

Sociological Explanation of Domestic Violence against Women and Men in Golestan Province

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Abstract: The present study is aimed at providing a sociological explanation of domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province (Iran). This is a survey research and data were collected using a researcher-made questionnaire. The statistical population includes all married individuals in Golestan Province, among whom 311 participants were selected through G-Power software and two-stage random cluster sampling. Findings reveal that 13.5% of respondents experienced physical violence, 18.0% psychological violence, 21.5% economic violence, and 25.7% social violence. Besides, 21.2% reported high levels of sexual violence by their spouses. Hypothesis testing results indicate a significant relationship between family disorder and domestic violence, suggesting that higher family disorder correlates with increased domestic violence between spouses. An inverse relationship between social bonds and domestic violence was also confirmed, i.e. weaker social bonds between spouses increase the likelihood of domestic violence.

Keywords: Sociological Explanation, Domestic Violence, Men and Women, Golestan.

Introduction

Violence in human relationships is a fundamental and enduring issue. Religious texts identify violence as stemming from jealousy, marking it as the first behavioral anomaly in human relations and a factor leading to the elimination of individuals from the human race. Violence includes any physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional abuse inflicted upon another person, harming his/her health and self-esteem (Kar, 2002:71). Empirical studies on domestic violence began to emerge in the 1970s. Until then, family sociologists considered domestic violence more of an exception than a rule. However, numerous studies have since demonstrated that domestic violence occurs across various societal strata (Ezazi, 2000:52).

As the family is one of the most critical pillars of society, playing a pivotal role in shaping individuals' personalities, any crisis or disorder within this institution causes irreparable harm to its members. Domestic violence, a type of violence perpetrated by family members against one another, disrupts family functionality and carries significant individual and social consequences. Over the past few decades, researchers and social issue experts have increasingly recognized domestic violence as a dark and troubling reality within families. Ongoing scientific research has gradually revealed new dimensions of domestic violence (Majidi, 2013:1).

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Despite advancements in the 21st century, domestic violence remains a grave societal threat. National and international resolutions, along with various legal and preventative measures, have failed to eliminate this phenomenon. Domestic violence can transform the home – typically considered the safest place – into a living hell for some members, leading to tragic outcomes such as family homicides or runaway children and youth. Such behaviors significantly contribute to the reproduction of social harm and individual and societal abnormalities (Janabadi, 2016:2). Given the profound influence of families on the socialization of children, domestic violence experienced by women and men at home is of paramount importance. Investigating this issue and identifying its influencing factors may help strengthen this vital social institution.

Problem Statement

The term “violence”, derived from the Latin root *vis* (meaning force or power), refers to imposing restrictions or physical control on another person (Cassigo & Forgato, 2006). While this definition primarily focuses on physical violence, contemporary interpretations encompass other dimensions, emphasizing coercion and restriction. Among the types of violence – domestic, social, and governmental – domestic violence is a significant social issue. It is sometimes referred to as spousal abuse, marital violence, wife abuse, or partner abuse (Straus, 1993). According to global definitions, domestic violence harms family members such as women, men, children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities living in the household. This violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and psychological forms (Alahverdi et al., 2022:324). Another definition describes domestic violence as violent and controlling behavior by one family member against another within the private sphere of the family, deeply affecting individuals bonded by intimacy, blood relations, or legal ties (Landreau, 2018). Studies on violence largely focus on violence against women, particularly physical violence, while research on violence against men remains scarce and overlooked (Dobash & Dobash, 1980). However, Britton (2012), in his study on crime in Britain, reported that over 600,000 men were victims of some form of domestic violence. In Iran, research on violence against men has also been conducted (Zolfaghari, 2003; Mohammadkhani et al., 2006; Mohammadi, 2009; Kheyrikhazadeh, 2011), demonstrating that violence by women against men is a real, abnormal troubling phenomenon.

Domestic violence affects nearly half of families, often targeting women. However, advancements in technology and increased awareness of women’s rights have broadened the scope of domestic violence to include both spouses (spousal abuse), manifesting differently across societies. This ongoing trend often leads to family breakdowns, adversely affecting not only the couple but also their innocent children, dragging them toward ruin. The most common type of violence is intimate partner violence, known as domestic violence or violence by close partners or cohabitants (Kranz et al., 2005).

