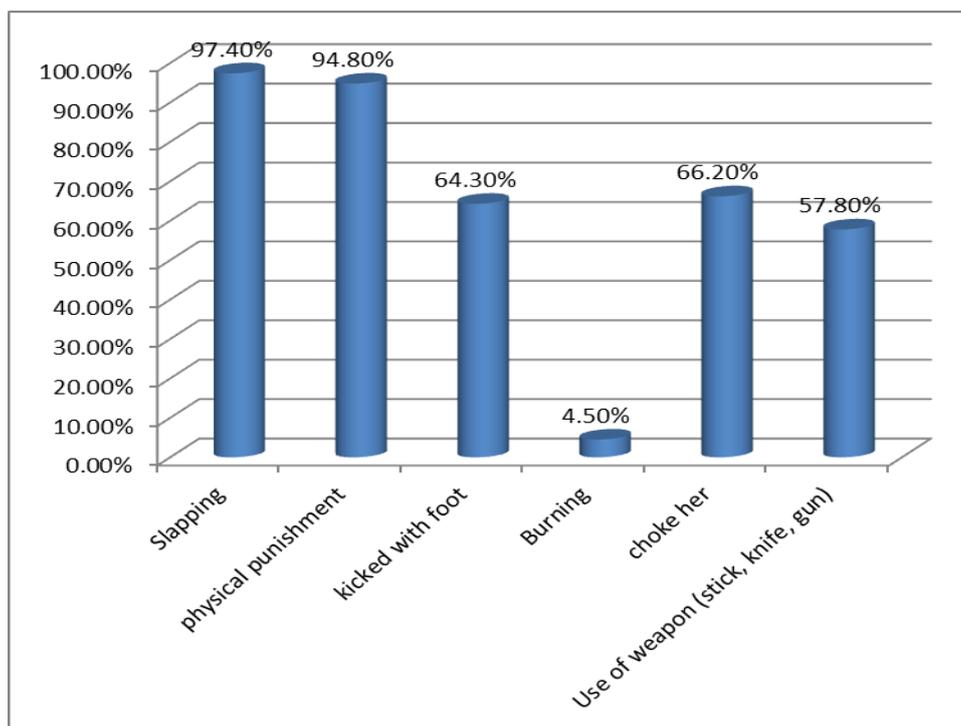


Figure 1: Physical behavior among abusive women in Elobeid.

(n=154).

DISCUSSION

Violence against women is a global phenomenon that cuts across all social and economic classes; it has recently drawn attention in the medical field as a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality. In Arab and Islamic countries, domestic violence is not yet considered a major concern, despite its increasing frequency and serious consequences. In the Sudan, the studies in domestic violence were rare. One study carried out by Awad 2002 reported that the prevalence of domestic violence was 41.6%.

This community based study carried out in Elobeid Town – Western Sudan, the study aimed to investigate the prevalence of domestic violence against women, to find out the most common types of violence against women, to detect the most affected age groups of women facing violence, to determine associated risk factors of domestic violence against women, to assess the causes of domestic violence and to detect the response of the abused women to violence.

The prevalence of domestic violence (controlling, threatening and physical behavior) in our study was 91.1%, it consistency with the previous studies done in Karchi (98%). A another study carried out by Al-Badayneh in Jordan 2012 stated that almost all 98% of the sample was subjected to at least one type of violence. Our finding of domestic violence prevalence was higher than the, Zimbabwe (53.5%), Sudia Araebia 39. 3%, Ustralia 23%, Sudan 41.6%. This wide discrepancies in violence prevalence reflect different definitions of violence in every society, method of screening, religious' beliefs and cultural issues. The study carried out in Texas by Bridget

2011 reveal that 37.7% of Texas women have experienced at least one type of abuse over the course of their lifetime.

This wide discrepancies in violence prevalence reflect different definitions of violence in every society, method of screening, religious' beliefs and cultural issues.

Regarding the forms of domestic violence, the results of the present study revealed that the prevalence of controlling behavior was 81.7%, including (criticizing her in public, restriction her social movement, shouting at her), this agree with, Awad 2004 in Sudan, who reported that the prevalence of controlling behavior was (68.3%). Richardson et al 2002, in London, revealed that controlling behavior was reported by (74%) of respondent. The high contribution of controlling behavior such as shouting or yelling is probably because they are culturally acceptable in our society.

Threatening behavior was reported by 48.3% of abused women in our study, this is consistent with a study carried out by Richardson et al 2002, in London which reveal that the threatening behavior was reported by 46% of respondent. Another study carried out by Mohamed 2002 in Yemen revealed that threatening behavior was reported by 50.9% of the women. In Ugana, study carried out by Michael 2002 stated that 30.4% of women had ever experienced threatening behavior by their husband.

The prevalence of physical violence which included (shoving, punishing body, burning) was reported by 40.1% of married women in our study, this is consistency with study carried out in Sudan by Awad 2004 who

reported that 48.2% of study group were experienced physical violence, but higher than the other previous studies, for example study carried out by Howaida in Egypt 2008 stated that physical abuse was reported by (22.4%) of respondent. Another study carried out by Ola in Plastering 2011 reported that 23.5% of married women were exposed to physical violence. In Jordan study carried out by Shotar 2011 revealed that the prevalence of physical violence was 30% among women attending health centre. In Ethiopia physical violence was reported by 30% of respondent (Shanko et al 2008).

In contradiction to some European and American studies firearms injuries and stabbings were rarely found among our study group. The assaulters in our society seemed to prefer methods that cause no severe physical injuries.

All age groups of married women in our study suffering violence at some time during the marriage but violence was more frequent against women aged 36-45 (32.9%), The prevalence of domestic violence ever in marriage was higher in marriages of shorter duration: less than 5 years (27.7%). This is consistent with the results of the study carried out by, Awad 2004, in Sudan, who reported that the prevalence of domestic violence among younger women with short duration of marriage. Also our results was consistent with the study carried out by Ghazizadeh 2002 in Iran which revealed that violence was more frequent against women aged 30-39 years old (32.4%). In Uganda, study carried out by Michael 2003 stated that relationships of shorter (<5 years) and intermediate (5-9 years) durations were associated with significantly higher risks of violence.

ANOVA in table(22) show that there was no significant differences in domestic violence “controlling behavior and threatening Behavior” among married women in Elobeid town according to education level of wife $P > 0.05$, which is contrary of our expectation, this perhaps because the perpetrator of violence is husband.

There was significant differences in domestic violence among married women in Elobeid town and use of alcohol and drug by husband table (29), Independent-Sample T-Test used to Examine differences in domestic violence among married women in Elobeid town and use of alcohol and drug by husband, as T value was (219 .3) , (803 .4) ,(288 .5)for (controlling, threatening and physical behavior) respectively, which were significant at 0.05 level. This revealed that there was significant differences in domestic violence (controlling, threatening behavior and physical behavior) according to use of alcohol and drug by husband. This agree with several studies in developing countries which have found a strong association between consumption of alcohol or drugs and the risk of violence, a study carried out in Egypt by Howaida 2008 stated that the exposure to abuse was more prevalent among women whose husband were drug abuser. WHO 2013 stated that harmful use of alcohol is

one of the factors associated with violence against women.

CONCLUSION

We conclude that the prevalence of domestic violence, controlling, threatening and physical behavior among such women is high with the majority of controlling form and this violence puts the women under considerable stress. The practice of women abuse was more prevalent among the young women. Exposure to women abuse was more prevalent among women whose husbands were, non-educated and drug abuser.

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