

## Analyzing the Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women with an Emphasis on Social Outcomes (Case of Study: Abused Women in Semnan City)

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**Abstract:** Domestic violence against women is one of the most significant social problems, resulting in numerous damaging individual, familial, and social consequences. The present research aims to analyze the consequences of domestic violence against abused women, with an emphasis on the social dimensions. The research approach is qualitative, and the methodology employed is phenomenology. The statistical population included all abused women in Semnan City in the year 2024-2025. The lived experiences of 27 of these women were studied using a purposive sampling method and a semi-structured interview tool. Data analysis was performed using thematic analysis. Findings revealed that domestic violence against women had damaging physical consequences (such as physical injuries, nervous problems, pregnancy complications, and risk of miscarriage), sexual consequences (such as sexual dissatisfaction and sexual violence, infidelity), psychological consequences (such as depression and anxiety, suicide), economic consequences (deprivation, economic insecurity, imposing medical expenses), and social consequences (including divorce, gender discrimination, and threats to social health) for the interviewed women. The conclusion is that domestic violence against women is a multi-dimensional phenomenon whose consequences are interconnected like a constellation in a chain, reinforcing each other. Therefore, the control, reduction, and prevention of domestic violence require comprehensive policymaking, planning, and strong implementation, which necessitates the serious commitment of specialists, planners, managers of institutions and organizations, and civil society.

**Keywords:** Analysis, Consequences, Domestic Violence, Women, Semnan.

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### Introduction

Domestic violence is one of the most critical social harms, possessing multiple individual and social dimensions and consequences, which typically occurs in various forms of spouse abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and husband abuse across all human societies. The most common form of domestic violence is violence against women by their partners, such that, based on existing statistics, approximately 35% of women globally have experienced this violence in some form during their lives. Domestic violence against women is any violent, gender-based act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, or actions that are distressing to women, or that lead to the compulsory deprivation of individual or social freedoms (Najafi Tavana & Jamshidi, 2023:2). Although domestic violence usually occurs within the confines of the family, it affects the lives of abused women in all individual, public, and social spheres. This is why its destructive consequences are clearly evident at the individual, family, and community levels, threatening social health as one of the most important social harms.

Domestic violence threatens women's health in various physical, psychological, and social dimensions. Endangering reproductive health—including creating pregnancy complications such as miscarriage, premature birth, stillbirth—harming mental health—such as depression, anxiety, fear, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)—as well as asthma, anemia, sleep problems, delinquency, and damage to women's self-esteem, and harming social health—including alcohol and illicit drug use, drug addiction,

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smoking, and attempts at suicide or spousal homicide—are among these destructive consequences. The occurrence of emotional divorces, the loss of women's dignity and respect in society, disruption of healthy intra-personal relationships in society, reduced productivity, the imposition of physical and psychological treatment costs, and the elimination of social vitality are among the unfortunate consequences of violence against women. Moreover, in addition to the consequences mentioned, acts of violence against women do not solely victimize this group; children are also affected by this situation. Children who witness violent behaviors, especially after infancy and in the years preceding puberty, show very negative effects, and at older ages, feelings of jealousy, hostility, and violence towards others are strengthened in them (Ibid., 2006:113). Furthermore, in adulthood, they either become victims of violence themselves or become perpetrators of violence against their spouses and children. Therefore, domestic violence leads to the psychological, physical, and social destruction of women, and consequently, the family and society. This article attempts to analyze the damaging consequences of the phenomenon of violence against women as an important sociological issue, with an emphasis on the lived experience of abused women, and to study and examine its unfortunate consequences.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Violence against women, which includes any gender-based violent behavior that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm or distress (Marvastinia, 2020:1), is a social problem and a violation of human rights. Violence against women is a phenomenon in which a woman is subjected to coercion and infringement of her rights by the opposite sex (men) purely because of her gender. When the violence occurs within the family framework between a husband and wife, it is termed domestic violence, and any act or potential behavior that leads to physical, sexual, or psychological harm, deprivation, or suffering is referred to as violence against women (Sohrabzadeh & Nouri, 2020:102). Based on existing statistics, one out of every three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence. It is estimated that globally, 736 million women (30% of women aged 15 and older) have been subjected to violence by an intimate partner, a non-partner, or both at least once in their lifetime. Rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV are higher in women who have experienced violence compared to those who have not, along with many other health problems that can persist even after the violence has ended (World Health Organization, 2021:23). In most modern societies, women are exposed to violence from men (whether a husband, father, or brother). Women are not only victims of men's violence, but the fear of confronting this violence severely overshadows their entire lives. Violence, of any kind, is an expression of dominance that strips the victim of human worth and dignity (Rashnoudi, 2020:1). Violence against women is by no means exclusive to underdeveloped or less developed societies; rather, in the most advanced countries in the world, women suffer from the consequences of violence, especially in family life. Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse not only endanger their well-being, mental health, emotional balance, and psychological health but also harm society (Zarshanas, 2021:10). A study of women in India revealed that about forty percent of rural Indian women experienced various types of violence, including physical, psychological, and sexual violence, and the main cause of violence against them, especially physical violence, was related to economic factors (Joarkar, 2016:27).