Domestic violence spans a wide spectrum, from psychological abuse to physical harm. In Iran, statistics reveal that 60% of domestic violence involves verbal and psychological abuse, while 40% pertains to physical and economic abuse (Alahverdi et al., 2022:324).

Today, domestic violence is prevalent across all provinces in Iran, making it a pressing social issue nationwide. In Golestan Province, domestic violence has escalated into a significant societal concern. According to the Director General of the Golestan Welfare Organization, the rate of domestic violence (spousal abuse) in Golestan is alarmingly high, ranking it as the third-highest province in the country. Nationally, the average rate of severe domestic violence is 7.4%, but Golestan and Sistan-Baluchestan report rates as high as 11.6% (Mehr News Agency, December 14, 2021). Given these circumstances, this research seeks to provide a sociological explanation of domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province.

Theoretical Framework of the Study

To provide a sociological explanation of domestic violence against women and men, this research utilizes key theories in the field, drawing upon Social Bond Theory, Resource Theory, and Order Theory.

Social Bond Theory

In his Social Bond Theory, Hirschi attributes conformity to social norms to the existence of bonds, positing that the most significant factor in controlling an individual's behavior is these bonds, and their absence leads to deviant behavior (such as violence). Hirschi argues that an individual forms emotions toward those with whom they have close ties, and these emotions prompt the individual to reflect on their actions and avoid deviant behaviors. He emphasizes four factors as influential in social bonds, among which two factors – attachment (dependency) and moral belief (conviction) – are highlighted in this study. Therefore, according to Hirschi's perspective, the weaker an individual's attachment (dependency) and moral belief, the weaker their social bonds, and the greater the likelihood of violence occurring between men and women against one another.

Resource Theory

Another theory utilized in this study is the Resource Theory. According to Resource Theory, the family, like any other system or social unit, possesses an authority structure. Whoever has greater access to important family resources compared to others can compel other members to act in alignment with their own desires. When an individual possesses significant resources or, conversely, when their resources are severely insufficient, the likelihood of resorting to violence as a strategy increases. This theory identifies two sources of power: economic resources and social resources. Essentially, the greater the disparity in power resources (economic and social) between men and women, the higher the likelihood of violence occurring within the household. Thus, Resource Theory has been employed in this study to examine the relationship between two variables – family power structure and relative socio-economic status – with the variable of domestic violence.

Order Theory

To examine the impact of four variables – empathy, cooperation, mutual fortune, and intellectual alignment between spouses – on the level of domestic violence among men and women, Chalabi's Order Theory has been employed. According to Chalabi, there are four issues within a family that every family must address in some way to ensure its continuity and survival. These issues are subsistence, management, social interaction, and upbringing. The subsistence dimension pertains to the family's basic needs and economic requirements.

Domestic Violence

Erich Fromm attributes violence to the frustration of unmet inner desires (Bashiri, 2015). Social Learning Theory views violence as a learned behavior, where it is taught as a means to achieve goals (Sinulok, 2004). Simply put, violence refers to actions intended to harm others, ranging from verbal abuse and physical assault to property destruction and even murder (Sarvestani, 2007: 113).

In the context of domestic violence, it includes physical, emotional, or economic abuse, as well as control, threats, or other unlawful actions. Such behaviors are inflicted on family members, including intimate partners, children, youth, and the elderly (Women's AIDS Organization, 2017).

Physical Violence

According to Trevillion et al. (2011), physical violence includes behaviors aimed at inflicting physical harm by the husband, such as hitting, kicking, punching, bending arms, pushing, pulling hair, using firearms, pouring boiling water, burning with cigarettes, or dragging on the ground (Vameqi et al., 2016).

Psychological Violence

Psychological violence involves actions where the perpetrator uses verbal pressures or humiliating gestures to demean, insult, and undermine the human dignity of the victim (Haj Nasiri et al., 2016: 11).

Economic (Financial) Violence

Economic violence refers to any abuse or mistreatment by either spouse that restricts access to family economic resources (Janabadi, 2016).

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence includes any non-consensual behavior, ranging from unwanted touching to acts of sexual assault or rape (Kar, 2008: 68).

Social Violence

Social violence is defined as the use of power by either spouse to control the behaviors of their partner (Janabadi, 2016).

Research Objectives

Main Objective

To identify the extent of domestic violence and the sociological factors influencing it in Golestan Province.

