

A Comparative Case Study of Domestic Violence against Women in Iran and Malaysia

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Abstract: In a fast-paced world, where technology, infrastructures and human capacity building are some of the key drivers of many societies. As growths and changes in these aspects and many other important areas of the societies becomes inevitable one would expect the same growth and positive changes in the area of women's right to live and express themselves in all areas of the society such as social, political, entertainment, leadership etc. However, this isn't happening in many societies today, as women are being systematically discriminated upon and subjected to live by certain rules and regulations unlike their male counterparts. This has been made very possible as many of these discriminating laws are mainly based on religious and traditional teachings and doctrines, which are mostly misinterpreted and used against women's right to freedom and expressions in the entire society, in many occasions women and girls are made to believe that is for their own good but it turns out to be logically discriminating and oppressive in its entirety. Today men in many countries are given higher rights and priorities directly and indirectly as a result this leads to gender inequality and then violence against women of all sorts which is then justified. Women are expected to endure and live with such harsh and some cases unbearable conditions imposed on them. The issues of domestic violence committed mostly against women generally, has clearly become a norm in many societies today with the authorities doing less or nothing. The methodology used in the research is mainly a qualitative approach in carrying out the study, and that is done by carrying out an in-depth comparative study of domestic violence against women in Malaysia and Iran this entails researching into the religious, traditional, political, societal, norms, laws, teachings, beliefs and awareness level in both countries.

Keywords: Act, Discrimination, Domestic Gender, Inequality. Iran, Law, Malaysia, Men, Society, Violence, Women.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term domestic violence is a term that can be described in different ways based on the fact that the term can be used in describing certain situations and sometimes it can be difficult to describe considering the fact that there is no standard or general definition, it is also inherently difficult to describe due to the fact that its meaning constantly changes based on the particular culture in which it is happening. It is also important to note that in many cultures today this term domestic violence doesn't even exist.

It is however used preferably to describe an unhealthy behavior against one's spouse this is mainly where the term is employed domestic violence, it is clearly regarded as violence that occurs inside the home. In other general terms domestic violence can be referred to as intimate partner abuse, marital abuse, spouse abuse, family maltreatment, conjugal violence, family violence and assault. One this is certain it is a kind of violence or maltreatment that happens in the home committed by close relatives and family members. Zimmerman (1994).

Furthermore, domestic violence can be also described as a misuse of power in a relationship by an adult in the relationship, this is a type of forceful way of achieving one's desire violently; it is clearly an establishment of fear and control in a relationship through a violent means. There are different types of ways this violence can take place in the home such as psychological abuse, physical assault, financial abuse, social abuse, or sexual assault. This abuses in the home can sometimes be rarely, on and off and can be also habitual. Stephenson, et al. (2006).

It is important to note that domestic violence cannot be classified under argument between spouses, "It is clearly a pattern of bullying or coercive control that an individual use over another person. Abusers use sexual and physical violence, threats, emotional insults and economic deprivation as a way to dominate their victims and get their way". National Center on Elder Abuse (2005).

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its resolved effort put in place to put an end to domestic violence against women and girls describes the term 'violence against women' Joachim (1999) as

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life" Islam (2010).

The UNGA in it power also went further to define the term 'gender-based violence' as

"Any acts or threats of acts deliberately to hurt or make women suffer physically, sexually or psychologically, and which affect women as a result them being women or affect women unreasonably" Richters, et al. (1994).

Generally, the description or definition of the term 'gender-based violence' is often interchangeably used with the term 'violence against women and girls' as they're both sharing the same meaning and used in describing similar situation concerning domestic violence against women and girls. Women are expected in many cultures to live everyday of their lives with such violence committed against them this abuse or violence comes in different forms such as physical, sexual or mental, and courses a lot of damages to the victim. This can also be an act of depriving the woman and the girl child the basic rights such as freedom both in her private and public life; this indeed is a problem to the family and the entire society. Krantz, et al. (2005).

Domestic violence against women happens everywhere in every country both the developed and the underdeveloped nations, however many countries today try their very best to control the issues and keep it lowest in different ways as much as possible, while some other countries simply ignore the fact of the matter.

This is now a universal issue that needs to be tackled by all as numerous surveys regarding the issue suggests that domestic violence occurs in most families and that it happens have of the entire population of women in world had experienced one form of domestic violence or the other in their lifetime. This is confirmed by the United Nations commission, which has come up with different policies for the prevention of domestic violence against women in the societies. And also based on the survey by World Health Organization (WHO), the prevalence of violence against women in the entire world was indeed significant. WHO in its recent study categorically stated that about 35% of the entire women in the whole world has in some way experienced physical or sexual violence. Walby, et al. (2004).

World Health Organization in 2003 conducted a study on domestic violence in Iranian societies and the result shows that the prevalence of domestic violence against women and the girl child in different parts of the Iranian communities were specifically around 15.0% for physical violence, 42.4% for sexual violence and then as high as 81.5% for mentally or psychological violence in a particular year in the entire Iran. Faramarzi, et al (2005). It is also clearly understood by numerous researchers in the topic area that the most pervasive form of human right abuse or violations worldwide is directly based on domestic violence against women and this is clearly a big concern. S.T. Fried, (2003).

