



Nezihe Tüfekci (Ed.)

Current Approaches on Communication, Philosophy and Social Services

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FIELD STUDY ON THE FEMALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE WHO APPLIED TO THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTER IN ISTANBUL AND THEIR ABUSERS

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Hatice Selin IRMAK⁵**

1. Introduction

The concept of violence is as old as human history. According to archaeological research, the history of violence against women goes back 3000 years. Ancient Roman tablets show that men had the right to punish, divorce, or kill wives who committed adultery. Primary sources during the Middle Ages also indicate that there were no limitations against violence to women. Legislative regulations to protect women from violence started in 1800s with the first law which considered violence against women a crime. It passed in 1883 in the state of Maryland (Dişsiz ve Hotun, 2008:52).

Even though the first regulation to prevent violence against women was enacted in the U.S.A, "beating up wives" was still legally accepted behaviour. Resorting to violence as a means of controlling and repressing women's behavior was a commonly approved behavior. In the beginning of the 20th century many countries considered it to be a man's right to beat a woman. Unfortunately, this same misuse of power is still valid in many developing countries (Hatunoğlu, Hatunoğlu ve Avcı, 2014: 442).

Non-governmental organizations and feminist organizations are leading the fight against violence towards women in the U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil and

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Zimbabwe. Interestingly, most of the organizations fighting for women rights have been founded by men. This leads to the dichotomy of seeing both the "abusers" and "rescuers" of women as members of the opposite sex (Hatunoğlu, Hatunoğlu ve Avcı, 2014: 442).

Before the 1970s when spousal and child abuse studies began, violence, or even rape towards women, was only considered "violence" when committed by a stranger or a distant acquaintance and was not regarded as a social problem. (Dişsiz ve Hotun, 2008: 52; Artan, 2013:110).

WHO (The World Health Organization) discussed all aspects of violence at the 49th World Health Assembly and announced it as one of the primary issues of public health. In 1997, based on a consensus of over 1,200 representatives from the 191 WHO member countries, an action plan on violence was given the go-ahead.

It is well-known that most cases involving domestic violence toward women are not officially recorded. In the United States there is physical violence in one out of every two marriages and every seven seconds a woman is exposed to physical violence. Also, most physical injuries that women experience stem from physical violence (Ataman, 2003: 333).

November 25th has been designated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in order to raise awareness of violence against women. This specific date was chosen to memorialize a tragic event that took place on the 25th of November, 1960 in the Dominican Republic.

The Mirabal sisters were three women who were Sisters of the Order of St Dominic who opposed the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo of that country. As a result of their opposition, they were raped and then killed. Unsuccessful attempts were made to make this tragic incident appear to be an accident. The assassinations turned the Mirabal sisters into symbols of feminist resistance and this heartrending date was declared the "Saying No to Women Violence Day" by American and Caribbean women (Moroğlu, 2012: 359).

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 in Mexico City by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. The following two important organs of UN were founded after this important convention: "The United Nations Development Fund for Women" (UNIFEM) and "United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)" (Pekin:5, 2001).

CEDAW was signed by 53 countries in 1979 and Turkey signed it in 1985. However, status evaluation done on the Second World Conference on Women (Copenhagen, 1980) showed that improvements have been slow.

Women movements became more powerful in 1990s. The "Children Summit" in New York highlighted the fact that girls' needs should be taken into consideration. In international events such as the "Conference Environment and Development" held in Rio and the "World Social Development Summit" held in Copenhagen women's role in

development was discussed in detail and many duties were shared with women organizations. As a result of the "Conference on Human Rights" held in Vienna, women's rights were accepted as human rights. Also, the "Housing Summit" held in İstanbul and the "Population and Development Summit" in Cairo accepted the importance of women's roles on healthy families, societies and development (Pekin:5, 2001).

The "UN Fourth Conference on Women" was held in Beijing in 1995 with 17,000 representatives from 189 countries. This conference set priorities for 12 action steps. Governments as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector units were encouraged to play active roles in specific areas. One of those areas was "violence against women." Turkey committed to conduct different campaigns to prevent violence against women and children, and to provide training programs for parents" (Pekin+5, 2001).

Violence against women and children started to draw attention in the world since the 1970s. However, it was not even discussed before the 1980s in Turkey. The first collective action against domestic violence was initiated on May 17, 1987. Since then, the number of woman organizations has increased (Yıldırım,1988). The first state organization regarding women the "Directorate General on The Status of Women" was founded in 1987.

With Law number 4320 on the protection of family, which came into force in 1998, judges in domestic relations courts needed to take some precautions to protect women subjected to domestic violence. However, effective practice of this law was not implemented before 2006 (KSGM, 2008).

