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DETERMINING THE TYPES AND SEVERITY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Violence has a negative impact on various aspects of women's health, including quality of life, social functioning, physical health and is one of the most considerate human rights issues in Afghanistan. The aim of this study: to determine the anatomical parts, types and severity of injuries in cases of violence against women in Afghanistan.

This study is an Analytic Cross-sectional study. Primary data containing information referring to cases of violence against women registered from January 2019 to January 2021 were extracted from Afghanistan Forensic Science Organization. The scope of interest in this study was females over the age of 18 and they were inclusive of Afghan women.

The average age of women was 22.3 and more than 80% of them had primary and secondary education; this study shows in 2019 the most injuries were limbs and nervous injury was only one case.

In 2020 most injuries were limbs and nervous injury was only one case. (table 1) Table 2 shows that most of injuries were moderate level and mild injuries were the next and severe injuries with 20 cases was last of this rank. In 2020 most of them were moderate level and after that was mild and severe level. In additional, Type of injuries in 2019 shows that 38.2% of injuries was blunt, 4.9% sharp, 2.2 thermal and 0.02% was unclear. In 2020 blunt injuries was the first injuries and unlike 2019 weapon reported as injures types

With the passage of time and the civilization, the intellectual levels of individuals in society increased and the thinkers of societies became more prominent in the presence of women alongside men, so women were considered complementary to men, and this was the beginning of changing women's status.

Key words: injuries, violence against women, Afghanistan.

Introduction

Women's health impacts the overall family health and society and helps advance the goals of growth and development of the country. Numerous studies in different countries show that women are more prone to mental disorders and psychosocial problems than men for various reasons. Violence against women is any act of gender-based violence that has direct or indirect consequences, including physical, sexual and psychological harm or the suffering of women. Behaviors that impose fear and intimidation, coercion, and deprivation of liberty on women, both in women's social and private lives, include sexual, economic, verbal, and abusive threats [1]

In general, all types of violence occur as a result of severe disrespectful behaviors that have many psychological and physical effects [2]. Domestic violence is seen in four forms: psychological-verbal, economic, physical and sexual. The psychological-verbal type includes: the use of isolating methods

(such as weakening women's relationships with others, preventing telephone contact or family visits, and Friends), instilling fear (such as threatening to physically harm, threatening to alienate or harm children) or cursing, humiliating, harassing and not talking to them. Economic violence includes behaviors such as refusing to pay and financing, encroaching on or seizing women's property, or harassment in the workplace; So as to lead to the loss of the woman's source of income. Physical violence includes repetitive behaviors based on physical assault in various forms (slapping, punching, kicking, etc.) or preventing the spouse from accessing health care services, as well as sexual violence from any sexual intercourse with the spouse without his or her consent, or it is a relationship with the use of force and anger and unnatural methods [3].

As stated in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women All Forms of Discrimination against Women, issued by the United Nations General Assembly, the term «violence

against women» means any gender-based violence that causes gender-based physical, mental or psychological harm to women, including any threat to such acts, coercion or deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private [4]

There are different types of violence against women, including: verbal, psychological, emotional, economic, physical, sexual and even death. Domestic violence against women has been reported from all countries, but data is very difficult to access because in many cultures, women are socio-economically disadvantaged and violence against them, especially in the family environment, has not been identified and in some cases, it is even justified as legitimacy [5]. Studies show the widespread prevalence of this health problem in the world [6].

The World Health Organization [WHO] has classified VAW as a «significant public health problem as well as a fundamental violation of women's human rights. An autopsy on this issue is important not only because it is a violation of fundamental human rights, but also because it affects all women everywhere.

Studies on this subject (VAW) – particularly male partner ferocity – has augmented. Since 2005, when the first results of the World Health Organization (WHO) Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence³ were launched, the number of intimate partner violence prevalence studies increased fourfold, from 80 to more than 300, in 2008 [7]

Violence against women is one of the most thoughtful human rights matters in Afghanistan. However, in recent years there have been significant changes in the lifestyle of women in field of education, provision of health services, their participation in political and economic issues of the country but unfortunately, deep- rooted traditional and social issues still are in contradiction of realization of and their freedom in many parts of our country[8]

Each year, 1.3 to 5.3 million women in the United States experience Intimate Partner Violence[9] National Inner Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NVAWS) shows that 30% of women experience physical violence during their lifetime, 9% are raped, and 17% experience non-rape sexual violence. And 48% of them experience psychological aggression [10]. NVAWS reports that approximately 3 in 10 women have experienced defiance, rape, and / or physical violence by an intimate partner. According to supplementary homicide reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1,026 women were killed by an intimate partner in 2011[11]. Women and young minorities are more likely to experience IPV. People who identify themselves as racial.

Native Americans are more than twice as likely to be raped or raped as other racial groups [12].

According to the 2010/2011 Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 15% of Afghan women (aged 15-49 years) were married before the age of 15, and 46% before the age of 18. Out of all 92% believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife. In March 2014, the Government published its first report on the elimination of violence against women (VAW) in Afghanistan. 2 Overall 4,505 incidents of violence against women were registered in relevant Afghan ministries in 32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces between 2012 and 2013 [13].

