

980 IMPROVING CARE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN RESOURCE-POOR SETTINGS SUCH AS LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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Background Violence is a leading worldwide public health problem and obstructs achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. 90% of the global burden of violence and injury mortality occurs in low-income and middle-income countries. 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. In Zambia, gender-based violence against women and girls is widespread, with >50% of women reporting some form of abuse.

Methods Health professionals from Zambia and Austria conducted a low-cost intervention in Lusaka, Zambia, intended to improve care outcomes for victims of interpersonal violence (IPEV). It was designed to build on existing health and social services infrastructures. During 1 year, 174 victims of IPEV seen at the Lusaka University Hospital emergency room were interviewed. An intervention included training for medical and social service personnel and distribution at key locations of printed materials on services available to IPEV victims.

Results Postintervention data analysis revealed that victims of IPEV had improved understanding of available social services, and victims' confidence was increased about receiving additional help and articulating health concerns. Other benefits: improved visibility, networking among partner organisations; new descriptive data about IPEV victims; improved cross-cultural understanding among medical participants.

Conclusions Low-cost interventions may improve care for victims of violence in resource-poor settings. Improved cooperation among social service and medical providers may improve care for victims of IPEV and also benefit agencies through strengthened relationships and flow of information. North–South cooperation should be encouraged at the institutional level. Profiles of victims contribute to global data on violence. Recommendation: low-cost interventions should continue to be explored to improve care for victims of IPEV in resource-poor settings.

981 THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ABUSE ON WIVES AND PARTNERS: SOME CASE STUDIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Background This study looked into the psychological effects of abuse and battering on wives/partners. In the Philippines, the most prevalent form of violence against women is physical abuse or wife/partner battering based on the records of the Philippine National Police. Cases of wife battering register high, though it decreased from 3,184 in 2000 to 1,475 cases in 2007 (latest data) according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This can be attributed to the enactment of Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act of 2004).

Methods The methods used were: 1) structured interview of psychologists; 2) secondary data gathering, such as analysis of case studies culled from records of the Philippine General

Hospital—the largest tertiary hospital in the entire Philippines; and 3) interviews of psychiatrists in the hospital where the cases used in this study were treated.

Results Wife battering refers to violent acts, such as psychological, sexual or physical assault, by an assailant against his wife or partner made with the intent of controlling the partner by inducing fear and pain. One patient in this study (Case A) showed that she was stabbed twelve times by her live-in 'matador' partner who works in a slaughter house. Case B was about a partner who was forced to do abnormal sexual favours for her husband. For Case C, the husband raped their daughter. All three cases manifested depression in various forms with varying symptoms. Case A manifested symptoms of depression, fear, and panic of being attacked again by the assailant. Case B and Case C were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Conclusions Violence in household leads to psycho-social effects on victims. Therefore, appropriate counselling and treatment must be readily made available. There must also be legal remedies and security interventions offered by concerned government agencies to address the issues of wife/partner battering in the Philippines.

982 POLICE PERCEPTION AND INTERVENTION IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SITUATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

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Background In December 2012, the province of New Brunswick in Canada released its crime prevention and reduction strategy. A priority area within this strategy is intimate partner violence (IPV). Part of this strategy is to propose an appropriate intervention shared by all police forces (municipal and federal) in the province. In the past three years, police agencies have started implementing their own strategies. In 2013, our research team started a study on various forms of police intervention, how they make a difference in preventing and reducing IPV crimes, and the degree to which such formalised strategies actually inform day-to-day police-response to IPV. The research itself involves a close collaboration with police agencies in New Brunswick.

Methods In 2014, we conducted an on-line survey with police agencies to measure the attitudes and perceptions New Brunswick police officers have with regards to IPV issues. The survey questionnaire was comprised of over 166 questions, including how police officers are perceiving and defining the issue of intimate partner violence. In 2015, a second phase of the research was to review actual police files to capture their actual response to IPV cases in their communities. A sample of 300 closed domestic dispute files from 2014 and 2015 were randomly selected from police files from three different police agencies in New Brunswick.

Results In our study we found three main definitions of IPV used by police officers: the factual forms of violence referring to physical, psychological and verbal, the legal definition related to criminal offences and a social definition reflecting the complexity of the issue such as control, pattern and reciprocity. Research has shown that police officers are responding according to their understanding of the issue. Our study illustrates how the actual intervention to domestic dispute calls is directly impacted by their understanding of the issue.