Brazil is recognized as one of the countries with the highest rates of violence against women. In recent decades, Brazil has adopted laws to protect victims and increase the penalties for perpetrators, which resulted from intense discussions raised by feminists, researchers, and other social activists involved in securing human rights (Sousa-Layal, 2018:20). In Europe, 82 percent of female parliamentarians reported experiencing some form of psychological violence during their term. Women cited social media as the main channel for this type of violence, and nearly half (44 percent) of them reported threats of death, rape, assault, or abduction against themselves or their families. 65 percent were mainly subjected to sexist remarks by male colleagues in parliament (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2016:3). The rate of violence against women is reported as 15 percent in Japan and 71 percent in Ethiopia. Regarding the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Iran, although precise and official statistics and documents are not available, various studies acknowledge its significant frequency among Iranian families. Kalantari's research in 2012, conducted in 28 provinces of the country, showed that 66 percent of women had experienced various forms of violence at least once in their married life. The results of

some studies by Iranian researchers indicate that the prevalence of violence against women is 85 percent in Shahrood, 60 percent in Ardabil, 47 percent in Khuzestan (Sadeghi, 1392:41), 46 percent in Kerman, 36 percent in Babol (Niazi, 2017:85), 30 percent in Kermanshah (Mohammadi & Mirzaei, 2012:118), 39 percent in Tehran, 87 percent in Mashhad, 92 percent in Bandar Abbas, 90 percent in Khorramabad, and 83 percent in Rasht. Overall, the prevalence of spousal abuse across all Iranian cities has been reported as sixty-six percent (Baghi, 2021:22). In the statistics presented by Yari Nasab et al. (1398), the most common forms of domestic violence against women are observed in verbal, psychological, and sexual dimensions. In a general estimate, the prevalence of domestic violence against women can be estimated in the range of 30 to 93 percent, with a portion of this population reporting such an experience at least once in their marital life (Jafarzadeh et al., 2020). Violence against women is divided into two parts: physical violence and psychological violence, which are imposed on women both at home and in society. According to feminists, sexual assault and spousal battering are serious crimes and among the most prevalent types of physical violence, which must be seriously addressed. The perpetrators of these crimes must also be condemned and punished with the same seriousness applied to other crimes (Abbott & Wallace, translated by Najm Iraqi, 2011:42). Battering by a spouse is another common form of violence against married women with a very high incidence (Saei Arasi, 2010:98).

The negative impact of violence against women violates women's health and rights. Findings from previous studies indicate that the negative effects of violence against women include conditions such as excessive fear and terror, becoming withdrawn, alienation, isolation, withdrawal, insomnia, feelings of weakness and malaise, dizziness, memory loss, palpitations, etc., which are signs of violating health as an inherent human right (Razavi & Azimian, 1400, p. 1). Study results have shown that women whose husbands exhibited cruel and violent behavior had lower self-esteem compared to women who did not have such an experience and struggled with problems such as depression and impaired social functioning (Kim, 2009:194). The causes of violence against women can be examined in various dimensions. Feminist theory considers male dominance and socialization for the use of power as the origin of violence. This view states that domestic violence is the result of patriarchy, male dominance, and gender inequality (Sharbatian & Tawafee, 2015:194). Various research studies have also reported the causes of violence against women in the family to include familial, individual, psychological, social, cultural, economic, and legal factors (Sohrabzadeh & Nouri, 1399:102), the unquestioning acceptance of male power and authority in the family, gender role socialization, male addiction, male dominance and authority, excessive interference by the husband's family, lack of social support (Heydari Nejad, 2020), encouraging men to adopt violent and destructive roles, poverty and low socio-economic status, dependence on narcotics, being afflicted with various mental illnesses (Marvastinia, 2020, p. 1), unemployment and the husband's economic problems, a history of previous hospitalization due to domestic violence, and spousal addiction (Sadrazadeh, 1399:26), economic and social status, the wife's non-acceptance of male authority and power, the wife's non-adherence to gender stereotypes, the husband's education (Taheri, 1393:1), the husband's literacy level and the number of children (Sung, 2015).

Given the importance of the issue of men's violence against women, its high prevalence through the statistics previously announced in the text, and its damaging consequences, this research seeks to analyze and identify the social and cultural consequences of violence against women in Semnan City, which, based on the results of some studies, has a high incidence of violence against women, with some violence rates against women cited from 45 percent (Fathi et al., 1391:25) to 72 percent (Saberian et al., 1382). Furthermore, no significant study, especially a deep and qualitative one, has been conducted on this topic in the last 10 years. The researcher's main question is: What are the most important social and cultural consequences of violence against women in Semnan City?

## **Research Questions**

### **Main Question**

What are the most important social and cultural consequences of violence against women in Semnan City?

### Sub-Questions

1. What are the most important social consequences of violence against women?
2. What are the most important cultural consequences of violence against women?
3. What are the most important solutions for controlling and reducing violence against women in Semnan City?