Problem Statement

Violence against women is a significant problem for women in the Iranian Society. Despite the series of problems, it poses to the victims, domestic violence against women may be described as forgotten problem, often overlooked by people. Stockdale (1993). Fear of retaliation loss of job and loss of income are problems, which cause the victimized women to refuse, complain or take any action against men in the court. Anderson, et al. (2003). Unfortunately, domestic violence against women at the workplace in Iran is often overlooked and regarded as part of the work culture by some organizations. Women ignorance and unawareness about the domestic violence behaviors and their levels of understanding about the meaning of this issue cause failure in dealing with this problem.

Women are ashamed to disclose their violence experience, especially sexual violence because they feel humiliated of the gossip and defamation that will tarnish their reputation. They also fear of society negative perceptions towards them. The

lack of legal provisions and supports even makes preventing violence misconduct even difficult and almost impossible. No reporting from the women whom are victims of domestic violence because of these reasons mentioned earlier. Thus, the access to correct statistics on domestic violence of women at work is not yet available in Iran. Ghazi, et al (2004). In this regard, I'm going to talk about the base of problem that causes domestic violence against the women in Iran. Iranian law is very discriminatory towards women. The Iranian constitution says a "woman's life is valued only half as much as a man's life" according to Official Laws Against Women in Iran, (2005). Evidence of such state-sponsor of violence against women is seen in Iran's constitution. Gahhari, et al. (2008).

In Iran one of the major problems concerning domestic violence against women is because there isn't a well-articulated law to address the issue directly. On the other hands, in Iran, there is lack of any specific law to protect women in front of violence in their families. Hence this research will be seeking to find new rules on how to prevent this problem by studying how the Malaysian government and NGOs are making headways in regards to this issue of domestic violence against women. Iranian women need to have more attention from the government, organizations and legal drafters in order to prevent this wrongdoing in the society that they have to live with daily. What more when women are losing physically, emotionally, psychologically and financially because this kind of crime is non-compensable, addressed and most men in the Iranian society doesn't see this as a crime at this point of time.

Based on a numerous studies and reports by the Women Aid Organization (WAO) a nongovernmental organization dealing with the issues of domestic violence against women in Malaysia, it has been found that domestic violence has mainly become a social and medical problem among the society in all countries around the world this includes Malaysia, regardless of the cultural, economic, religious or social values. Studies show that in Malaysia, 39% of women above 15 years of age were estimated to have been physically abused by their partner. Women's Aid Organization of Malaysia (WAO) (2009).

According to the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) 1994 Malaysia, domestic violence takes place when the partner: Willfully or knowingly placing, or attempting to place the survivor in fear of physical injury, causes physical injury to the survivor by such an act that is known, or ought to have been known would result in physical injury, compels the survivor by force or threat to engage in any conduct or act, sexual or otherwise, from which the survivor has a right to abstain, confining or detaining the survivor against the survivor's will and last but not least, causes mischief, destruction or damage to property with intent to cause or knowing that it is likely to cause distress or annoyance to the survivor. A crucial limitation is that this does not include marital rape.

This is because the DVA is attached to the Penal Code, which specifies that a woman does not have the right to abstain from sexual relations unless she is divorced, judicially separated, or has obtained a restraining order on her husband. The consequences of domestic violence have influenced the victims to engage in committing partner homicide and in worst scenarios, taking their own lives as well. As a result, majority of the victims will suffer from poor health status, a deteriorated lifestyle and even an increased demand for psychological treatments. Therefore, these women become so defeated and battered by the experiences that it restrains them from achieving total independence and seize them from having another chance in life. WAO (2002).

Previous historical researches show that domestic violence is a big issue in Malaysia one of such by WAO, is that the issues of violence against women remains an issue in Malaysia as a nation. Albeit numerous emotional cases have been accounted for in the media, the issue is still seen with minimal enthusiasm by the overall population. As per the Royal Malaysian Police Force figures, it can be seen that the most recent information recorded on all types of violence against women in Malaysia was in the year 2010. Insights in the year 2007 demonstrated that domestic violence makes up almost 50 percent for every reported instances of violence against women in the entire country Malaysia; trailed by instances of assault and in addition a little rate of interbreeding, child abuse and mishandle of domestic specialists. WAO (2009).

Theoretically viewing the issue of facts regarding domestic violence against women from a feminist critical lens, makes a comprehending form of investigation when meticulously considered. One of the most common factor based on a feminist critical lens is gender. "Intimate or domestic violence is directly gendered, as are individual and institutionalized responses to that violence as well". Renzetti (1994). This is centered on numerous credible studies which suggests that gender dissimilarities in the abuse or violence in a relationship both qualitatively in the area of different reasons and logical dynamics, and also quantitatively in the area of level of injuries, frequency and also classification of the horror of

the issue. Johnson, et al (2000). It is also suggested that the usage of violence by women in their relationship shouldn't be seen as them acting like men.