Violence has a great negative impact on various aspects of women's health, including quality of life, social functioning and physical health. Violent women show many problems such as depression, post-traumatic stress and anxiety [14]. Based on the assumption that the initiatives currently in place to tackle the issue of VAW are lacking in that they do not take the diversity of women into account, the aim of this thesis is to determining types of injuries in cases of violence against women in Afghanistan.

Methods and Material

Research method was an Analytic Cross sectional study. Primary data containing information referring to cases of violence against women registered from January 2019 January 2021 to were extracted from Afghanistan Forensic Science Organization. The population of interest in this study was females over the age of 18 who reside in Kabul. The population of interest was inclusive of Afghan women. To ensure the research would be conducted in an ethical manner, I proposed to satisfy the ethical principles of the American Psychological Association (APA) as listed in the 1990 edition of the Ethical Principles in the Conduct of Research with Human Participants (reproduced in Palys, 1997). I selected to follow the ethical guidelines set forth by the APA because of its careful drafting and revision of the areas to consider when dealing with human participants and its applicability to research especially in the realm of the social sciences. In no way was there the idea of concealing some details of my study or deceiving the participants. Data were tabulated and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS®) software, version 18.0 for Windows®. Initially, a descriptive analysis was performed, and subsequently, bivariate analysis was using the Chi-square test was applied. For this study, the significance level adopted was 5% ($p < 0.05$), with a confidence interval of 95% (CI 95%).

Results and Discussion

The average age of women was 22.3 and more than 80% of them had primary and secondary education; First table shows in 2019 the most injuries

were limbs (both upper and lower) and nervous injury was only one case and in 2020 the most injury were internal viscera and like 2019 (Table 1 Figure 1).

Table 1 – Area of injury in 2019 and 2020

	2019		2020	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Head	36	8.8	54	8.0
Ear	6	1.5	12	1.8
Face	87	21.3	131	19.3
Neck	25	6.1	39	5.7
Shoulder	29	7.1	68	10.0
Thoracic	13	3.2	21	3.1
Abdominal	6	1.5	11	1.6
Upper limb	104	25.5	171	25.2
Anal and genital	2	0.5	4	0.6
Gluteal	6	1.5	19	2.8
Lower limb	66	16.2	121	17.8
Axial	3	0.7	2	0.3
Back	21	5.1	23	3.4
Nervous	1	0.2	1	0.1
Internal viscera	0	0	2	0.3
Total	405	-	677	-

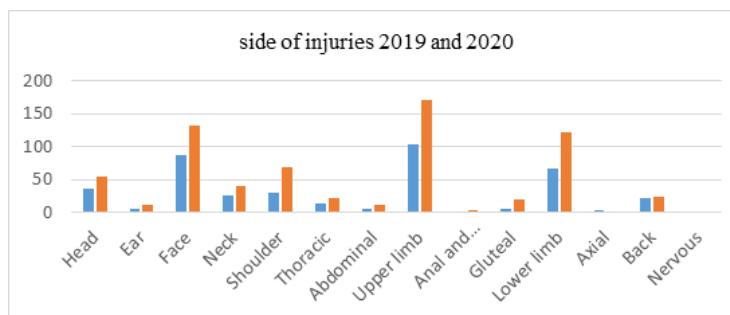


Figure1 – Side of injuries 2019 and 2020

Table 4-2 shows in 2020 most injuries were limbs (both upper and lower) and nervous injury was only one case, most of injuries were

moderate level and mild injuries were the next and severe injuries with 20 cases was last of this (Table 2, Figure 2)

Table 2 – Severity of injury in 2019 and 2020

	2019		2020	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Mild	35	8.6	46	6.8
Moderate	164	40.2	220	32.4
severe	20	4.9	41	6.0
Total	219	53.7	307	45.2

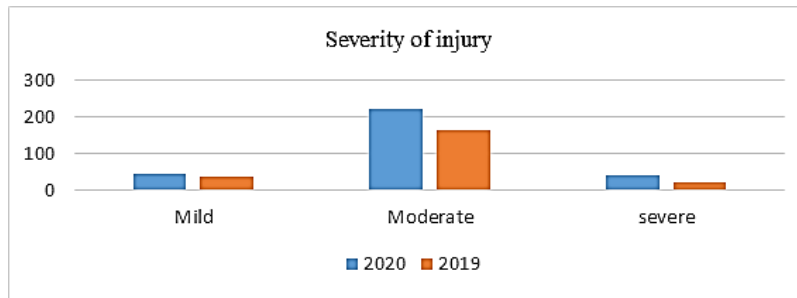


Figure2 – Severity of injuries 2019 and 2020

Type of injuries in 2019 shows that 38.2% of injuries was blunt, 4.9% sharp, 2.2 thermal and 0.02% was unclear.

In 2020 blunt injuries was the first injuries and unlike 2019 weapon reported as injures types (Table 3, Figure3).