### Theoretical Foundations

#### *Definition of Domestic Violence*

The term “domestic violence” is a phenomenon that naturally takes shape within the core or institution of the family and encompasses various forms, such as: violence against children, violence against men, violence against women, and violence against the elderly. Anthony Giddens, the famous British sociologist, defined family violence as: “Physical assault perpetrated by one family member against another member or members” (Giddens, 2005:438).

#### *Types of Domestic Violence*

The types of domestic violence are categorized as follows:

- **Violence against Children (Child Abuse):** According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence against children is defined as: “Any harm or threat to the physical or mental health, well-being, or welfare of a child by parents or individuals responsible for them.” In other words, any physical, mental, sexual harm, abuse, neglect, or ill-treatment of children under the age of 18 by an individual who has custody and guardianship of the child, or by an older individual who may be within or outside the family unit (Ghamashchi, 2006:89).
- **Violence against Men (Husband Abuse):** Husband abuse (violence against men) is defined as: Abusive behavior by a wife against her husband that occurs within the family environment and violates his rights. This may have psychological, sexual, economic, or physical dimensions (Abbaszadeh et al., 2015).
- **Violence against the Elderly (Elder Abuse):** Elder abuse is a conscious action toward an older person that causes serious harm or injury to them. This harm may occur in various forms, knowingly, and be carried out by a caregiver or an individual trusted by the elderly person and who has a reliable relationship with them (Estebarsari et al., 2017:17).
- **Violence against Women (Spousal Abuse):** The United Nations provided this definition for violence against women: “Any gender-based violent behavior that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm and suffering to women. Such behavior may occur overtly or covertly through threats, coercion, or absolute deprivation of choice and freedom” (World Health Organization, 2019:198).

Violence against women means any gender-based violent act that causes, or is likely to cause, psychological harm and distress to women, including threats of such acts, forced or arbitrary deprivations of liberty in specific circumstances, in public life, or in private life. In fact, violence against women is a phenomenon in which a woman is abused and her rights are violated by the opposite sex solely because of her gender (Shahmohammadi, 2017:76).

#### *Types of Domestic Violence Against Women*

The types of violence against women can be categorized as follows:

1. **Physical or Bodily Violence:** This includes physical injuries such as assault with cold or hot weapons, slapping, kicking, and sometimes killing the victim.
2. **Psychological (Emotional) Violence:** Violent behavior that damages a woman’s honor, reputation, and self-confidence, and includes various forms of psychological humiliation and verbal mistreatment such as mockery, degradation, cursing, and swearing. Emotional violence is also considered a failure to meet physiological needs (Aghabigloui & Aghakhani, 2000:81).

#### **Continuation of Types of Violence against Women:**

- **3- Social Violence:** Includes various social prohibitions and limitations such as forbidding visits with relatives, friends, and colleagues, and cutting off telephone and social communications.

- **4- Economic Violence:** Includes economic restrictions such as the husband withholding household expenses, suspicion regarding the wife's use of family financial resources, severe and constant control over the wife's spending, and the husband hiding his income.
- **5- Sexual Violence:** This violence may occur in the private, marital, and familial spheres and is applied against the woman in the form of **compulsory obedience to the husband** or incestuous relations within the kinship circle (Mehran-Gizar, 2002: 346). Various forms of mistreatment in establishing sexual relations by husbands are recognized as domestic sexual violence against women, which women rarely report (Ahmadi, 2008: 227).

### **Consequences of Violence Against Women**

Violence against women has extensive consequences for the individual, family, and society, and its adverse effects can be felt across the entire social, economic, and cultural structure. The negative impacts of violence do not only affect women but permeate the entire family system and even the fabric of society. The consequences of domestic violence against women include physical, psychological, and socio-economic damages, which can have long-term effects on women's individual and social lives.

#### **1- Physical Injuries**

Physical injuries resulting from violence against women cover a wide spectrum of harm and problems, which can include physical injuries such as abrasions, fractures, burns, and serious damage to vital organs. It also includes the emergence of chronic problems such as chronic pain, arthritis, digestive problems, cardiovascular diseases, and migraine headaches, as well as the creation of fertility and sexual problems, such as pain during sexual intercourse, sexually transmitted infections, and fertility disorders. Impairment of the individual's physical function and a reduction in the woman's physical capacity over time due to repeated physical violence is one of the primary consequences of domestic violence against women (Alisana et al., 2016). Anderson (2016) reported in his research that physical deficits, death, chronic physical complaints, and impaired fertility are other physical consequences of domestic violence. Physical injuries and the occurrence of harm such as gastrointestinal disorders, chronic pain syndrome, gynecological and obstetrical disorders, unwanted pregnancies, premature labor pains, and premature birth are among the most important physical harms of domestic violence in women (Ahmadi et al., 2006).