Even though there had been remarkable steps to establish gender equality in Turkey thanks to internal and external gains, there is still a long way to go (Kartal ve Aydemir, 2012: 5).

In 2011 the "Council of Europa Convention on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence" was signed in İstanbul which resulted in some remarkable regulations to protect women from violence in the institution of marriage. (Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü, 2014: 1).

Legislative regulations are the main tools for the prevention of violence against women. Since the beginning of this century the principle of the equality of women and men began to be implemented in Civil Law, Industrial Law and Turkish Criminal Law in Turkey. In addition Legislation passed in 2004, specifically law number 5216 required the establishment of guest houses for women and children in municipalities where the population numbers more than 100,000 people (KSGM, 2012: 13).

Violence against women is primarily a problem involving men.. Even though there are cases where women commit violence against their husbands, violence against women poses a significantly larger social problem. Women who engage in violence usually are the ones trying to protect themselves from probable violence. Thus, studies on domestic

violence tend to focus on violence against women. Also, it is known that men are more prone to violence compared to women (İçli, 2012: 7).

2. Method

2.1. Research Objective

The aim of this research is to reveal the social and demographic characteristics of the female victims of violence whose applications to ŞÖNİM (Violence Prevention and Monitoring Center) were granted by various means, along with the same characteristics for the perpetrators of the violence. (BİMER, 183, police, denunciation). In addition, this research aims to determine the types of violence inflicted on the women who received service from ŞÖNİM.

"Filling the knowledge deficiency", particularly, plays a direct preventative role in taking precautions and establishing policies regarding this problem. For this reason, the research is aimed to contribute to the alleviation of the knowledge deficiency. In addition, another reason to discuss the abuse of women is the inarguable value and irrevocable importance of "women as individuals" in the eyes of the society.

2.2. Sample

The population of the study is comprised of the women who demanded service from ŞÖNİM which is within the Ministry of Family and Social Policy. However, because of the restrictions of the resources and the difficulty of reaching the population, the survey is conducted through the selected sample. The sample consists of all of the women who consulted Istanbul KOZA Violence Prevention and Monitoring Center in 2014 (KOZA functions under the Ministry of Family and Social Policy in which all the women's shelter in Istanbul belong to public and local authority reside.)

2.3. Data Collection Tool

The descriptive survey method is used in accordance with the objectives designated in the survey. Survey data is composed by evaluating the files and social investigation reports of the women who requested service in 2014 from KOZA which is mentioned above. Alongside the female victims' and perpetrators' of violence's demographic data, the findings on the female abuse also take place in line with the purpose of the survey.

2.4. Data Collection Process

The researchers' data collection for the purpose of obtaining information about the subjects which have been designated for the survey was carried out between May and September 2015, and the opinions and suggestions of the company officials during the data collection process are also taken into consideration.

2.5. Analysis of the Data

The data acquired in the survey was obtained by using file scanning and social study reports. The evaluations were made by means of simple charts.

2.6. Findings and Interpretation

The findings obtained as a result of the survey are discussed in three main groups as listed below:

- a) Introductory findings of the women who are within the scope of survey,
- b) Descriptive findings of the abuser (doer),
- c) Findings as to women abuse and neglect issues.

Graphics and charts on the findings which were obtained as a result of the survey were prepared and the interpretations which are related to each chart are given below.

2.6.1. Introductory Findings of The Women Who Are Within The Scope Of Survey

Chart 1: The Number of the Women Who Applied to ŞÖNİM by Months (2014)

Month	Number	%
January	333	8,64
February	285	7,40
March	321	8,33
April	307	7,97
May	273	7,09
June	345	8,96
July	339	8,80
August	377	9,78
September	319	8,28
October	310	8,05
November	300	7,79
December	344	8,92
Total	3.853	100

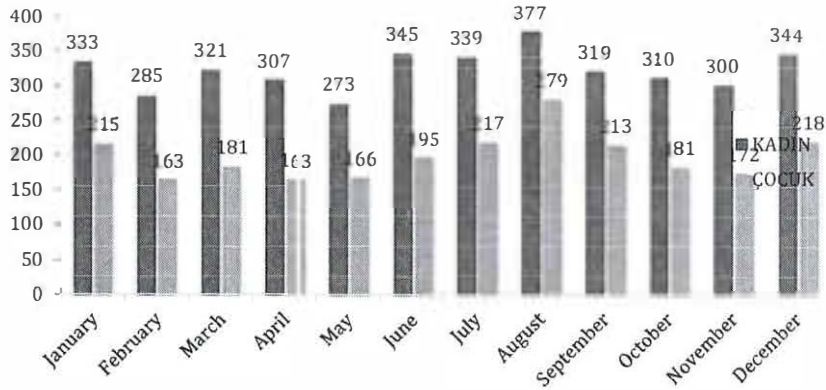
The monthly numerical distribution of the women who consulted ŞÖNİM in 2014 appears on Chart 1 above. It can be said that there is not a significant discrepancy in the monthly distribution of women who consult ŞÖNİM. It can be seen that while the highest consultation ratio is 9,78% in August, the lowest consultation ratio is in May at the rate of 7,09%.