Specific Objectives:

- To examine the relationship between disorder and the level of domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province.
- To explore the relationship between social bonds and the level of domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province.
- To investigate the relationship between relative socioeconomic status and domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province.
- To analyze the relationship between family structure and the level of domestic violence against women and men in Golestan Province.

Research Hypotheses

1. There is a significant relationship between disorder in the family and domestic violence.
2. There is a significant relationship between social bonds and domestic violence.
3. There is a significant relationship between the relative socioeconomic status of spouses and domestic violence.
4. There is a significant relationship between the power structure in the family and domestic violence.

Research Methodology

The present study is applied in terms of its objective. From the perspective of its topic and method, it is correlational-causal, and in terms of its execution, it is survey-based. The nature of the data examined is quantitative, and since data collection involves individuals from the community (married individuals in Golestan Province), the method of data collection is field-based, conducted through questionnaires. The population studied in this research includes all married individuals in Golestan Province. The sample size, determined using G-Power software, is 311 individuals. The statistical population of this study, according to the latest census of population and housing in 2016, amounts to 983,452 individuals. This research employed a two-stage cluster random sampling method. In the first stage, the province was divided into several regions (clusters) such that the cities in Golestan Province were categorized into three groups: western cities, central cities, and eastern cities. Subsequently, specific cities were randomly selected from these regions as the sample for analysis: Bandar-e-Gaz and Gorgan from the west, Aliabad-e-Katul from the center, and Azadshahr and Gonbad-e-Kavus from the east.

In the second stage, each of the selected cities was further divided into relatively homogeneous clusters (regions), and finally, after identifying clusters and blocks, the final sample was selected using random sampling. To assess the reliability of the research, Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability, and the square root of average variance extracted (AVE) were used. The average variance extracted (AVE) and composite Cronbach's alpha for all research variables were above 0.5 and 0.7, respectively. These results indicate that the research instrument has acceptable convergent validity. In this study, the relationships between independent and dependent variables were examined and analyzed using SmartPLS software. The most common and appropriate method for assessing the reliability of Likert scales is Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Cronbach's alpha is used to calculate the internal consistency of measuring

instruments, such as questionnaires or tests measuring various attributes. For this study, Cronbach's alpha was employed to evaluate reliability. As a pre-test, the questionnaire was distributed and completed by 30 men and women residing in Golestan Province.

Table (1): Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients for Research Scales

| Cronbach's Alpha | Number of items | Variables |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 0.86 | 29 | Domestic violence |
| 0.89 | 7 | Dependency |
| 0.82 | 7 | Moral beliefs |
| 0.79 | 7 | Power structure |
| 0.92 | 8 | Empathy |
| 0.87 | 10 | Intellectual alignment |
| 0.83 | 10 | Cooperation |
| 0.85 | 10 | Mutual fortune |

Research Findings

a. Descriptive Findings

The frequency distribution of respondents based on the most significant demographic variables indicates that 51.8% of the respondents were men and 48.2% were women. Among the respondents, the highest frequency based on their city of residence belonged to Gorgan residents (55.9%), while the lowest frequency was observed among Bandar-e-Gaz residents (2.9%). In terms of education level, the highest frequency was for individuals with a bachelor's degree (32.5%), and the lowest frequency was for those with a doctorate degree (3.2%). Regarding ethnicity, the Turkmen ethnicity accounted for the highest frequency (29.6%), while the lowest frequency was related to the Kurd and Baluch ethnic groups (2.6%). Finally, in terms of income, the highest frequency of respondents belonged to those without any income, which included homemakers and unemployed individuals.

The descriptive findings revealed the following:

- 13.5% of respondents believed their spouse had exercised physical violence against them.
- 18.0% reported psychological violence.
- 21.5% mentioned economic violence.
- 25.7% experienced social violence.
- 21.2% stated that their spouse had committed moderate to severe sexual violence against them.

b. Inferential Findings

Structural Model Fit

At this stage, after analyzing and assessing the fit of the measurement model, the fit of the structural model is evaluated. In this second stage, path analysis procedures are utilized, assessing the determination coefficient and the model's goodness-of-fit index. In path analysis, the relationships between variables flow in a single direction and are considered distinct paths. The concepts of path analysis are best explained through its key feature – the path diagram, revealing the potential causal links between variables (Hooman, 2008).