#### **2- Psychological Injuries**

Violence against women has deep emotional and psychological consequences for them, including an increased risk of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, eating and sleeping disorders, low self-esteem, suicidal ideation, and substance/alcohol abuse. Anxiety and depression, decreased self-esteem and self-confidence, the occurrence of PTSD (accompanied by symptoms like nightmares, panic attacks, and anxiety), and suicidal thoughts among abused women are among the psychological consequences and effects of violence against women. Experiencing domestic violence gradually reduces the psychological well-being of victimized women and leads to a range of psychological injuries in her. Among the most important of these injuries are depression and anxiety, disorders that disrupt psychological well-being and impede her functioning in various life activities (Ahmadi et al., 2006). The World Health Organization (2016), in its comprehensive studies, identified depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, restlessness, and alcohol and substance use disorders as the most significant psychological harms of domestic violence in individuals. These harms gradually destroy the psychological security of individuals and undermine their desire to continue living. Overall, in the psychological dimensions, the most important consequences of violence are: low self-worth, low self-esteem, depression, suicide, anxiety, and reduced life satisfaction.

#### **3- Harmful Family Consequences**

In addition to physical and psychological harm, domestic violence can inflict irreparable negative effects on the structure of the family. The constructive role of women in creating moral and emotional bonds among family members is undeniable, and it is natural that if women are harmed within the family setting, the fulfillment of this constructive role is also seriously disrupted. Domestic violence, in addition to disrupting the individual's internal well-being, confronts marital and familial relationships with a range of functional disorders. These disorders challenge the successful continuation of this form of



relationship and completely disrupt its cohesion (Bashiri, 2015). The disruption of the family structure and the loss of its dimensional stability is one of the most significant damages of domestic violence against women in the family environment, during which the relational nature of the family system is disrupted, and the probability of its cohesion decreases significantly over time (Setayesh et al., 2017). According to study results, one of the most important complications of domestic violence against women is **divorce**. Amin et al. found in a study that from the perspective of women seeking divorce, violence was the most important factor that made them determined to divorce (Amin et al., 2019: 119). Domestic violence against women can lead to a disruption in family functions, and disruption in family function, and beyond that, the collapse of the family institution, confronts society with many problems and consequences, yet the majority of individuals are stuck between two social structures, which causes role conflict in the family (Aghajani, 2008: 15). Depression, emotional divorce, marital problems, infidelity, and child problems are only some of the destructive effects of domestic violence, each of which, in turn, can be a cause for the disintegration of the family foundation. In general, based on the results of conducted studies, domestic violence against women leads to the weakening of family ties, reduced family stability, the weakening of norms in controlling and regulating the behavior and relationships of family members, the weakening of emotional relationships among family members, and the disarray of the traditional family system.

#### **4- Socio-Economic Consequences**

Violence against women also has social and economic consequences. In the realm of social harms, it can include: the loss of a woman's honor and dignity in society, disruption in healthy interpersonal relationships within society, reduced productivity, the imposition of physical and psychological treatment costs, and the erosion of social vitality (Hoseinabadi et al., 2023: 20). The constellation of detrimental social consequences includes categories such as increased social harms and economic insecurity. Deficiencies in social communications and interactions with family and friends, inadequacy in performing social duties and functions, the transformation of the victim into an abuser, and the creation of disruption in healthy social relationships are other social consequences of violence against women (Noori et al., 2023: 119).

Violence against women can lead to social insecurity and a reduced sense of security in society. Furthermore, violence against women is a serious obstacle to sustainable development. When women suffer from violence, they cannot fully participate in society, become aware of their rights, and engage in economic and social activities; consequently, a serious blow is naturally dealt to the development process of any society. Violence against women is a major impediment to women's empowerment, gender equality, and the achievement of sustainable development goals, as it devastates lives, breaks families and communities, and halts development (Hoseinabadi et al., 2023: 29). Feelings of alienation, rejection, and relative deprivation are other undesirable social consequences and effects of violence against women.

Another of the social and economic effects and consequences of violence against women is the imposition of costs resulting from the control, prevention, and treatment of injuries sustained by abused women. This means that society bears the costs of violence against women in the form of establishing safe houses for women, providing social emergency services, handling judicial cases, police intervention, and medical or psychological treatments.

#### **Theoretical Model of the Research**

A model explains the relationship between a theoretical framework (theory) and the process of data collection and analysis. In social sciences, models consist of signs and symbols that logically express the characteristics of empirical phenomena (including their components and relationships) through interconnected concepts. Therefore, a model reflects reality and embodies certain aspects of the real world relevant to the issue under investigation. It clarifies the major relationships among these aspects and ultimately allows for the empirical testing of the theory, considering the nature of these relationships. After testing the model, a better understanding of some parts of the real world is achieved. In summary, a model is a system composed of concepts, hypotheses, and indicators that facilitates the selection and collection of data needed to test hypotheses (Irannejad, 1998: 50). Models are a reflection of reality and the main relationships between the components of phenomena, presenting a general picture

of reality (Alvani, 2000: 54). In this research, given that a qualitative approach with an emphasis on women's lived experiences is considered for studying domestic violence against women, a specific model or methodology is not pre-determined. The researcher, based on the phenomenological method, has explored the causes and consequences of the aforementioned phenomenon through interviews with abused women and has conducted an analysis of the findings by analyzing the themes obtained from the interviews.