Chart 2: The Number of the Children in Company With the Women Who Applied to ŞÖNİM by Months (2014)

Month	Number	%
January	215	9,10
February	163	6,90
March	181	7,66
April	163	6,90
May	166	7,03
June	195	8,25
July	217	9,18
August	279	11,81
September	213	9,02
October	181	7,65
November	172	7,27
December	218	9,23
Total	2.363	100

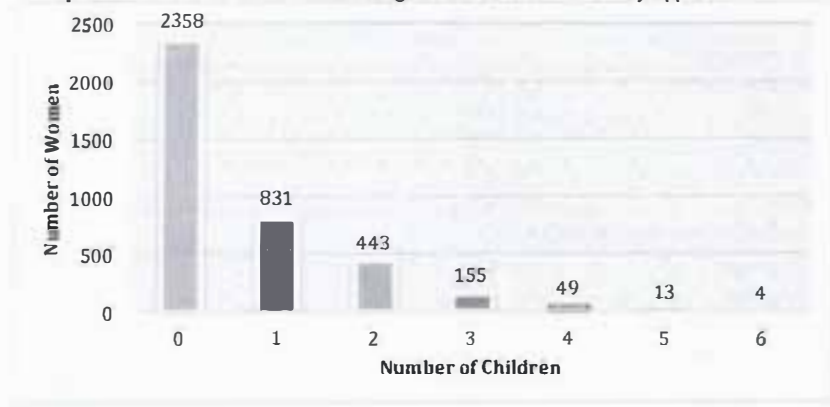
Following is the monthly distribution of the children who are in the company of the women who consult ŞÖNİM. These figures do not represent the entire number of children involved, as it only shows the number of under-age children who accompanied their mothers to ŞÖNİM. For this reason, this chart does not reflect the total number of the children the applicant women have.

Graph 1: The Number of the Women Who Consult ŞÖNİM and the Children Accompanying Them by Months (2014).



As demonstrated on Graph 1, the number of the applicant women and the children accompanying them are presented together to demonstrate better understanding of the data on Charts 1 and 2. As it is seen on the graph, the applicant women reached the largest number with 377 in August and also the number of the children increased concordantly in this month to 279.

Graph 2: Distribution of Women According to Number of Children They Applied with



As it can be understood from the graph, 3,853 women consulted ŞÖNİM in 2014 and 2,358 of them do not have a child. On the other hand, the number of the women with one child is 831 and it is followed by 443 which is the number of women with two children on the third rank; 155 women with three children on the fourth rank; 49 women with four children on the fifth rank; 13 women with five children on the sixth rank and 4 women with six children on the last rank. It is understood that the number of the women who have children is 1495 and the number of the children in company with them when they consult ŞÖNİM is 2363.

The age range of the women who consulting ŞÖNİM is shown on Chart 3. On the first rank, we see the women in the age range of 36 to 46 by 40,72%. It is followed by the age range of under 18 to 25 by 32,06% on the second rank. On the third rank, we see the age range of 36 to 45 by 20,48%. It is followed by the age range of 46 to 55 by 5,21% and the women aged 56 and older by 1,53% on the last rank.

When we look at the educational background of the women who consult ŞÖNİM, we see the primary school graduate women by 37,51% on the first rank according to the data given above. It is followed by the elementary school graduate women by 28,03% on the second rank. In the third rank we see high- school graduate women by 13,23%, illiterate women by 10,87% on the fourth rank and literate women by 6,07% on the fifth rank. Then we see the women who have bachelor's degree by 2,62% on the sixth rank, associate degree graduate women by 1,56% on the seventh rank and post graduate women by 0,10% on the last rank. As it can be understood from the data given above that the significant part of the women who consult to ŞÖNİM is undereducated.