These Figures illustrate critical information about the connections between variables, the flow of effects, and the significance of paths within the structural equation model.

Hypothesis Testing

After assessing the fit of the measurement, structural model and overall model, the hypotheses were tested. The significance coefficients of the model's paths indicate whether the hypotheses are statistically significant. These coefficients reveal the relationships between independent and dependent variables, showing whether one variable significantly affects another. Besides, the standardized path coefficients indicate what percentage of the changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables. This standardization, achieved by dividing the path coefficient by the standard deviation of the dependent variable from the mean, helps provide a clearer interpretation of the effects

of variables. Consequently, by analyzing and examining the significance and standardized path coefficients, conclusions can be drawn regarding the validity of the research hypotheses.

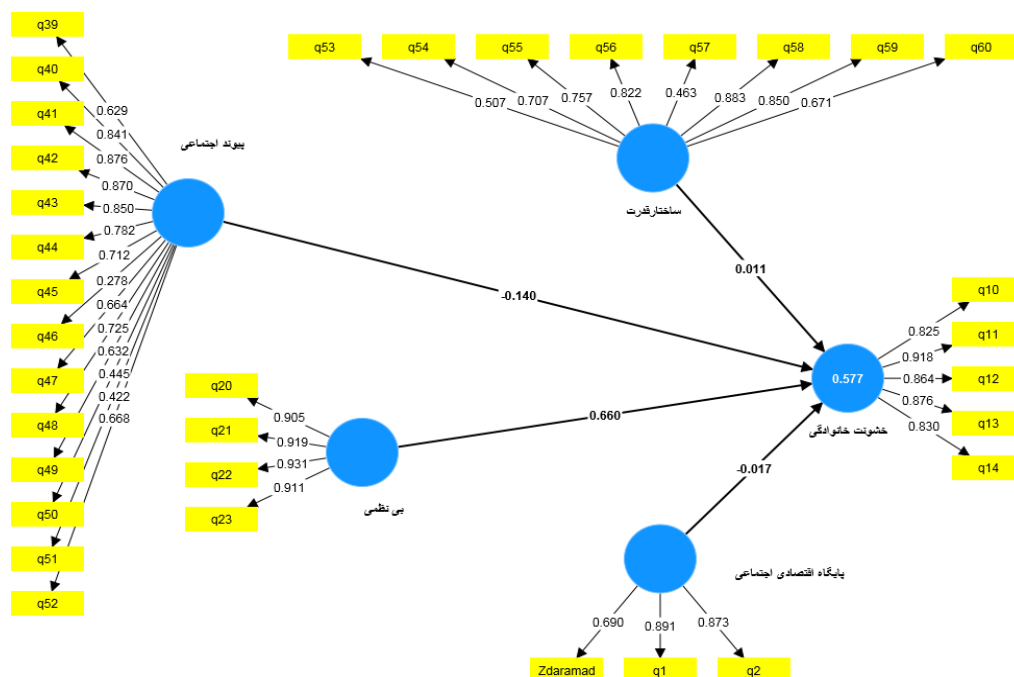


Fig (1): Conceptual Model with Standardized Estimates

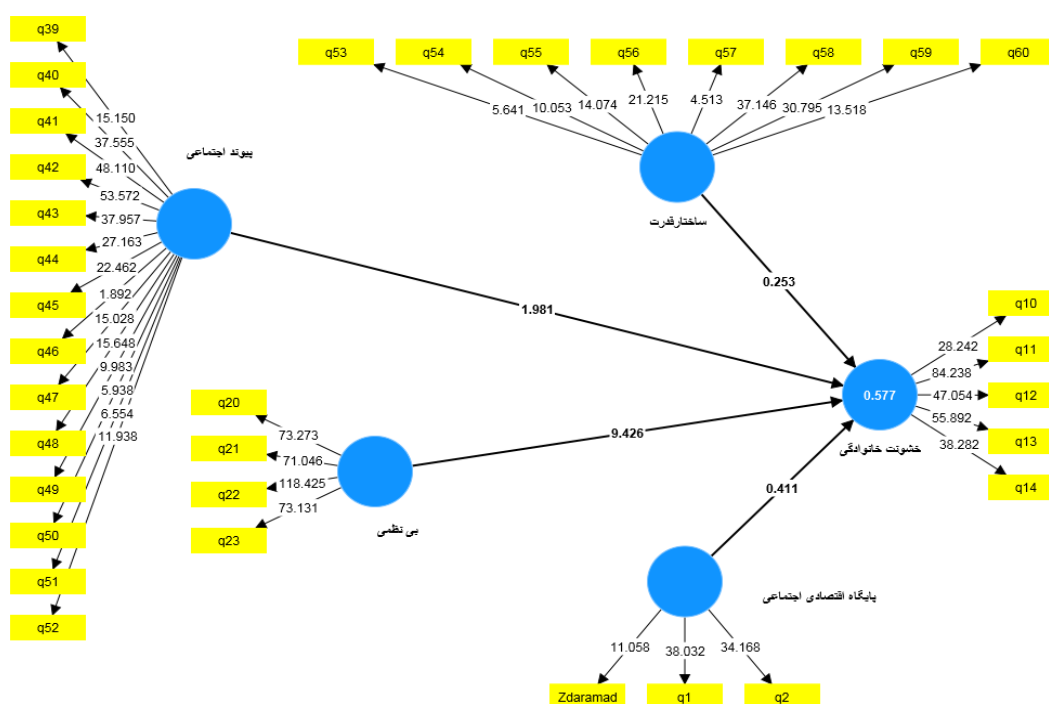


Fig (2): Conceptual Model with Significance Levels

In SmartPLS, the results of the PLS-SEM algorithm use a bootstrap approach, which includes direct effects, total indirect effects, specific indirect effects, and total effects. These results, available in the SmartPLS reports, enable mediation analysis (as proposed, for example, by Hair et al., 2017). The SmartPLS results facilitate the analysis of both single and multiple mediation models (e.g., parallel and serial mediation) (Hair et al., 2022).

Table (2): Hypothesis Testing Results

| Test result | Significance level | T statistic | Path coefficient | Path |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|--|
| Confirmed | 0.000 | 9.426 | 0.66 | Disorder --> Domestic Violence |
| Rejected | 0.801 | 0.253 | 0.011 | Power structure --> Domestic Violence |
| Rejected | 0.681 | 0.411 | -0.017 | Socioeconomic base --> Domestic Violence |