### **Theory of Phenomenology**

Phenomenology is one of the most important theories in sociology, with the primary goal of understanding the fundamental structure of experienced human phenomena and achieving conceptual depth in lived experiences. Phenomenology is essentially the study of lived experience or the lifeworld (Max Van Manen, 1997: 9). Phenomenology focuses on the world as it is lived by an individual, not on a world or reality that is separate from humans (Walle et al., 1989: 5). Thus, it raises the question of what kind of experience lived experience is, as phenomenology seeks to reveal meanings as they are lived in everyday life. Phenomenology is, in fact, an attempt to describe lived experiences without prior theory about those experiences (GrosI & Mohammadi Dolatabadi, 2011: 62). Phenomenology, founded by Edmund Husserl, deals with the study of natural and social phenomena; that is, it studies how things appear to individuals or how phenomena are experienced by individuals. Simply put, phenomenology is the description or interpretation of things that individuals experience (Ibid: 89). The main goal of phenomenology is to uncover individuals' diverse experiences of the phenomenon under investigation to arrive at its true nature and essence. The presupposition of phenomenology is that the world and its phenomena exist outside of humans, and humans can perceive an image of it like a revealing mirror. Phenomenology focuses on the world as it is lived by an individual, not a world or reality that is separate from humans. The lifeworld is the experience that is obtained without deliberate thought and without resorting to categorization or conceptualization, and it usually includes things that are taken for granted or are commonplace (Ibid). Van Manen, a proponent of phenomenology, believes that the definition of lived experience encompasses four main dimensions: the lived body, lived time, lived space, and lived human relations. Lived human relations, completing the fourth side of this square, refer to all the relationships that each human has with others throughout life, sharing time and space with them; all those who, in the course of life, have influenced and been influenced by the thoughts and feelings of others within a specific role (Kavas, 2010: 89). In this research, violence, as an unpleasant phenomenon, predominantly occurs against women within the family and society. They encounter and experience it in specific ways. Based on the phenomenological method, the details of this phenomenon during shared life between men and women, or parents, as well as with others, friends, and acquaintances in the workplace and society, are examined and contemplated. Women, as actors in this phenomenon, gain their experiences, and the researcher endeavors to uncover them.

### **Research Methodology**

Given the nature of the subject, this research is of the field study type, conducted with the aim of discovering the lived experience of abused women from a phenomenological approach; thus, the research method is purely descriptive. The statistical population of the research was all abused women in Semnan city in the year 2024-2025 Gregorian calendar. Based on the principle of theoretical saturation, 27 of them were studied using the semi-structured interview technique. The thematic analysis technique was used for data analysis. In this regard, the extraction of concepts, categories, and themes from the sentences and words of the study samples was carried out after conducting semi-structured interviews and utilizing the interpretive type of phenomenology theory. Since in qualitative research using the phenomenological approach and thematic analysis method, transcribed interviews must undergo a systematic and continuous process in three stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. For this purpose, in open coding, the interview texts were read several times, and the main sentences were extracted and recorded as codes; then, similar codes were grouped into categories. In axial coding, categories were related to their subcategories to provide more precise and complete explanations about the phenomenon. Also, in axial coding, the initial categories formed in open coding were compared with each other, and those with similarities were organized around a common axis.

Finally, after extracting concepts, themes, categories, and categorizing them, and mapping the network of themes based on interpretive phenomenology, the data analysis was performed.

## Research Findings

### Descriptive Findings

An examination of the demographic characteristics of the 27 abused women studied shows that their mean age was approximately 34.5 years, with the oldest being 50 and the youngest being 16. The youngest participant reported being married at the age of 14. In terms of education, the highest frequency was in the **diploma** level with 9 individuals (33.33%), followed by **less than a diploma** with 9 individuals (33.33%), and next, the **Bachelor's degree** level with 7 individuals (26%). The lowest frequency was at the **Master's degree** level with 1 person (3.7%), and 1 person was illiterate. Regarding their current marital status and cohabitation, 70% of the respondents (19 individuals) stated that they are currently living together. 15% (4 individuals) are in the process of divorce and living separately with their parents or in welfare safe houses, and 4 individuals (15%) were divorced. Regarding the duration of marriage, the average length of cohabitation was about 11 years. The maximum and minimum durations of cohabitation were 25 years and 2 years, respectively. The frequency distribution of the participants' employment status shows that the majority were **homemakers**, with 14 individuals (52%) reporting being housewives. 8 individuals (29.5%) were employees in the public and private sectors, and 5 individuals (18.5%) had self-employment jobs such as tailoring, hairdressing, school service driving, etc. Information obtained from the respondents regarding housing status also indicates that the majority, 16 individuals (59.3%), are **tenants**, and the rest own their homes, although some of these personal residences belong to parents where these women reside.

*Table (1): Summary of Research Findings in Themes*

Main Theme	Sub-Themes (Dimensions)	Semantic Units (Consequences)
Consequences of Violence	Physical Injury	Bodily harm, neurological problems, gastrointestinal and cardiac problems, pregnancy complications, and risk of miscarriage.
	Sexual Injury	Sexual dissatisfaction, coldness in marital relations, aversion. Sexual infidelity.
	Psychological Injury	Depression and anxiety, low self-esteem, fear and restlessness, risk of suicide, suspicion, and mistrust.
	Social Injury	Divorce, gender discrimination, loss of women's dignity, severance of family and social ties, threat to social health.
	Economic Injury	Economic insecurity, deprivation, imposition of medical costs resulting from violence.