Chart 3. Introductory Information of Women

Socio-Demographic Variables (n = 3853)		
Age range		
Under 18 -25	n = 1235	32,06%
26-35	n = 1569	40,72%
36-45	n = 789	20,48%
46-55	n = 201	5,21%
56 +	n = 59	1,53%
Educational Background		
Illiterate	n = 419	10,87%
Literate	n = 234	6,07%
Primary School	n = 1445	37,51%
Elementary Education	n = 1080	28,03%
Highschool	n = 510	13,23%
Associate Degree	n = 60	1,56%
Bachelors Degree	n = 101	2,62%
Masters Degree	n = 4	0,10%
Marital Status		
Married	n = 2352	61,05%
Single	n = 1334	34,62%
Other	n = 167	4,33%
Type of Marriages (n = 2352)		
Dating	n = 963	40,93%
Arranged	n = 844	35,89%
Elope	n = 462	19,65%
By force	n = 83	3,53%
Employment Status (n = 3853)		
Employed	n = 462	11,99%
Unemployed	n = 3391	88,01%
Social Security Status		
Has	n = 2257	58,58%
Does not have	n = 1596	41,42%

The marital status of the women who consult ŞÖNİM is shown on Chart 3. 61.05% of these women are married. This is followed by the single women who are unjustly treated by their boyfriends or kinsmen by 34,62%. On the last rank, we see the "Other" option (cohabiting or deforced women etc.) by 4,33%. As a consequence of that, it is shown that more than half of the women who consult ŞÖNİM are married. This is significant since it shows that a considerable number of these women are obliged to consult ŞÖNİM although they are not married.

As shown above, the type of these marriage are listed on the chart. Women in companionate marriages appear on the first rank by 40,93% and women in arranged marriages appear on the second rank by 35%. Women in runaway marriages appear on the third rank by 19,65% and women in forced marriages appear on the last rank by 3,53%.

There is the data as to the working conditions of these women on the Chart 3. As it can be understood from the chart, 88,01% of these women is unemployed. The ratio of the working women, 11,99%, is very low. This data is important in terms of showing the place of women in business life in Turkey.

Again, the social security condition of the women who consult to ŞÖNİM is seen on Chart 3. The 58,58% of these women receive social security through any of the resources (including general health insurance) as the chart shows us. The ratio of the woman who are not social security beneficiary is very high by 41, 42%. This situation is important in terms of revealing women's dependency.

2.6.2. Descriptive Findings of Abusers

Chart 4. Descriptive Findings of Abusers (n = 1542)

Socio-Demographic Variables		
Educational Status		
Illiterate	n = 57	3.68%
Literate	n = 186	12.07%
Primary School	n = 695	45.04%
Elementary School	n = 353	22.90%
High School	n = 200	12.98%
Associate Degree	n = 13	0.83%
Bachelors Degree	n = 37	2.43%
Masters Degree	n = 1	0.07%
Employment Status		
Employed	n = 1050	68.07%
Unemployed	n = 492	31.93%
Social Security Status		
Has	n = 2.257	57.27%
Does not have	n = 1.596	42.73%
Substance Abuse		
Yes	n = 801	51.94%
No	n = 687	44.56%
Unknown	n = 54	3.50%
Possession of Gun		
Yes	n = 246	15.95%
No	n = 1242	80.55%
Unknown	n = 54	3.50%

The educational background of the perpetrators of violence against women is listed on Chart 4. When we look at the educational background of the men who commit violence against women, we see the primary school graduate men by 45,04% on the first rank. It is followed by the elementary school graduate men by 22,90% on the second rank. In the third rank we see high- school graduate men by 12,98%; literate men by 12,07% on the fourth rank and illiterate men by %3,68 on the fifth rank. Then we see the men who have bachelor's degree by 2,43% on the sixth rank, associate degree graduate men by 0,83% on the seventh rank and post graduate men by 0,07% on the last rank.

The results which take place on Chart 4 show that both the perpetrators of violence and the women who are exposed to violence are undereducated. Again, as it is seen on Chart 4, 68,07% of the violence doers are employed. The ratio of unemployed ones is 31,93% which is a considerable ratio.

As it is seen the chart above, the 57,27% of the perpetrators of violence receive social security through any of the resources. The ratio of the perpetrators who are not social security beneficiaries is very high by 42,73%. Although the employment ratio of the perpetrators of violence is 68,07%, the ratio of the social security beneficiaries among them is only 57,27% and it shows that 10% of these men work uninsured or informally.

The results of the issue as to whether the perpetrators of violence use substance or not is shown on Chart 4. This shows that the substance use is high among the perpetrators of violence by 51,94%. The perpetrators of violence who don't use substance comes in next by 44,56% and it is followed by the perpetrators of violence whose substance abuse is not diagnosed (3,50%). It is critical to see that more than half of the perpetrators of violence abuse substance and it verifies the relationship between substance abuse and violence.

Chart 4 presents data as to whether the perpetrators of violence against women have firearms or not. As it is given above, the ratio of the perpetrators of violence who do not possess a firearm is 80,55%; the ratio of the those who do possess firearm is 15,95%. It is not known if the %3, 50 of the perpetrators use a firearm or not. As it is seen, the ratio of those who have a firearm is considerably high.