Conclusions Results from the research project are being used to both prepare an evidence-informed template for IPV intervention for police in New Brunswick and improve training for police officers.

983 THE PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Background Women experienced violence in many different forms. It may be physical, sexual, psychological, economical, social and cultural abuse but most commonly is the combination of these. Studies have shown that the rate of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is still a public health problem. It has both physical and psychological consequences to the victim.

Description of the problem This study was conducted with the aim of determining the prevalence, background characteristics of women and perpetrators and severity of injury.

This was a hospital based cross sectional descriptive study among 6914 women, above 15 years of age attended to the ER, Yangon General Hospital. 134 women who were due to intimate partner violence were interviewed by trained persons using a structured questionnaire.

Results The findings showed the rate of IPV against women is 1.94% and occurred commonly in young aged of 21–30 years. Alcohol use of male partner was significantly associated with violence. The nature of physical injuries ranged from minor injuries such as abrasions or bruises to major conditions as fractures and internal organ injury. Women with low education and socioeconomic status were more commonly to be committed by their intimate partners.

Conclusion The findings indicate that prevalence of IPV against women is increasing and commonly occurred in young age. The majority of women who experienced IPV have low socioeconomic and education status. There is strong correlation of IPV with alcohol usage of male partner. Prevention of IPV against women should be an urgent public health priority. There should be policies and laws which limits people from alcohol abuse. Health policy makers should plan for possible interventions on prevention of intimate partner violence including provision of education. Health care providers need to be sensitised to the issues of intimate partner violence in order to recognise and treat early.

984 EXPERIENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG UNIVERSITY LEVEL FEMALE STUDENTS IN KATHMANDU

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Background Intimate partner violence (IPV) is considered as a private matter, remains hidden and only partly reported in Nepal. Secondary data shows that IPV is increasing in Nepal. Family members and husband are the most common perpetrators for IPV. Available literature indicates the situation is worse among females with poor socio-economic status and lower literacy. No separate evidence of the situation among educated females is

available. This study explored violence experienced by university female students and its association with background variables.

Methods This is a cross-sectional survey of female students conducted in 2014 under MENTOR-VIP. The survey questionnaire comprised of 7 sections adopted from WHO's Women's Health Study tools. 500 students (total 2,300) were sampled and 370 were interviewed. Among them 123 were married. Logistic regression was applied to assess the association of independent variables on intimate partner violence. Ethical approval was obtained from the Research Division of Tribhuvan University.

Results Prevalence of intimate partner violence was high (33%); married students also experienced physical violence. Married students who have land ownership, employed, member of community groups and higher level of husband's education were less likely to experience physical violence. Married students who do not have own land (OR = 2.92), not employed (OR = 1.21) were more likely to experience violence than those having own land and employed. Similarly, lower level of husband's education (OR = 3.35) and unskilled jobs (OR = 1.56) were associated to higher occurrence of violence compared to university level of education and white collar job or working abroad.

Conclusions This study found that intimate partner violence also exists among Nepalese females in higher education. The results provided diverse understandings of lifetime experience of intimate partner violence and would contribute to design intervention and future research agenda in this regard.

985 WHAT DOES LIBERALISATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN HAVE TO DO WITH MALE VICTIMISATION?

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Background Previous studies on gender differences in aggression focused on physical aspects of the behaviour, and often showed males more aggressive than their female counterparts. This though, does not mean women are non-aggressive. In this paper, we examine the nature of women's aggressive behaviour towards men in their intimate partner relationship in two different societies.

Methods The present study employs complementary methodologies to provide quantitative and qualitative data on intimate partner aggression. It applies the construct direct and indirect aggression to investigate aggressive behaviour in heterosexual intimate relationships in Ghana using the Direct Indirect Scales for Adult (DIAS-Adult), (n = 1204), and by analysing ethnographic interviews and observations conducted over two years in Bosnian Muslims in Närpes, Finland, in order to have a holistic and culturally meaningful perspective on aggression.

Results Females were found to victimise and perpetrate aggressive acts more than males in Ghana. Findings on Bosnian Muslim women in Närpiö reveal the presence of direct verbal aggression and indirect aggression towards their intimate men partners. Survey and ethnographic findings within the two cultures converge in suggesting that women also employ aggression to deal with frustrations and conflict.

Conclusions Through changing times, women are becoming increasingly active in their "male-dominated" societies and are becoming much more independent and self-motivated. From the two study results, we glean that developmental efforts to empower women have an impact on their use of aggression in