Basically, there is some societal believe and expectations regarding female anger which shows the double standards. The researcher Ring suggests in her study that as a culture, realistically grounded anger in men is respected and in women silenced. There is a systematic believe and suggestions in most society such that of Iran that a woman shouldn't show anger even when triggered by her partner or is built by long endurance of abuses and mistreatments. Renzetti, (1999).

Research Scope

The focus of the study is a thorough analysis of domestic violence against women that happen in Malaysian and Iranian societies. The problem of violence against women in these countries has gained increasing attention in recent years. The scope and magnitude of the problem are the subjects of on-going debates. As Iran the study is focused on one specific term from 1979, after the Islamic revolution, while that of Malaysia is focused on when Malaysia got its independence till date. The research also looks at analytical comparative between Iranian and Malaysian community laws and International laws regarding the issues of domestic violence against women and girls, this international law consists of other non-Muslim countries. It also emphasized on the victim's awareness and knowledge about the means of legal protection available against domestic violence of women in Iran and Malaysia.

Significance of the Study

Despite the limitations associated with the existing research on gender role attitudes and sexual violence and domestic violence, a strong prima facie argument exists that the unequal position of women in society is likely a major cause of intimate partner violence and, more generally, violence against women.

This research seeks to fill in some of the gaps noted in the previous literature in several ways. First, the sample size is quite large and study subjects will obtain through random selection, both aspects of the research which increase the generality of results reported. Second, since most of the studies on this topic have been carried out in numerous countries, this study will contribute to the literature by focusing on traditional gender attitudes and violence against women taking place in Iranian cities. Third, since there are rarely studies of this kind in the criminological literature, it will add to the overall understanding of violence against women in the field of criminal justice. Finally, this study includes social capital, a variable never before considered in conjunction with traditional gender attitudes.

2. LITERATURE

According to the Legal Profession Assistance Conference of the Canadian Bar Association, the term 'Domestic Violence' (2015) "Which is also known as spousal abuse, domestic abuse, or intimate partner violence (IPV) happens when a partner or ex-partner, family member, attempts to physically or mentally control another. DV frequently suggests being violence between spouses, or spousal abuse but can also include cohabitants and non-married intimate partners. Domestic violence happens in all kinds of cultures; people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexes and classes can be committers of DV. In addition, it is also committed by both men and women".

In the year 1981, there was an established institution for representing violence against women that was formally adopted, it was known as the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women' (CEDAW). This convention for governing violence against women voiced clearly its standards of issues such as gender equality and also every state obligation and present the CEDAW investigations clarify how these aforementioned global laws apply to nations under investigation. Furthermore In 1993, the Vienna conference on human rights drove the general association to embrace a proposed declaration based on the complete elimination of violence against all Women and girls (Vienna Declaration), it however called on all of its entire member states to unite and wipe out all manifestations of violence and victimization women without respect to separations in the general population/private circle. Merry (2006).

It is understood that this statement additionally prompted the arrangement of an UN Special Rapporteur on the issues of Violence Against Women and girls. From this point there were additional powerful global affirmations for women's rights this also includes the renowned Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 and also the Beijing Plus Five audit of 2000 as well. Amirthalingam (2005).

International Journal of Novel Research in Humanity and Social SciencesVol. 8, Issue 3, pp: (41-58), Month: May - June 2021, Available at: www.noveltyjournals.com

According to the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence. The issue of violence against a woman brought about by a close partner is a typical event in the United States as a nation this is indeed a common occurrence in the society. Domestic violence problems as study shows crosses all racial, ethnic, national cause, religious, age, financial, and sexual lines. It is likewise imperative to note that same-sex violence happens as well at roughly the same rate as inverse sex battering. This clearly implies that domestic violence also occurs in same sex marriages where both are women and also where both are male likewise.

Based on the July 2000 National Violence Against Women Survey by the United States Department of Justice discovered in their study that violence against women is fundamentally close spouse violence: 64.0% of the reviewed women who reported being assaulted, physically abused, in addition stalked since age eighteen were clearly assaulted by a present or previous partner they shared a relationship with, dearest partners such as their boyfriends, husbands, cohabiting accomplice, or date. Tjaden, et al (2005).

According to the Commonwealth Fund Survey, (CFS) which was held in the year 1998, in the comprehensive survey carried almost 33% of the United States women (31%) report being physically or sexually maltreated by a spouse or boyfriend eventually in their lives at some point. Violence act committed by a personal partner or spouse is much more inclined to end in a serious damage than violence by an outsider, and ought to, accordingly, be viewed as more hazardous. The figures from the Department of Justice clearly uncovered that in roughly two million of the 4.8 million close spouse or partner assaults such as rape and attacks reported, the victimized person was harmed. The Victims got seriously wounded in 48% of situations reported of violence perpetrated by a close relation such as husband or boyfriend, and in 32% of the occurrences of violence conferred by a relative in the victim's home.