2.6.3. Findings as to Women Abuse And Neglect Issues.

Chart 5. Reasons of Women for Applying ŞÖNİM (n = 3853)

Reason of Application		
Violence	11 = 1.114	28,91%
Sheltering	11 = 2.100	54,51%
Asylum/Violence	11 = 428	11,10%
Counseling	11 = 155	4,03%
Immediate Aid	11 = 37	0,96%
Financial Aid	11 = 14	0,36%
Labor demand	11 = 5	0,13%

Chart 5 lists the reasons why women apply to ŞÖNİM. The lack of alternative housing ranks first by the ratio of 54,51%. It is followed by the exposure to violence by 28,91%. On the third rank, there is the ratio of the women whose application reasons are both housing and exposure to violence by 11,10%. The reason on the fourth rank is consultation by 4,03%; judicial assistance by 0,96% on the fifth rank; financial aid demand by 0,36% on the sixth rank and labor demand by 0,13% on the last rank.

Chart 6. Distribution of the Types of Violence Experienced (n = 1542)

Type of Violence	n	%
Physical	n = 1175	76,20%
Psychological	n = 171	11,09%
Verbal	n = 109	7,07%
Sexual	n = 68	4,41%
Economic	n = 19	1,23%

On the Chart above, there is the distribution of the types of violence that 1542 women declared to have been exposed. A considerable number of the women who are exposed to violence are victims of physical violence by 76,20%. It is followed by psychological violence by 11,09% on the second rank; verbal violence by 7,07% on the third rank; sexual violence by 4,41% on the fourth rank and economical violence by 1,23% on the last rank.

Chart 7: Distribution of Abusers (n = 1542)

Abuser	n	%
Spouse	n = 1116	72,38%
Other (relative, mother/father in-law e.t.c.)	n = 106	6,88%
Boyfriend	n = 89	5,77%
Father	n = 87	5,64%
Sibling	n = 69	4,47%
Ex spouse	n = 30	1,95%
Children	n = 28	1,81%
Mother	n = 17	1,10%

Chart 7 is comprised of the identity of the perpetrators of violence to women. Spouses rank first on the list by 72,38%. This is followed by the Other option (relative, mother-in-law, father-in-law etc.) at 6,88%. Boyfriends place third on this list at 5,77% while Fathers are fourth at %5,64. Siblings on are fifth at 4,47%, Former spouses place sixth by 1,95%. Children are seventh at 1,81%, with Mother placing last rank 1,10%.

3. Result and Evaluation

This survey shows that violence against women has increased from 1990s. According to 2003 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (TNSA) –a survey concerning the determination of causes of the violence against women in Turkey and how the violence is perceived by the public- 39% of the women declared that men are right to beat women when at least one of the following causes occur: answering-back, burning the food, wasting of money, neglecting the children, rejection of sexual intercourse. It is determined that this ratio reaches 50% in Southeast side of Turkey, 49% in East side of Turkey (TNSA, 2003).

In another survey concerning the violence to women, it is shown that the women who live in city are exposed to violence (36%) more than the women live in countryside (32%). Forty-seven percent of the victims are exposed to physical violence, but only a

quarter of the ones who are harmed consult doctor or a health institution (Vatandaş, 2003).

In a study conducted by Arat and Altay (2007), they determined that one out of three women are exposed to violence and the women's risk of getting beaten up who earn more money is double. It is determined that the more the education level of the women increase the less they have the risk of experiencing physical violence; the illiterate women are exposed to physical violence at most by 43%; the university graduate women are exposed to physical violence at least by 12% (Arat and Altınay, 2007).

According to the statement made by Ministry of Justice in August in 2010, femicide showed an increase in the last 7 years by 1400%. Again, according to press data of the Security General Directorate and Gendarmerie Command, the number of murdered women in the first 7 months of 2010 was 226. According to the unofficial data of The Independent Communication Network (BIANET), the number of murdered women was 257 in 2011. Again, the number of raped women in the same year was at least 102. The number of the raped female child was 59 in the same year. These high numbers show that the phenomenon of violence is effected by many social, cultural and economic factors (Karal and Aydemir, 2012: 5).

According to the surveys which were conducted in Turkey, 4 out of every 10 women are exposed to physical violence by their husbands or the ones with whom they live. Even though the prevalence of violence differs from one region to another, violence can be named as an extremely important social problem throughout the country. While the physical violence ratio in cities is 38%, it rises to 43% in countryside across Turkey. While the average of violence against women in Turkey is 39%, the average of violence in countryside is higher than the country average. When we look at the frequency of sexual violence issues, the ratio in countryside is 18% while it is 14% in cities. According to the regional distribution of the violence to women, the highest ratio is seen in Northeastern Anatolia region by 29,5% and the lowest ratio is seen in West Marmara region by %8,7 (Karal and Aydemir, 2012: 25).