| Confirmed | 0.048 | 1.981 | -0.14 | Social bond --> Domestic Violence |

Testing Hypothesis 1:

There is a significant relationship between disorder in the family and domestic violence.

The significance level between the two variables, disorder in the family and domestic violence, is 0.000, with a t-statistic of 9.426, which is also significant. This means that the significance level is less than 0.05, and the t-statistic is greater than 1.96. Therefore, the first hypothesis is confirmed. The path coefficient is 0.660, indicating the level of influence of family disorder on domestic violence.

Testing Hypothesis Test 2:

There is a significant relationship between the power structure in the family and domestic violence.

The significance level between the two variables, power structure in the family and domestic violence, is 0.801, with a t-statistic of 0.253, which is not significant. This means that the significance level is greater than 0.05, and the t-statistic is less than 1.96. Therefore, the second hypothesis is rejected.

Testing Hypothesis Test 3:

There is a significant relationship between social bonds in the family and domestic violence.

The significance level between the two variables, social bonds in the family and domestic violence, is 0.048, with a t-statistic of 1.981, which is significant. This means that the significance level is less than 0.05, and the t-statistic is greater than 1.96. Therefore, the third hypothesis is confirmed. The path coefficient is -0.14, indicating the level of influence of social bonds in the family on domestic violence.

Testing Hypothesis Test 4:

There is a significant relationship between the socio-economic status in the family and domestic violence.

The significance level between the two variables, socio-economic status in the family and domestic violence, is 0.681, with a t-statistic of 0.411, which is not significant. This means that the significance level is greater than 0.05, and the t-statistic is less than 1.96. Therefore, the fourth hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion and Conclusion

The descriptive analysis revealed that:

The frequency distribution of respondents based on the most significant demographic variables is as follows: 51.8% of the respondents were men, and 48.2% were women. Among the respondents, the highest frequency based on the city of residence belonged to Gorgan residents with 55.9%, and the lowest frequency belonged to Bandar-e-Gaz residents with 2.9%. In terms of education level, the highest and lowest frequencies were for individuals with a bachelor's degree (32.5%) and a doctorate degree (3.2%), respectively. Regarding ethnicity, the highest frequency was for the Turkmen ethnicity with 29.6%, and the lowest frequency was for the Kurd and Baluch ethnic groups with 2.6%. Finally, in terms of income, the highest frequency of respondents was among those without income, which included homemakers and unemployed individuals. In the descriptive statistics section, in addition to addressing the demographic and personal characteristics of respondents, their social characteristics were also examined. In this study, it was observed that 13.5% of respondents believed their spouse had exercised physical violence against them, 18.0% reported psychological violence, 21.5% mentioned economic violence, 25.7% experienced social violence, and 21.2% of respondents believed their spouse had committed moderate to severe sexual violence against them. What characteristics these individuals have and what factors might contribute to increasing or decreasing domestic violence are questions addressed further in the discussion.

According to the findings of this study, variables such as age, gender, educational level, employment status, and income had a significant relationship with the level of domestic violence. Domestic violence against women was higher than against men and was more common among unemployed individuals and homemakers compared to employed individuals. Based on the findings of the present study, there is a significant negative relationship between age, educational level, and income with domestic violence. In other words, domestic violence against spouses is higher at younger ages compared to older ages. Moreover, domestic violence against spouses is less prevalent among educated individuals compared to those with lower education levels. On the other hand, the lower the income, the higher the level of domestic violence, which may be due to the greater economic and psychological pressures present in such families. In this study, SmartPLS software was employed to examine and analyze the causal relationships between independent and dependent variables. Based on the findings, with a significance level of less than 0.001, a direct relationship and effect between disorder in the family and the dependent variable of domestic violence were confirmed. This means that the greater the disorder in a family, the higher the level of domestic violence in that family. As a result, the research hypothesis regarding the significant relationship and effect between disorder in the family and domestic violence is confirmed. The findings of this hypothesis align with the findings of Ebrahimi and Almasi (2022), Yari Nasab and Amini (2021), Lewis et al. (2017), Sudat (2016), and Tavoli et al. (2016).

Domestic violence between spouses is one of the indicators of disorder within the family system. According to Chalabi's theory, the family is a dynamic institution in which, at the family level, various dimensions of relationships (empathy, cooperation, mutual fortune, and intellectual alignment) between men and women are proposed. Disorder and disruption in any of these dimensions create conditions that facilitate aggressive behaviors within the family. Furthermore, in examining the relationship between each dimension of disorder in the family and the level of domestic violence, the relationship between the two variables – lack of empathy and lack of cooperation between spouses – and domestic violence was also confirmed. This relationship is causal and positive, meaning that the greater the lack of empathy and cooperation between spouses, the higher the incidence of domestic violence.

According to Chalabi's perspective, if there is no shared empathy, all three elements – personality, interaction, and our collective identity – face problems in their expressive aspects. First, the individual loses their emotional commitment and attachment to others, particularly to the "we". Second, social interaction loses its meaning and significance, and all three elements take on an instrumental nature, drawing closer to destruction and annihilation. In examining the relationship between lack of cooperation and domestic violence, Chalabi believes that social order requires a kind of external compromise. While individuals share common interests, they also simultaneously and potentially hold conflicting interests, particularly in situations of scarcity. Through external compromise, a shared unity of action and cooperation can practically be achieved. It is evident that if the issue of shared cooperation (mutual external compromise) is not resolved, collective and long-term interests in the "we" relationship are overshadowed by individual and short-term interests. As a result, at least in external relations, the "we" loses its adaptive power, and internally, it faces cohesion problems. Another hypothesis of this research was the existence of a relationship between the two variables – social bonds and domestic violence. With a significance level of less than 0.001, the relationship and impact of social bonds on the dependent variable of domestic violence were confirmed. Given the negative impact coefficient, social bonds had an inverse effect on domestic violence. This means that the stronger the social bonds between spouses, the lower the level of domestic violence. As a result, the research hypothesis regarding the significant relationship and impact of social bonds on domestic violence is confirmed. The findings of this hypothesis align with those of Yari Nasab and Amini (2021), Yekehkar et al. (2019), Sudat (2016), and Tavoli et al. (2016).