Based on a study conducted by Impact of Domestic Violation on Children and Young People (2011). There is clear proof that abusers regularly expand their utilization of violence and assaults to prevent their spouse from leaving them, or to compel their spouse and kids to return home after divorce or separation between them. The abuser may endeavor to detract the youngsters from their mom to rebuff the lady for leaving and at times kids have even been killed. The danger to kids amid and taking after division is considerable. Generally based on the studies by researchers it is suggested that the negative impacts of DVAW as discussed so far in the literature shows that children in such family will significantly or positively improve this means that when the children feel comfortable and safe, when the mother isn't being abused anymore and they get some level of meaningful support and counseling from a specialist. The kids improve in terms of the expected negative effects of them seeing or experiencing the violence against their mother.

If a proper step isn't taken to help the children to break free completely from the aforementioned impacts of domestic violence in their homes, such as the emotional, social, physical, and behavioral injury abuse creates for the teens, there might be a big disaster in the kids' future. According to studies findings this could mean that children may grow up to think it is fine or that nothing is wrong to use violence or abuse to get whatsoever they want or need and for when they become adults, they'll begin to feel that it is right and acceptable for there to be violence in their own homes and relationships this might then because a vicious circle from generation to generation.

According to a study by researchers Trent and Margulies in (2007) titled Employment protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Whether it is emotional, economic, verbal, sexual, or physical type of domestic violence this is a big problem in the family that affects all the family members as it can lead to a problem of lower self-confidence and self-value, poverty and wellbeing dependency, social loneliness, and also a big issue of poor health condition for the female victim and her children as well as they are constantly subjected to such abuses or violence in the family. Furthermore, the research findings suggest that the victims being the woman and her kids usually have to deal with a lot of social problem as a result of abuse they experience at home. These issues are negative to the victim's general life or social life, some these problems is that they realize that they can't set a long-term goals for themselves, based on their economic and social isolations which they faced as mentioned they have limited information, they live basically in a world of fear and uncertainties for their health all this put together becomes a barriers for them to get a full employment or a job and become financially stable and independent. Trent, et al (2007).

Based another study by R.M Tolman and H Wang. In (2005) about Domestic violence and women's employment also agreed with the findings above about the issues the victim as a woman has to go through with her kids and the social and economic effects this brings on her and kids. Tolman, et al (2005).

According to a multi country study on Women's health and domestic violence against women carried out by the world health organization (WHO) in 2007. In tending to the issues of domestic violence a viable reaction to violence must be multi-sectorial; tending to the prompt down to earth needs of women encountering violence and abuses in their own homes; giving them a long haul catch up and aid; and concentrating on amending those social standards about DV, mentality and lawful procurements that advance the acknowledgement of and even energize violence against women, and further undermine women's satisfaction in their full human rights and prospects or opportunities.

Domestic Violence Definition and Scope

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individual in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

Violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, or who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power example: husbands, boyfriends, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, or other relatives. Domestic violence is in most cases violence perpetrated by men against women. Women can also be violent, but their actions account for a small percentage of domestic violence. Amirthalingam (2005).

Violence against women is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms throughout their lives. Even at the very beginning of her life, a girl may be the target of sex-selective abortion or female infanticide in cultures where son preference is prevalent. During childhood, violence against girls may include enforced malnutrition, lack of access to medical care, education, incest, female genital mutilation, early marriage, and forced prostitution or bonded labor. Chen et al (2004).

Some go on to suffer throughout their adult lives battered, raped and even murdered at the hands of intimate partners. Other crimes of violence against women include forced pregnancy, abortion or sterilization, and harmful traditional practices such as dowry-related violence, sati (the burning of a widow on the funeral pyre of her husband), and killings in the name of honor. And later in life, widows and elderly women may also experience abuse. Catalano (2007).

Intimate Partner Violence

From a legal perspective, domestic violence includes child abuse, elder abuse, and intimate partner violence. Intimate partner abuse is generally part of a pattern of abusive behavior also known as "wife beating" "battering" or "domestic violence". Women face the threats of violence in various forms throughout their lives. Apart from physical assault, intimate partner abuse includes psychological abuse, such as constant belittling, intimidation, humiliation and coercive sex. This form of abuse is also present in controlling behaviors such as isolating a woman from family and friends, monitoring her movements and restricting her access to resources and services. So, the domestic violence is commonly perpetuated by intimate partner.

Various Types of Domestic violence

Domestic violence can take many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects, battery), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation. It can also mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, and harassment. Crimes (2008). Simply domestic violence defines as violence perpetrated by intimate partners and other family members in various forms including: physical, psychological, sexual and economic. These forms of violence are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age. Siemieniuk (2010).

Physical Abuse

The most common form of violence experienced by women globally is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner, with women beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused. Physical abuse could happen by slapping, beating, arm

twisting, stabbing, strangling, burning, choking, kicking, threats with an object or weapon, and murder. It also includes traditional practices harmful to women such as female genital mutilation and wife inheritance (the practice of passing a widow, and her property, to her dead husband's brother).

According to United States Department of Justice, physical abuse is abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. It includes hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Acid attacks, also seen in domestic violence, occur when acid is thrown in anger or vengeance at their victims, usually at their faces, burning them, and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. Jonathan (2014). This can result in long term blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body. Bandyopadhyay, et al. Denying the victim needed medical care, depriving them of sleep or other necessary functions, forcing the victim to engage in drug or alcohol use against their will, or creating any physical harm are forms of physical abuse. Bennett et al (2004). It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause emotional harm to the victim.