Table 3 – Type of injury in 2019 and 2020

	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Blunt	156	38.2	241	35.5
Sharp	20	4.9	12	1.8
weapon	9	2.2	2	0.3
unclear	1	.2	13	1.9
chemical	0	0	2	1.9
Total	222	-	409	-

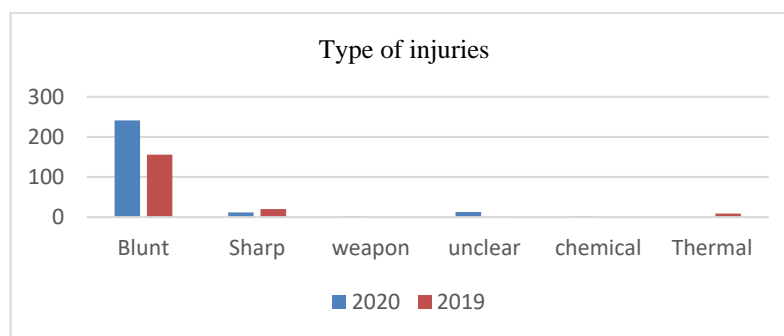


Figure-3 type of injury in 2019 and 2020

The role of women in the family and society is an undeniable fact. Women have many roles in society such as the role of wife, mother and engaged in different parts of society such as marriage, health and education, however, due to different roles and responsibilities in society, they suffer from gender inequalities. (Maldonado et al, 2014). On the other hand, the family is one of the most important social institutions and is the basis of society. Interactions and patterns of interaction between family members

create family performance, and a healthy practice indicates that patterns of interaction and interactions between family members are useful and effective in achieving family goals. Healthy functioning in a family environment is characterized by clear communication, clear roles, cohesion, and proper emotional regulation, while poor performance in a family with high levels of conflict, confusion, and poor behavioral and emotional control [15].

In a patriarchal attitude system, it is a form of male violence in the family and is considered a part of their normal life for women. Therefore,

for more than three decades, pro-women groups have been working with the attitudes and beliefs that strengthen violence against women, fight extensively. Identifying the thoughts and beliefs that shape men's attitudes toward violence against women is important because identifying these attitudes in men can prevent the spread of violence against women and reduce this harm in society [16].

The issue of violence against women is so pervasive and borderless that international institutions such as United Nations and human rights organizations have been forced to respond. Although women make up more than half of the population of human society, they have been discriminated against throughout history and threaten the rights, health and well-being of women. Statistics show that most domestic abuse is directed at women and girls, who are humiliated on a daily basis. And most of them have less facilities such as the right to choose their destiny and education.

Violence against women was any act of gender-based violence that has direct or indirect consequences, including physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering of women. Domestic violence is observed in four forms of psycho-verbal, economic, physical and sexual, which psycho-verbal type includes: using isolating methods of the person (such as weakening women's relationships with others, preventing phone calls or meeting family and friends) Inducing fear (such as threatening to physically harm, threatening to alienate or harm children) or cursing, humiliating, harassing and not talking to them. Economic violence includes behaviors such as refusing to pay and financing, encroaching on or seizing women's property, or harassment in the workplace; So as to lead to the loss of the woman's source of income. Physical violence includes repetitive behaviors based on physical assault in various forms (slapping, punching, kicking, etc.) or preventing the spouse from accessing health care services, as well as sexual violence from any sexual intercourse with the spouse without his or her consent, or sexual relation with force and anger or unnatural methods [2].

Trauma from domestic violence associated with some chronic health issues such as drug addiction, alcohol consumption, sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS, limiting women's ability to manage chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, leading to serious health consequences.

Studies have shown prevalence of domestic violence in women is higher than other problems such as diabetes, breast cancer and cervical cancer. In the United States, more than half a million people go to hospital emergency room for domestic violence each year, and the number of outpatient visits, estimated at one million. The cost of this issue in the United States is more than eight billion dollars annually [17]

Violence against women is a latent social and worrying issue from the point of view of physical, sexual and mental health. Studies have shown that in different societies there is a range of types of violence against women and women as a special group are 5 times more likely to be abused by their husbands than men. The global estimate of violence against women is 27.2-5.2%. Domestic violence and rape in developing and developed countries account for 5 and 19% of the total health problems of women aged 15-44, respectively.

The main strength of study was that the analysis is based on data collected from all part of country. Relatively large sample size respondents were randomly selected and the data were collected by highly well-trained. As a limitation, this study uses cross-sectional data that constrained to determine causality. In addition, Violence against women is a sensitive issue that may be associated with guilt and negative stigma. As a result, women may be reluctant to disclose their experiences of intimate partner violence, which may affect the prevalence reported in this study. Therefore, the findings of this study should be interpreted in this manner.

Conclusion

Violence against women is a growing social problem, more epidemiological research is needed to understand the nature and extent of this frightening social phenomenon, so experts, specialists and officials involved can address this. Have serious oversight of the disaster. Educate medical students, and psychologists to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of domestic violence, the importance of screening violence against women of all ages, especially young women of childbearing age, as well as premarital education and public awareness to control and eradicate problem.

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