Ninety-two percent of women who are exposed to violence throughout Turkey do not make a complaint to any authority. The women who consult police, gendarmerie, prosecution offices, attorneys, hospitals and health institutions form only 4% of the abused women and only 1% of these women consult shelters, municipality and child protection agency.

Also, giving voice to the sexual violence is not as easy as expressing the physical violence in public. For this reason, the survey data as to the dimensions of the sexual violence is not sound enough. According to the data of survey conducted throughout Turkey, 15% of women are exposed to sexual violence. Also, according to the research findings, it is discussed that sexual violence is mostly accompanied by physical violence (Karal and Aydemir, 2012: 28).

According to results of "Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey" survey which was conducted in 2008 in Turkey, while the ratio of women across the country who

experience physical or sexual violence from spouse or the ones they live with is 42%, the ratio of experiencing at least one of these two types of violence according to regions differ from 26% to 57%. Women's possibility of exposure to physical or sexual violence by persons with whom they aren't in a close relationship is lower than the ones they are in a close relationship. Every three women out of 100 express that they are exposed to violence. According to the research the World Health Organization conducted in different countries, the prevalence of physical or sexual violence differs from 15% to 71%. The results of the survey conducted in Turkey take place between these ranges (Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey, 2009: 68,69).

The "Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey" survey, which was conducted in 2014, is a continuation of the survey conducted in 2008 and it is important in the sense of deciding the change regarding violence against women in the time elapsed.

There were 11.247 women who are between the age range of 15 to 59 included in the survey which was conducted in 2014. Of these women, 36% expressed that they were exposed to violence in any period of their life by their spouse or partner with whom they lived. Also, it is seen that the physical violence continues during the pregnancy period for every 1 out of 10 women. Twelve percent of these women expressed that they were exposed to sexual violence in any period of their life by their spouse or partner with whom they lived.

Thirty-eight percent of these women stated that they are exposed to at least one of these two types of violence (physical or sexual) in any period of their life. This situation serves to support the results that were taken during the 2008 survey and it points out that physical and sexual violence are experienced together more often. Emotional abuse is the most frequent type of abuse and violence that women are exposed to from the people except other than their spouses. Physical violence (14%) and sexual violence (3%) which are articulated less follow emotional violence on women aged 15 and older. As a consequence, it can be said that the results of the year 2014 and 2008 surveys contain similar conclusions (KSGM, 2014: 34-35).

If we look at violence against women in different countries, the surveys published by World Health Organization (WHO) are considered the most comprehensive ones because different statistical methods are used. In addition, the perception that violence to women are closely related to human development limit to attain or share the current data. Even the data of institutions such as WHO, World Bank and United Nations which conduct comprehensive surveys can be in contradiction with each other. Even though the survey findings differ, violence against women is prevalent throughout the world and it is a problem which requires intervention at a global level (Kara and Aydemir, 2012: 41).

According to the predictions denoted by World Health Organization's (WHO) 2002 reports, the ratio of women who are, at least once in their lifetime, beaten by their spouses or the partners they live with, is between the ranges of 10 to 69%. Again, according to a survey which was conducted in Japan, 57% of the 613 abused women

were exposed to all of the listed types of violence, physical, emotional and sexual. It is also determined that 52% of the Mexican women were exposed to physical violence in the same way. It is demonstrated that two-thirds of the Korean women are beaten by their spouses regularly. According to a survey, 40% to 70% of the murdered women in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and USA were killed by their spouses or partners. Also, 47% of these women were forced to have sexual intercourse (WHO, 2002: 88-90).

For example, a survey which was conducted at the national level, it determined that 14,8% of the women aged 17 and over have been exposed to sexual violence in during their lifetime and 0,3% of the women over age 17, and within the scope of sample, were raped in the previous year (WHO, 2002: 151). Between 1963 to 1995, the studies as to violence from spouse in pregnancy period reveal that the 0,9% to 20,1% of the pregnant women are exposed to violence (Gazmararian and Lazorick et.al. 1996: 1915-20).

Likewise, it is identified that in North London region of England, 23% of the women are the victims of attempted or completed rape. The similar results are reported for Guadalajara, Mexico(23,0%), Leon, Nicaragua(21,7%), Lima, Peru(22,5%) and Zimbabwe Midlands State(25,0%). The ratio of the women who are exposed to sexual violence by their spouses or intimate partners is tried to be identified by means of surveys at the national level. (For example, Canada-8,0%; England, Wales and Scotland(combined)-14,2%; Finland-5,9%, Switzerland-11,6% and USA- 7,7%) (WHO, 2002: 152).

The 45% of the women and 25% of the men are exposed to domestic violence at least once in their lifetime around the world (Statistics: Domestic violence stats- June 2007 KJH).