A growing body of research studies confirms the prevalence of physical violence in all parts of the globe, including the estimates of 20 to 50 per cent of women from country to country that have experienced domestic violence. WHO (1996). Statistics are grim no matter where in the world one looks. Data from industrialized and developing countries as well as from transitional countries provide an overview of the global problem. Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners. In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, 40 to 70 per cent of female murder victims were killed by their partners, according to the World Health Organization. In the United States, one-third of women murdered each year are killed by intimate partners. In South Africa, a woman is killed every six hours by an intimate partner. In India, 22 women were killed each day in dowry-related murders in 2007. In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day. UNITE (2011).

Dowry Murder

Dowry murder is a brutal practice where a woman is killed by her husband or in-laws because her family cannot meet their demands for dowry, which is a payment made to a woman's in-laws upon her marriage as a gift to her new family. While dowries or similar payments are prevalent worldwide, dowry murder occurs predominantly in South Asia. It is widespread in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and some regions of Africa.

India has by far the highest number of dowry related deaths in the world according to Indian National Crime Record Bureau. In 2010, 8391 dowry death cases were reported across India This means a bride was burned every 90 minutes, or dowry issues cause 1.4 deaths per year per 100,000 women in India. For contextual reference, the United Nations reports a worldwide average female homicide rate of 3.6 per 100,000 women, and an average of 1.6 homicides per 100,000 women for Northern Europe in 2012. Although India's dowry death rate per 100,000 is lower than equivalent rate for Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is a significant social issue in India. Caleekal, et al. (2009).

According to Indian police, every year it receives over 2,500 reports of bride-burning The Indian National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that there were about 8172 dowry death cases registered in India in 2008. Kumar (2009). Incidents of dowry deaths during the year 2008 (8172) have increased by 14.4 per cent over 1998 level (7146), while India's population grew at 17.6% over the 10-year period. The accuracy of these figures has received a great deal of scrutiny from critics who believe dowry deaths are consistently under-reported.

Honor Killing

Honor-killing refers to the act of murdering a woman who has actually breached a social norm of female sexuality or is merely under suspicion of acting as such. In the name of honor, women suffer violence in large parts of the world. This is due to a system of norms and values based on honor that is designed to build or maintain collective identity and public standing in a community. Violence in the name of honor has many facets: mere threats of violence, exclusion from family inheritance, or more brutal forms – with the goal of influencing women's behavior.

In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery have been murdered by their relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honor. Honor killing occurs in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey. However, the situation

in several non-Islamic countries, such as Brazil, Ecuador, India and Italy, is also considered critical. Tradition and Violence Against Women (2009). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the annual worldwide number of so-called "honor killing" victims may be as high as 5,000 women. UNITE (2011).

In Jordan, official figures show that an average of 25 women die every year in honor killings. In 1997, in Souran province of Turkey 34 cases of honor killing were reported. In this area, from 1992 to 1998, there were 104 reported cases of honor killing, of which 31 victims were under 18-years-old. Amir (2002). In 1997, it was estimated that some 300 women were killed in the name of 'honor' in one province of Pakistan alone. According to 1999 estimates, more than two-thirds of all murders in Gaza strip and West bank were most likely 'honor' killings UNICEF (2000). Such figures, however, do not show the real extent of this phenomenon, since most of the cases of honor-killing go unreported or are disguised as an accident. Physical violence is usually accompanied by psychological abuse and in many cases by sexual assault.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is known as coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts or forcing sex with others. Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. A World Health Organization (WHO) study in 11 countries found that the percentage of women who had been subjected to sexual violence by an intimate partner ranged from 6 per cent in Japan to 59 per cent in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, rates of sexual violence are difficult to establish because in many societies it remains an issue of deep shame for women and often their families. Statistics on rape from police records, for example, are notoriously unreliable because of significant underreporting.

However, it is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. The practice of early marriage a form of sexual violence is common worldwide, especially in Africa and South Asia. Young girls are often forced into the marriage and into sexual relations, causing health risks, including exposure to HIV/AIDS, and limiting their attendance in school. One effect of sexual abuse is traumatic gynecologic fistula: an injury resulting from severe tearing of the vaginal tissues, rendering the woman incontinent and socially undesirable. UNITE (2009).

Sexual abuse and rape by an intimate partner is not considered a crime in most countries, and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married to, or cohabiting with, the perpetrator. The assumption is that once a woman enters into a contract of marriage, the husband has the right to unlimited sexual access to his wife. Surveys in many countries reveal that approximately 10 to 15 percent of women report being forced to have sex with their intimate partner. Heise et al (1994). According to Campbell, et al. Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships. Campbell, et al (2003).

Some countries have begun to legislate against marital rape. These include Australia, Austria, Barbados, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Although provision of such laws represents considerable progress, it is often difficult for a woman to press charges because of the evidential rules concerning the crime. UNICEF (2000).

Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse which includes behavior that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation. Generally, elements of psychological abuse include causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

Because psychological violence is harder to capture in quantitative studies, a full picture of the deeper and more insidious levels of violence defies quantification. Victim-survivors report that ongoing psychological violence – emotional torture and living under terror – is often more unbearable than the physical brutality, with mental stress leading to a high incidence of suicide and suicide attempts. A close correlation between domestic violence and suicide has been established based on studies in the United States, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Peru, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Suicide is 12 times as likely to have been attempted by a woman who has been abused than by one who has not. For instance, in the United States, as many as 35 to 40 percent of battered women attempt suicide. Back et al. (2008).

Economic Abuse

The economic abuse component of domestic violence has been defined as “making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one’s access to money, or forbidding one’s attendance at school or employment.” Susan, et al (20011). Economic abuse includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc.

Economic abuse is specifically listed on what is known as Power and Control Wheel, a model that is used “extensively in women’s shelters and support groups.” Joan, et al (2008). While domestic violence in general and economic abuse in particular are perpetrated and suffered by both men and women, the sad truth is that the most of such victims are women. Adams et al. note that “Economic abuse can seriously impede women’s economic, psychological, physical health. One direct consequence of economic abuse is the survivor becomes economically dependent on the abuser” Adrienne, et al (2008). Domestic violence experts have long understood the link between money and abuse. One study reported that “56 percent of domestic violence survivors said abusers prevented them from having money of their own and 59 percent reported money was hidden from them Shannon (2009). Other studies show that a quarter to one half of employed victims lost their jobs because of domestic violence at home.

Ravneet Kaur and Suneela Garg on their study titled ‘Addressing Domestic Violence Against Women: An Unfinished Agenda’ 2008. Suggested that the fact is known that financial reliance has been discovered to be the focal reason why most victims of DVAW stay in the abusive relationship. The study found out that without the capacity for women suffering from DV to maintain themselves financially they’re not able to easily decide to leave the relationship, the women are also compelled to stay in oppressive associates and are not ready to be free from violence due to their reliance on the perpetrator for financial supports. Because of profound established values and societal cultures, women don’t want to embrace the choice of detachment or separation. National center on elder abuse (2005).

They likewise fear the results of reporting violence and proclaim an unwillingness to subject themselves to the disgrace of being recognized as battered women in the entire society they live in. Absence of data about choices likewise compels women to endure quietly inside the four corners of their own homes. However, it is also found that some victims of DV may accept the weird fact that they merit the beatings on account of some wrong activity on their own side. Some victims being the women also abstain themselves entirely from talking about the abuse to anyone else or outsiders on the grounds that they expect that their mail partner will further curse them damage in backlash for uncovering family insider facts, or they may be embarrassed about their circumstance.

A Feminist Theory Perspective

A well-suited feminist critical theory perspective in its finest form clearly summarizes the complications directly involved in it. Looking at it from perspectives clearly shows the deep-seated aspects that class, gender and race places within the very lives of the victimized women, whereas also at the same time putting in mind the aged-long issues and concerns of social struggles and dominance that directly leads in some way to the upsurge of the population of the incarcerated women. However, in avoiding to suggest a naive and reductionist explanations, the required consideration in further analyzing of such population includes a macro sociocultural context. This will be clearly looking a prevailing social system which directly support repression of women, which further leads to invisibility, marginalization and voicelessness, develop examined and questioned. Avis, et al and Baber, et al (1992).

Based on the practice of feminism the falsehood of women suggested to become colossal group of people clearly demystified and transformed. There is now an opportunity granted solely to women in the center of vision, as a result each person’s story are then valued and heard. The women’s stories differ one to another each woman with her own story which applies to her alone, some of the voices and stories applies collectively to many but they are still based on individuality. Baber, et al (1992).

Looking at the issue of facts regarding intimate violence from a feminist critical lens, makes a comprehending form of investigation when considered. Based on the issue of high concern intimate violence one of the most common factor based on a feminist critical lens is gender. “Intimate violence is directly gendered, as are individual and institutionalized responses to that violence”. Renzetti (1994). Based on numerous credible studies which suggests gender dissimilarities in

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the abuse or violence in a relationship both qualitatively in the area of different reasons and logical dynamics, and also quantitatively in the area of level of injuries, frequency and also classification of awfulness. Johnson et al (2000). It is also suggested that the usage of violence by women in their relationship shouldn't be seen as them acting like men. Renzetti (1999).

There happens to be a clear indicative by feminists that such male behaviors or attitudes are seen as normal while comparing the behaviors of the women in the standards of the men. More also there must be a reevaluation and challenge in the areas of the cultural norms in the entire society of feminine behavior. Historically there is a norm that it is expected of women not to show her anger, as it is believed or expected that femininity supposed to be reliant based on some kind of temperaments and showcase of behaviors. Brody, et al (1993). Basically, there is some societal believe and expectations regarding female anger which shows the double standards. The researcher Ring suggests in her study that as a culture, realistically grounded anger in men is respected and in women silenced.