### Detailed Findings of Themes and Semantic Units (Consequences of Violence)

Based on the findings from interviews with 27 abused women, the consequences of violence, according to their perspectives, were extracted and categorized into 5 dimensions of violence. In this categorization, the actors' approaches to the consequences of violence were extracted; meaning the phrases and semantic units used were categorized into five sub-components: Physical Injury, Sexual Injury, Psychological Injury, Social Injury, and Economic Injury. For this purpose, the phrases and semantic units used by the studied abused women were collected and extracted in a table format, drawn row by row and column by column, similar to the previous tables.

*Table (2): the phrases and semantic units used by the studied abused women*

Component	Code 1	Code 2	Code 3	Code 4	Code 5
Physical Injury	"He would hit me so hard I felt my bones were shattering."	"He wasn't one to beat me, but he put me under extreme nervous pressure."	"He wounded me with a knife a few times."	"He would beat me in front of my family."	"He hits my head a lot and broke my arm once or twice."



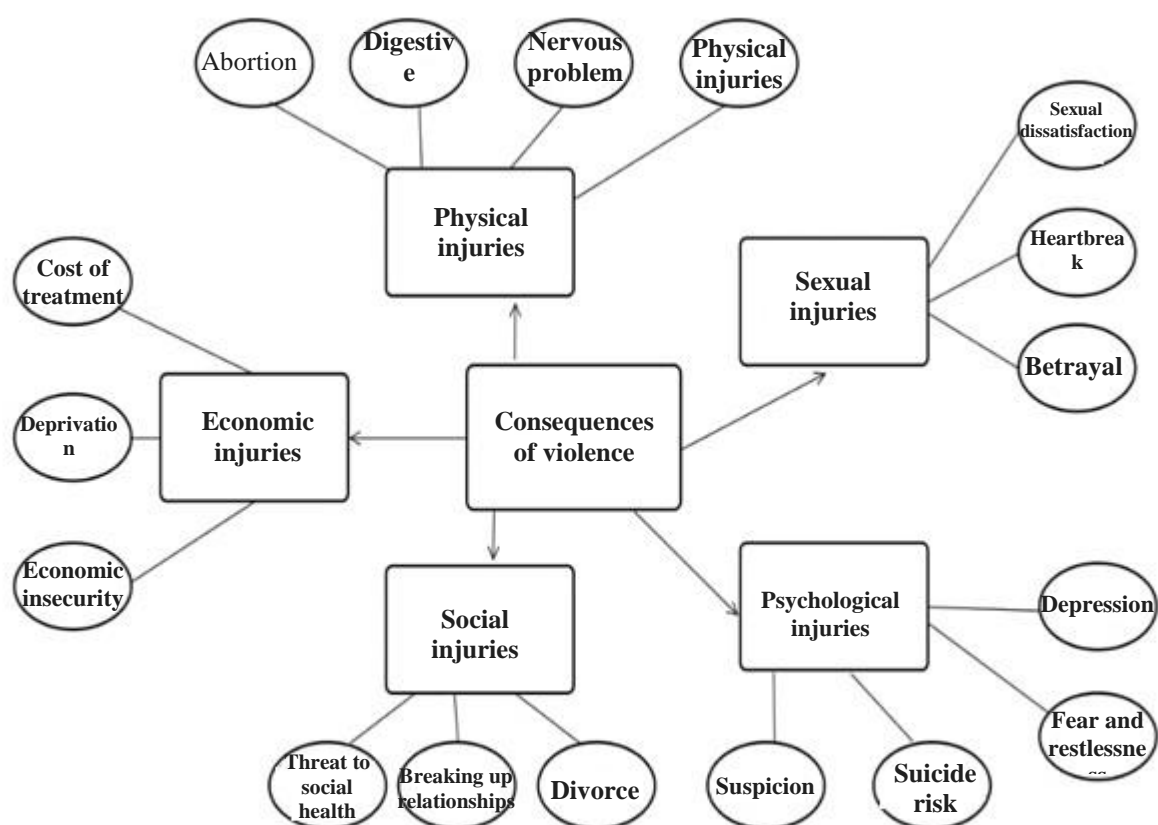
<b>Sexual Injury</b>	"I got married when I was 16, and I was greatly troubled in sexual relations in the early days."		"In relations, he only thinks of himself and doesn't pay attention to me at all."	"It was only good in the beginning; after that, it brings me no pleasure."	"He made me averse to sexual relations."
<b>Psychological Violence</b>	"He uses a lot of vulgar and abusive language; my body trembles."	"He would curse and harass me psychologically and mentally."	"He constantly reminds me of the miseries of my past life."	"-He constantly flaunts my family's poverty. -I became depressed."	"Due to his anger and abuse, I once attempted suicide with 30 pills."
<b>Social Injury</b>		"My husband prevented us from having good relations with family and relatives."	"He restricted me a lot because of his suspicion."	"My husband had cut off contact with my family."	"Not only me, but he also doesn't allow the children to go out with their friends."
			<b>Economic Injury</b>	"He doesn't give money for the house expenses, let alone for me."	"He never took us on trips or for recreation."
<b>Component</b>	<b>Code 6</b>	<b>Code 7</b>	<b>Code 8</b>	<b>Code 9</b>	<b>Code 10</b>
<b>Physical Injury</b>	"-I had a miscarriage because of his beatings."		"I have digestive problems due to stress and anxiety."		"He broke my nose and tore the skin on my face."
<b>Sexual Injury</b>	"He is very demanding and aggressive in relations."		"He is very deficient in marital relations."		"He spares even a simple caress during intercourse."
<b>Psychological Injury</b>	"-He is very foul-mouthed and curses. - He constantly rubs in the good financial situation of his second wife in my face."		"He constantly accuses me of having a boyfriend."		"His suspicion that I am cheating on him harasses me."
<b>Social Injury</b>	"One night he threw me out of the house at midnight."		"He consumes drugs in front of me and the children with his friends."		"He has no trust in me and controls me all the time."
<b>Component</b>	<b>Code 11</b>	<b>Code 12</b>	<b>Code 13</b>	<b>Code 14</b>	<b>Code 15</b>