According to Violence Against Women Survey which was conducted by WHO (2010), it is determined that violence against women is a prevalent and global issue both in developed and developing countries. According to the survey's data, 15% of the women in Japan, 70% of the women in Peru and Ethiopia are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in any period of their life by their spouses or friends they live with. Also, it is identified that between 0.3% to 11.5% of the women are exposed to sexual violence by a foreigner. On the other hand, according to the survey results which are conducted across the world show that an average of 20% of the women and 5-10% of the men are exposed to violence in childhood period. Many women are forced into their first sexual experience around the world. For example, these rates are 24% in rural Peru, 28% in Tanzania, 30% in rural Bangladesh and 40% in South Africa (World Health Organization 2010).

According to the World's Women 2010 Report, 25% of the women in Germany; 27% of the women in Denmark; 22% of the women in Norway are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in any period in their lifetime (World Health Organization publishes Fact sheet on Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Against Women, 2011).

According to the survey findings which was conducted by EU 2012 Civil Liberties Organization in 28 European countries with 42 thousand women who are between 18-

72 ages, 62 million of the women are exposed to violence in EU. Again, 22% of the women are exposed to physical or sexual violence by their spouses in EU. Also, it is estimated that 83-102 million women in EU are exposed to sexual harassment in any period of their life. It is seen that this rate corresponds to the 45-55% of the women who are over 15 years old in EU. Among the countries in which the maximum violence values are seen, Denmark comes first (%52) and it is followed by Finland(47%) and Sweden(46%). England and France take place on the fifth rank(44%) in EU. On the contrary, Poland, Austria and Croatia are the countries in which violence against women is seen least. The average rate of the women's possibility of being exposed to violence who are aged 15 and over by their partners is 20%. It is predicted that no more case is reported. Again, according to the survey above, while only 14% of the women inform against the violence they are exposed, the ratio of the inform against the violence from the ones they are not in close relationship is 13% (Violence against women survey, 2014:3).

The physical, sexual, genital and mental effects of violence against women are discussed in the report in which the data containing violence is compiled systematically by using world population data. The findings in this research report are very remarkable. The 35% of the women across the world are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence. 30% of the women –namely, almost one third of the women- across the world is exposed to physical and/or sexual violence by their spouses.

In some regions, the ratio of the women who are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence by their spouses or intimate partners is 38%. Again, 38% of the femicide across the world is committed by the victim's spouses or friends (World Health Organization 2013).

Also, the women who are exposed to physical or sexual violence have significant health problems. %7 of the women across the world are exposed to sexual violence by someone else rather than their sexual partner. Depression or anxiety disorder and alcohol usage inclination arise among the women who are exposed to these forms of violence. But some national studies as to violence show that %70 of the women are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime(World Health Organization 2013).

In another research, it is identified that 47% of the women who were murdered across the world in 2012 are killed by their spouses/ partners or close family members. The murders which are committed by spouses, partners or family members are lopsidedly against women at the global level. In 2012, the two third of the victims are women (43,600) and one third of the victims are man(20.000) (UNODC Global Study on Homicide, 2013: 14).

In today's world, over 700 million women (under the age of 18) are married off at a young age. One third of the women who are married off at a young age, in other words almost 250 million women, are comprised of child brides who are under the age of 15. It is identified that the safe sex is out of question and these women become defenseless

against infections which are sexually transmitted including HIV because of early pregnancy. Also, these children are not physically convenient enough to give birth and the babies are at risk as much as their mothers. On the other hand, it is 2,5 times more possible to get married at a young age in comparison with their peers for the daughters of poor families (UNICEF/BANA, 2013).

According to UNICEF 2014 data, one third (84 million) of the girls between the ages of 15-19 are exposed to emotional, physical or sexual violence in any period of their lifetime by their spouses or partners. Again, according to the available data, it is seen that among all the married girls across the world, the most frequently reported physical violence doers are ex or present spouses. Almost half of all the girls (around 126 million) between the ages of 15-19 across the world think that husbands are sometimes are right to beat their wives. Almost 120 million girls across the world are forced to have sexual intercourse or exposed to sexual violence in any period of their lifetime (UNICEF, 2014).

It is known that millions of girls and women are trapped and exposed to forced labour and sexual harassment in today's world. It is predicted that while guessingly 4.5 million of the girls and women are used as sexual exploitation tool, there are 20,9 million suffered girl and women who are exposed to forced labour across the world (ILO, 2012: 14).

Women in EU countries are exposed to sexually explicit unwanted physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at the work place between the rates of 40%- 50% (Directorate- General for Employment, Industrial Relation and Social Affairs, 1998:42). It is identified that 83% of the girls between the 8th and 11th grade students (between the ages of 12 and 16) are exposed to several types of sexual abuse in state schools in USA (Cited in UN General Assembly, 2006:42).