A woman's anger or wrath when acknowledged is completely minimized as should be expected unreasonably. Furthermore, the notion of an "angry woman" contradicts the image expected or portrayed for a "good woman". Renzetti (1999). Acting out of violence by women have been reported and described to be driven by self-defense mostly or so many years of enduring abuses and violence which amounts to anger eruption. However true it is also to be taken in account that women might also simply act violently based on other personal issues they encounter as humans. Lamb (1999).

A typical instance in considering the intergenerational transmission of violence, there is a believe that most or all of the boys who come from abusive homes grow up being abusive themselves. Straus et al (1994). And it is also believed that girls who come from abusive homes or are abused ends up in an abusive home with an abusive husband or partner. There are rarely known cases suggesting that women who were abused turn out abusive themselves, at the end this perception or view of gender clearly reflects our failed society that accommodates the beliefs of women becoming furious and deprived of becoming crazy. Ring (1997).

Generally viewing the acts of violence against women from the lens of feminist critical theory produces a perspective for the acts of violence instead of decreasing and isolating those violent activities. It is also gender based focused roles, nevertheless it also takes into consideration how critical factors transects with gender, such factors are culture, sexual orientation, race and social class, which also brings into account of the domineering system put in place in the entire lives of women.

"By investigating certain known characteristic of power or gender dynamics as they currently occur, the feminist research clearly endeavors to make that which is invisible to be visible". Avis et al (1996).

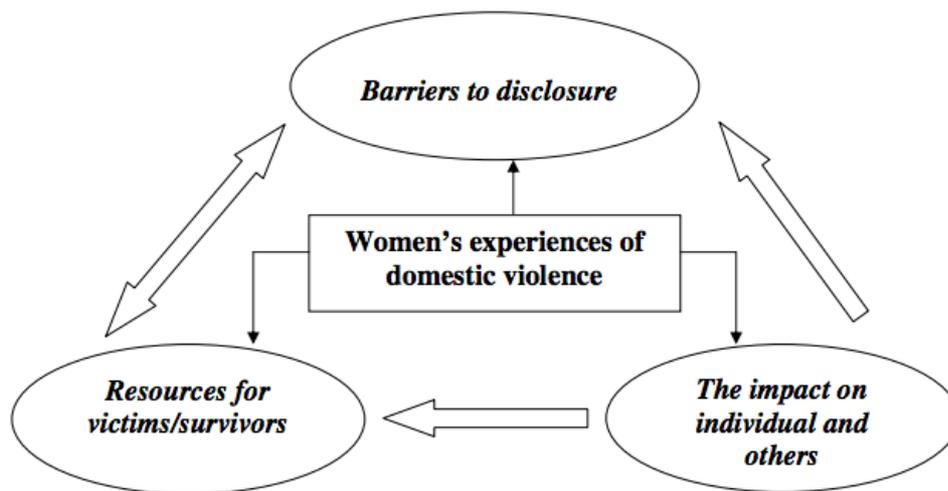
In the entire development of the feminist perspectives there four basic elements to be understood. Which are:

- The explanatory utilizing of the key concepts of gender and power together.
- There is an understanding on the family which is further analyzed as a historically positioned and developed social institution. It is vital to note that in this aspect there is not a pattern of ruler-ship, or organization socially on the child nurturing and partnership is made naturally or morally superior as well.
- There is a clear recognition of the vital and crucial issue which is based directly on validating and understanding women's general experiences.
- The dependency and promotion based directly upon the scholarship of women. It is clear to note that historically there exists a debate regarding the acceptance and the validity of male scholars in this field of study being supported by feminist. Bograd (1999).

"The Feminist interventions for change consist on broad range of targets and concerns, which includes legislative, cultural, political, reforms in supporting equality, social and economic justice or rights for women generally, and also provision of services. Principles of validation, control and empowerment informs work with women who have experience of domestic violence themselves"

Conceptual framework

The figure underneath is displayed as the premise of a calculated system in this study. It basically looks at the accompanying linkages among variables, for example, boundaries to revelation, domestic violence assets and in addition the impacts of a damaging relationship with respect to women's close to home encounters of violence. A percentage of the examination inquiries were created from this model.



A theoretical framework for understanding characteristics of violence experiences on abused women.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research is a qualitative research,

Broad Perspective

The relationship between Islam and domestic violence is disputed. Even among Muslims, the uses and interpretations of sharia the moral code and religious law of Islam, lack consensus. Farhi, (2001).

Domestic violence among the Muslim community is considered a complicated human right issue due to varying legal remedies for women by nation, the extent to which they have support or opportunities to divorce their husbands, cultural stigma to hide evidence of abuse, and inability to have abuse recognized by police or the judicial system. Taylor, et al. (2009).

In conservative communities, Muslim women are often considered inferior to their husbands, possibly controlled or oppressed, and lacking opportunities that would give them their own personal sense of identity, all of which adds to the complicated nature of unearthing and obtaining remedies for domestic violence. Esfandiari (2006).