<b>Physical Injury</b>	"He kicked my stomach, and my amniotic sac ruptured."		"I developed a neurological/psychiatric illness."	"He constantly hits me with his fists and kicks, and pulls my hair."	"He tried to strangle me with a scarf."
<b>Sexual Injury</b>			"Our sexual relations are infrequent, but he still abuses me."	"His sexual behavior is aggressive, and he demands anal sex."	"I had no feeling, and I was glad about it."
<b>Psychological Injury</b>	"I get very anxious and stressed when he gets angry."		"My husband is very aggressive and curses. I have no peace."	"I am disheartened and hopeless about life."	"Neighbors called the police several times because of his abusive behavior."
<b>Social Injury</b>	"He doesn't allow us to visit my family."		"He has ruined my children's relationship with me."		"He used to imprison me in a room, and the police would come to save me."
<b>Economic Injury</b>		"Because my child was born prematurely due to their fighting, we paid a lot in hospital fees."		"He has little income from his early retirement and spends it on his illness and his mother's."	"He doesn't provide an allowance, and I cover living costs from my hairdressing income."
<b>Component</b>	<b>Code 16</b>	<b>Code 17</b>	<b>Code 18</b>	<b>Code 19</b>	<b>Code 20</b>
<b>Physical Injury</b>	"He hits me in a way that leaves no marks on my body."	"He beats me in public as much as at home."	"When he got angry, he threw whatever was at hand at me."	"One night, I was badly beaten because of his mother's words."	"He beat me in the ambulance during my third delivery."
<b>Sexual Injury</b>	"He has rough and unreasonable sexual relations by force every night."	"He has raped my sister."	"When I wasn't in the mood, he forcibly had sex with me."	"He has no idea about foreplay during sex and treats me like an animal."	"We have no sexual relations; sometimes, he doesn't come home for a year."
<b>Psychological Injury</b>	"He talks to his girlfriends in front of me and makes me furious."	"He accuses me of bad things in the street and in front of people; I am ashamed."	"I went crazy when I heard he was having relations with my mother."	"I am constantly anxious, and I have developed a nervous tic."	"He always says he loved his first wife much more than me."
<b>Social Injury</b>	"He constantly brags about his wealthy	"He has destroyed my reputation in		"Only his mother matters to him, and he	"My husband is a fugitive and doesn't let us

	family in front of me.”	front of neighbors.”		shows no respect to us.”	socialize much with others.”
<b>Economic Injury</b>	“He spends most of his income on his relations with his clients.”	“-He pays neither alimony nor dowry. -I stayed at a welfare safe house for a while.”	“He spends whatever he earns on hashish and alcohol.”	“I have a good salary, but he forcibly takes most of it.”	“He didn’t pay for the pregnancy costs, and now he doesn’t pay for living expenses or my treatment.”
<b>Component</b>	<b>Code 21</b>	<b>Code 22</b>	<b>Code 23</b>	<b>Code 24</b>	<b>Code 25</b>
<b>Physical Injury</b>	“People whose hats I took off because of my husband beat me up severely.”		“He used to wound my chest and body with a razor in the bathroom.”	“He wounded me several times with a knife and threatened me with acid splashing.”	“If the landlord hadn’t come to my aid, he would have suffocated me.”
<b>Sexual Injury</b>	“I was subjected to group rape once.”	“My husband is homosexual and has relations with me very little.”	“After becoming addicted, he has no capacity for sexual relations at all.”	“Before his addiction, he would force intercourse every night.”	“Sexual relations were not important to him at all. I got a boyfriend too.”
<b>Psychological Injury</b>	“I am very anxious and constantly bite my nails.”	“I am restless all night and fear that my husband might do something to my child.”	“I have severe depression and take medication.”	“He had a psychiatric illness; I was always afraid he would do something to me.”	“I am very afraid of him, and my whole body trembles. I don’t sleep well.”
<b>Social Injury</b>	“We are on the run due to fraud involving him.”	“Because he is homosexual, he doesn’t allow us to have relations with others.”	“He used to force me to go with him to buy drugs so they wouldn’t suspect him.”	“He accused me of infidelity in front of strange men. He left me with no reputation.”	“He always disrespected my family, including my mother, in public.”
<b>Economic Injury</b>		“He is not willing to spend money on his own treatment, let alone ours.”	“He sells household items to buy drugs.”	“He forced me to pay the house rent with my meager wage.”	“When I received my salary, he forcibly took it for his drug expenses.”
<b>Component</b>	<b>Code 26</b>			<b>Code 27</b>	
<b>Physical Injury</b>	“He mostly humiliated me and engaged in verbal abuse rather than physically beating me.”			“-He bangs his head against the walls and doors. -He wounds my hands with a knife.”	