According to United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTATS) data, between 1995 and 2006, when we look at the ratio of the women who are exposed to violence at least once in their lifetime by comparing different countries, we see that the rates are 8% in Canada; 11% in Sweden; 14% in Italy; 15% in Japan; 20% in Denmark; 27% in Australia and 29% in Germany (KSGM, 2012:9). One out of three women who are victims of murder in America is murdered by their significant other. In India, 27 women are murdered on average every day because of the dower they are supposed to get after they divorce. Again, in a survey which was conducted by EU, it is defined that the expenses for medical, judicial and social services to prevent violence make a big cost (KSGM, 2012: 10).

The yearly cost of intimate spcuse/ partner violence in the USA is calculated as 5,8 billion dollar in 2003(Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, 2006: 137). Again, the yearly cost of violence in England and Wales in 2004 is calculated as 22.9 billion dollar(S. Walby, 2004: 12). The cost of violence is high in other countries as well. For example; in a survey which was conducted in 2009, it is estimated that the cost of violence against women and children is 13.6 billion dollar. Domestic

violence causes general productivity loss in national income in many countries (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009:4).

In a study conducted in New Delhi, it is identified that 66% of the women are exposed to sexual violence two to five times in previous year. According to the study which was made with 5000 sampling, the women in all socio-economic classes have to cope with harassment as a part of their daily life. Especially, it emerges that work-women and the college students between the ages of 15-19 who work in disorganized sectors are more defenseless against harassment. It is defined that it is more possible for women and young girls to expose to sexual harassment in public transportation, buses and on roadsides (Report of the Baseline Survey Delhi, 2010: 22).

According to the formal data of Turkish Statistical Institute, 39% of the Turkish women are exposed to violence in a period of their lifetime. These findings show the apprehensive current situation of the violence against women including honor killing, early and forced marriages. Also, being tolerant of the doers of gender based murders when punishing them can make the status of violence against women worse (A 2020 Perspective for Women in Turkey).

According to 2014 data of England and Wales, 7% of the women are exposed to domestic abuse. This rate shows that 1.2 million women are exposed to violence. Also, 30% of these women report that they are exposed to domestic abuse in any way since the age of 16. Again, it is estimated that 2.5% of the women are exposed to every kind of sexual assaults. This estimated ratio is equivalent to the victimization of 400.000 women. Also, it is estimated that 25% of all the sexual assaults aim raping. According to "Office National Statistics" data, 77 women are killed by their spouses or ex-partners in 2012-13. Also, almost one third of the girls who are between the ages of 16-18 are exposed to sexually explicit harassment in England (UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, 2014).

The results of survey including violence against women and the results of present survey support each other. It is seen that 28.91% of the women who consulted to ŞÖNİM in 2014 are exposed to violence and 11.10% of the women consulted to ŞÖNİM because of violence and need for shelter. It is identified that the 76.20% of the women who are exposed to violence face physical violence. It is followed by psychological violence by 11.09% on the second rank, verbal violence by 7.07% on the third rank, sexual violence by 4.41% on the fourth rank and economical violence by 1.23% on the last rank. As in the other researches, spouses are in the lead of violence doers by 72,38%. It is followed by the other option (relative, mother-in-law, father-in-law) by 6,88% on the second rank. It is followed by boy friends by 5,77% on the third rank, fathers by 5,64% on the fourth rank, siblings by 4,47% on the fifth rank, ex-spouses by 1,95% on the sixth rank, children by 1,81% and mothers by 1,10% on the last rank. Also, it is seen that substance use rate is rather high by 51,94%.

The findings above show that there are several difficulties in comparing and evaluating the countries proportionately with each other. Among one of the most important

reasons of this situation, there are the significant restriction of the researches and the usage of different definitions and different research techniques when determining the abuse. Besides, "social and cultural differences" of the countries make it harder to create a common definition of the abuse. On the other hand, the studies (which are conducted in developed or developing countries) show that the source of the violence is the family (Kosberg, Lowenstein, Garcia and Biggs, 2003: 71-73; Thomas, 2000: 1-2).

Also, conducting surveys in this area brings along some difficulties. The women's or their kinsmen's wish to hide the problems encountered in the family; the fear of facing the abuse more in case of articulating it or the sense of shame complicate the determination of the cases. On the other hand, the absence of information as to reporting the abuse cases legally; the lack of coordination between the institutions; the absence of qualified personnel such as social service specialist, psychologist, doctor, nurse etc. can be counted among the reasons which make it harder to determine the abuse and the negligence (Artan, 2013; 118-119).

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