Jurisprudence

One of the most pressing issues in women's rights is the protection of women from domestic violence. According to some statistics, as many as four million women per year are the victims of domestic violence, and three out of four will be the victims of domestic violence in their lifetimes. Behdad, et al (2006). Investigating how orthodox jurisprudence as mainstream discourse, together with social, legal and public norms, help to perpetuate the production and reproduction of physical, psychological, sexual and economical violence against women. Chapra, et al (2006). Drawing on qualitative research, the notion of secularization and modernization helping to overcome such violence is to some extent represented by Islamic feminism, secular feminism, and religious intellectualism, all of which are methodologically examined in the analysis. Halliday (2005). Challenging conventional wisdom regarding women's place in Iran and in wider Islamic society, this book offers a new insight into violence against Muslim women and as such will be an important addition to the existing literature in the areas of gender studies, Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, and Iranian studies.

Comparison

Comparing violence data across countries enables us to describe actual differences in violence prevalence, as well as to highlight potential methodological discrepancies and cultural and gender differences in understanding and, thus, reporting of violence. This knowledge can be implemented in the development and improvement of existing and new prevention strategies. The present research aims to explore what knowledge we can obtain about violence through population-based surveys in two countries, Iranian law and Malaysian law. In this research, we can explain potential differences between country data and what we can achieve by this exercise.

Critical and analytical

In this research I'm going to comprehensively study critically about ' Domestic Violence against Women generally and then narrow the scope of the research to two main countries as my focus area on the issue of DVAW, after which a detailed analysis of the aforesaid issue then a recommendation on the new ways to prevent of this issue and also to protect women of this issue.

Data Collection Methods

The methods utilized in collection of data in this research is first reviewing past documents or research done by other researchers such as conference proceedings, articles, books, former surveys and others on the issue of domestic violence in Iran and Malaysia. The process of analyzing this aforesaid past document helps to compare the nature of domestic violence in both nations by reviewing other documents about the particular research area, all the major studies done about the domestic violence its prevalence and past survey on the topic area. Further a numerous case studies from recorded by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were reviewed and analyzed and finally the researcher interviewed a Women's Aid Organization (WAO) program officer and communications.

Document review was used in this research to gather secondary data based on other researches and surveys done by many experts in the field of domestic violence. The use of secondary data research methods for this research is due to the nature of the research which looks at the comparing the issues and nature of domestic violence in Iran and Malaysia, this includes looking at different areas regarding the issues of domestic violence such as its civil laws regarding domestic violence in both nations if there are any, government policies, the prevalence, considering both nations as Islamic nations looking at religious believes and teachings and then the societal norms and traditions.

However most of this secondary data are available on the Internet e-libraries, conference papers, surveys, government websites and also textbooks are as well key reliable resources in gathering the secondary data by reviewing this aforementioned document.

Method of Data Analysis

All the data gathered in this research would be analyzed utilizing qualitative methodology of research analysis. The process of data analysis commenced after managing the data collection to ensure that the research is on the correct track and reaffirms the final result. The advantage of the data analysis is to aid the researcher in getting the comparison of the general nature of domestic violence against women in Iran and Malaysia. "Furthermore, as must student research will contain qualitative feature, especially in the fields concerned with practical application of ideas, this type of data analysis is required". Orb et al (2010). The use of qualitative data analysis is employed to analyze data from the documents reviewed and interview carried out.

Qualitative Analysis of Data

The Qualitative data analysis is used to analyze all the secondary data in the research. i.e. the document reviewed the vital goal of Qualitative method of data analysis is to authorize the research outcomes to develop from the recurrent, principal themes inherent in raw data, exclusive of the restraints required to use structural hypothetical emphasis. Also, qualitative data analysis method is an iterative process. Meaning that data gathering, processing, reporting and analyzing are entangled. Qualitative research involves vital process of going back again to the original field of study to gather extra data. Maree (2010). The Qualitative data analysis will be used to analyze all the information gotten from the secondary data, case studies and interview; this is done by analysis and justifications.

4. CONCLUSION

The study proves that domestic violence against women is a global issues that needs to be addressed as it is such that affects our society badly that involves exclusively social, cultural, racial, economic, and ethnic levels and classes, though different nations and societies have come up with measures to address the issues relating to domestic violence against women in their societies, there have been terrible acts of domestic violence against women also being witnessed in European countries, these are countries where women are legislators and even in Northern part of the American continent countries that claim to have a good and stable democracy.

However, there has not been enough done in regards to the issue, some of the reasons are because domestic violence comes in different sorts and forms such as in the areas of emotional, psychological, financial abuse etc., these kinds of domestic violence against women are mostly disregarded as most people think of domestic violence as just the type that directly involves physical abuse and disregards the others that has been previously discussed in the research. Understanding these forms or types of domestic violence against women is vital for any government, non-government organizations, leaders either traditional or religious and generally everyone who agrees to the need in addressing the issues. The first and foremost step for a responsible government with the intention of addressing the issue of domestic violence against women it to first accept that this is a vital issue and further begin to make positive steps and reforms to address these issues.

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International Journal of Novel Research in Humanity and Social Sciences

Vol. 8, Issue 3, pp: (41-58), Month: May - June 2021, Available at: www.noveltyjournals.com

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