<b>Sexual Injury</b>	"Because of his delayed ejaculation and high expectations of me, I never enjoyed sex with him."	"He thinks other women are heavenly virgins."
<b>Psychological Injury</b>	"Due to fear of his bigoted behavior, I had become a liar."	"Since he cheated on me, I have nightmares every night."
<b>Social Injury</b>	"-I couldn't leave the house without my fiancé's permission. -He didn't allow me to sit at the same dining table with male relatives."	"As long as I can remember, there has been discrimination and inequality between men and women."
<b>Economic Injury</b>	"He didn't buy me nice clothes, cosmetics, or similar things."	"-He has no money and no job; his father pays his expenses."

### Sub-Core of the Network of Themes in Consequences of Violence



### Approaches and Suggestions

Domestic violence against women has a history as long as human history and constitutes the most common form of domestic violence, which today strikes at the roots and foundation of many families and, ultimately, society. Domestic violence against women is a multidimensional phenomenon whose consequences are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, like planetary systems linked in a chain. The research findings indicate that the most significant consequences of violence against women are:

- **Physical Injuries:** Including physical harm such as broken limbs, neurological problems, gastrointestinal and cardiac issues, headaches, pregnancy complications, and the risk of miscarriage.
- **Sexual Injuries:** Including sexual dissatisfaction, coldness in marital relations, and sexual infidelity.
- **Psychological Injuries:** Including depression and anxiety, low self-esteem, fear and restlessness, risk of suicide, suspicion, and mistrust.
- **Social Injuries:** Including gender discrimination, disrespect towards women, severance of family ties, creation of communicative and social deprivations, and threat to social health.
- **Economic Injuries:** Including inequality, economic insecurity, and the imposition of medical costs resulting from violence.

Naturally, these harms severely threaten the individual health (physical and psychological), family health, and social health of women. Among these, one of the most damaging consequences of domestic violence against women is the social consequence. Gender bias, emotional and physical divorce, the eradication of women's dignity, and the creation of restrictions and communicative deprivations, along with the threat to social health, are among the most important of these outcomes. Harassment of women, in addition to the harms and consequences at the individual and family levels, also has repercussions at the macro-social level, such as women's withdrawal from social participation, imposition of restrictions on family relations, and self-confinement at home. One of the most important approaches derived from this research is that while solving many societal problems depends on comprehensive attention and an integrated, interdisciplinary view of the various dimensions of the issue, this crucial point was not sufficiently observed in the matter of domestic violence against women. Previous empirical studies have shown that despite the attention given to the issue of violence against women by academic and organizational researchers, these studies have not been interdisciplinary or comprehensive. They have primarily viewed the issue through a purely sociological, psychological, or legal lens. A comprehensive, multi-faceted, and interdisciplinary study involving sociologists, psychologists, legal experts, economists, etc., has not been conducted. Consequently, the existing research, despite its many benefits, has failed to bring about tangible change in policymaking bodies, decision-making forums, and responsible organizations, resulting in society still being afflicted by this destructive problem. Therefore, it is necessary to seek solutions for controlling and reducing this problem by utilizing various social, economic, cultural, psychological, and legal experts, while conducting multi-disciplinary studies with an inter-sectoral perspective across responsible agencies and institutions.

Another approach of this research is that despite numerous studies conducted in recent decades with various approaches, and the provision of valuable and practical results and suggestions by researchers at individual, family, and social levels from psychological, sociological, and legal perspectives, these suggestions have not been adequately heeded by policymakers, planners, officials, and managers of relevant organizations and institutions. The continuation and intensification of the cycle of domestic violence against women in recent years is evidence of this neglect. Therefore, serious action by policymakers, planners, and managers is necessary for the application of research findings. The third approach is that despite the widespread prevalence of domestic violence against women, there is no comprehensive database regarding abused women in Iran. Therefore, it is proposed that a comprehensive system be established for collecting and recording information on individuals subjected to violence within the family environment. This is essential for better planning to enable social experts to intervene more effectively in controlling and reducing this destructive phenomenon. Finally, given that the negative effects of violence against women in the family, in addition to having physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences, do not only affect women but also inflict serious damage on the entire family system and even the structure of society, reducing the consequences of violence against women requires actions such as increasing awareness at the individual, family, and social levels, strengthening laws, economically empowering women, involving men and boys in changing attitudes, and supporting victims through therapeutic and counseling services. Encouraging women and girls to report domestic violence and making legal avenues for pursuing these cases accessible is also very important.



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