Hirschi, in his Social Bond Theory, attributes conformity to social norms to the existence of bonds. He posits that the most important factor in controlling an individual's behavior is these bonds, and their absence leads to deviant behavior (such as violence). Hirschi emphasizes the role of attachment to family and moral beliefs as influential factors in social bonding. According to Hirschi, the weaker an individual's attachment (dependency) and moral beliefs, the weaker their social bonds, increasing the

likelihood of violence between men and women against each other. Furthermore, in examining the relationship between each of the dimensions of social bonds and domestic violence, the relationship between both the dimensions of moral beliefs and family attachment with domestic violence was confirmed. This relationship is causal and negative, meaning that the greater the moral beliefs and family attachment between the husband and wife, the lower the domestic violence between them. According to Hirschi, individuals living in similar social contexts share common moral beliefs. They may remain loyal to such shared values and also be sensitive to the rights of others, admiring lawful behaviors and staying faithful to them. If these beliefs disappear or weaken, it is more likely that individuals will engage in illegal and antisocial activities (Hosseini Nesar & Foyouzat, 2011:106). Based on this theory, the less committed, engaged, and believing individuals are, the weaker their bond with society, and the more likely they are to engage in deviant behaviors.

As the study hypotheses continue, the causal relationship between the two variables of power structure and socio-economic status with domestic violence was not confirmed. These findings are consistent with the results of research by Matloubi (2016), Salari (2016), and Dioband et al. (2009). According to resource theory, the family, like any other system or social unit, has an authoritative structure, and anyone with more access to the family's important resources than others can influence the other members to act in ways that serve their desires (Good, 1971). One reason for the lack of a meaningful effect of these two variables on domestic violence could be that it cannot be said that someone with more access to the important resources of the family than their spouse will necessarily use more violence against their spouse or exert power over them. This can also be interpreted the other way around, in that someone with fewer economic and social resources in the family may resort to violence against their spouse due to these limitations.

Research Suggestions

Practical Suggestions

1. Based on the research findings, social, economic, and sexual violence are the most common forms of violence among the studied couples. Therefore, it is recommended that educational and counseling workshops be held to manage and reduce such violence between couples in various environments such as universities, government offices, Basij centers, and even local neighborhoods.
2. Domestic violence is significantly higher among unemployed individuals than among employed individuals. It is recommended that the government support unemployed couples, particularly the head of unemployed families, by providing various subsidies to reduce the economic pressure on families.
3. Raising awareness among families about the importance of social support for their sons and daughters at the start of their married life and preventing conflicts and violence between spouses due to economic and psychological pressures in society. One of the intrinsic features of humans is their social nature. Properly managing relationships with the primary families, relatives, friends, and acquaintances, and benefiting from resources such as trust in important people around them and receiving their social, psychological, and financial support, positively affects marital interactions and helps reduce problems for spouses. Social support, by reducing stress and providing necessary backing, influences spouses' behaviors both directly and indirectly, affecting their interaction strategies and leading to more positive interaction strategies and improving the health of the relationship and marital satisfaction.
4. Mandating premarital workshops to raise awareness about the importance of order, empathy, and cooperation among couples to prevent domestic violence.
5. Providing communication skills training for individuals before marriage through local community Basij centers and universities.
6. Leveraging media platforms to raise awareness about violence against men and women, fostering social sensitivity to the issue.
7. Given that domestic violence is currently a social issue, it is recommended to establish a system for collecting and recording information about individuals who have experienced violence

within the family environment, to enable better intervention by social specialists to reduce this issue.

Research Recommendations

1. Future studies should explore class disparities between spouses as a potential factor influencing domestic violence.
2. Despite all the valuable findings of this research and the identification of the effective factors on the phenomenon of domestic violence, it only examined the direct effects of independent variables on the dependent variable. Therefore, it is recommended that future research focus on identifying not only the direct relationships but also the indirect relationships between independent and dependent variables.
3. Considering the importance of localizing research and the possibility of conducting studies on spousal violence, it is recommended that similar research be carried out in other provinces due to the impact that cultural and geographical factors can have on the quality and quantity of domestic violence, allowing for comparison between them.
4. Conducting qualitative studies with couples who have experienced violence to gain deeper insights into the causes of conflicts and violence in marital relationships.
5. Future research can examine factors influencing spousal violence from the perspectives of experts, including sociologists, psychologists, counselors, and social workers.
6. Given the importance of religion in Iranian society, future studies should evaluate the impact of religiosity and its type on domestic violence.

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