

Forms of marital violence directed by husbands towards wives: An applied study



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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to find out what types of violence that husbands inflict on their wives are most common among married women in the city of Ha'il, Saudi Arabia, and what causes it. The study used both descriptive and analytical methods. The descriptive method was used to achieve the objectives of the study, and the analytical method was used to show how the variables in the study are related to each other. The study relied on a questionnaire to collect primary data, including personal and social variables. The study relied on a comprehensive survey of all the studied abused women (130 women who visited King Khaled Hospital and the Civil Protection Center from September 2019 to December 2019). The results of the study indicate that psychological violence and economic violence are the most common types of violence. Physical violence ranked third. The findings also suggest that working women are less affected by violence in all its forms than non-working women and that women who have children are more affected by psychological violence than women who do not have children. The results suggest that there is a relationship between the husband's religion and his tendency to be violent. While there is a negative association between the husband's violence and the level of education and the three types of violence, there is no association between the age of the battered woman, the level of education, and exposure to all forms of violence. The study recommends that there should be rehabilitation centers for those seeking marriage, especially young people.

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1. Introduction

Violence is seen as a social phenomenon that happens all over the world, no matter who you are or where you live. The family is considered one of the most dangerous institutions that can be affected by violence, as it affects the fulfillment of its basic functions in society. The forms of violence in the family are different, whether the violence is committed by the father or the mother, or by both against the sons, or by the husband against the wife, or vice versa, and all forms of violence have psychological and social effects on the family and hinder the fulfillment of its basic functions in society.

MOEP (2016) stated that The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has turned its attention toward issues of

family violence. The Tenth Development Plan for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia included directions to take care of families and children, by: "Supporting programs to reduce family violence and its activities"

Violence in the family is an immediate danger to family members, especially women, who are the most important people in the family and the reason why it stays together. According to the theory of patterns, women are an important pattern in family systems that is influenced by other patterns that surround them, either positively or negatively, so that the violence they are exposed to by men has a negative impact on them and the other patterns of families (Gilson and DePoy, 2002).

When we talk about family violence in general in Saudi society, we find that it is like other societies that are not free of violence. However, due to Saudi culture, there are no accurate statistics surrounding this phenomenon.

Violence against women is an important issue. And a large number of conferences and seminars discuss this phenomenon proving beyond any doubt that this phenomenon is growing (Ismail, 2020). This

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is what prompted researchers to pay attention to this phenomenon and shed light on it.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out what kinds of violence husbands do to their wives who live permanently in Hail, one of the three types of violence (psychological violence, physical violence, and economic violence) must be considered.
2. Determine the relationship between some independent variables and violence perpetrated by husbands against wives in each of the three dimensions of violence (psychological violence, physical violence, and economic violence), as well as the factors influencing each dimension.

The importance of this study can be summarized as follows:

1. The study is considered a scientific addition to the field of family violence.
2. To assist agencies working with victims of "family" violence, particularly women, in identifying the forms of violence directed against women and the factors that cause it.
3. It is hoped that the results of this study will help social work teams know where to intervene professionally and how to do their jobs right.
4. Through its mechanisms, it can come up with the best ways to help wives who have been beaten. through the results of this study and the theoretical framework.

A number of theories dealing with violence will be addressed as the following. The biological explanation of social violence has gained acceptance among some scientists in the last and early parts of this century. It has been found that emotional reactions such as anger or tension lead to specific reactions at the level of the nerves or at the level of the endocrine glands, so they see that any aggressive action leads to a change in heartbeat and respiration, blood circulation and glandular secretions (Ali and Naylor, 2013). Some social scientists believe that the development of society and all social activities of people are related to the physical nature of man and his anthropological characteristics; they explain violence as an imperfection of man's biological nature, which is still genetically related to the animal kingdom, and they believe that the cause of inconsistencies in the social milieu are animal characteristics, which they believe are innate in man. and Austrian Anthropologist R. Ardrey believes that man is genetically predisposed to perform acts of violence while being powerless over the instincts of his own nature, which irreversibly revert to social tendencies and conflict, and that men, no matter how strong, cannot exercise rational control over the manifestations of their aggression, so that control is the primary goal of aggressive behavior (Ali and Naylor, 2013).

Psychoanalysts think of violence as a psychological problem, not a social one, and the

theoretical evidence they use comes from idealistic ideas about what makes people act the way they do. Humans are driven to violence by their instincts. These instincts include the instinct of sexuality, which keeps the species alive and ensures its survival, the instinct of self-defense, the instinct of life, which cares about the survival and safety of the individual, and the instinct of death, which is the natural tendency for all living things to go back to their most basic state. This state is more pronounced in two ways: Self-destruction and sabotage, or aggression so that the death instinct is similar to the aggression instinct.

Aggression is a form of human behavior that does not occur without instigation, and instigation is the inherent force in humans that causes them to exhibit aggressive behavior. Although the most basic form of instigation for aggression is the desire to harm others, even though it is innate in the human soul, proponents of this theory see that the reference to the environmental framework that realism sees as the result of accidents happens in the past and present of the individual and is an important element in enabling aggressive behavior and its occurrence or suppression (Ali and Naylor, 2013).

Marxists define social violence as all manifestations of power that enter social life, so the exploitation of man by man is a special form of natural violence. Lenin wrote, "The power of oppression is exercised in every human group." The Marxists interpreted the relations of control and subjugation resulting from the development of productive forces and production relations in such a way that the emergence of ruling classes throughout history is a natural and necessary condition for the socioeconomic development of society, and that historical progress would be impossible without them.

Marxism is more clear and closer to the truth when it comes to explaining why women and men haven't had the same amount of power in different times and places. Historical retracing shows that property relations and the general pattern of production that favored men at the time make it clear that when women worked and acquired wealth and money, it raised their status and put them on an equal footing with men. When the woman left work and went home, the private property took over, just as Marxist theory says that women are an exploiting class or group. The exploiting class works to maintain its inferiority and subordination and tries, by all means, to prevent her from changing in order to maintain its control and oppress the exploiting class—the woman—and this is seen in the husband's attempt to prevent his wife from working or teaching, or the father's attempt to prevent his daughter from choosing a life partner in order to maintain his control and oppress her (Tjaden, 2005).

In order to free the woman from the clutches of oppression and violence to which she is subjected by her husband, she must become sufficiently aware of her importance, rights, and duties. We cannot free ourselves from the funnel and dominance if we are

not aware. The bourgeoisie ruled the working class until the working class became aware enough to start a revolution.

2. Methodology

This study belongs to descriptive and analytical studies. The descriptive method was used to clarify the characteristics and descriptions of the study sample and to find out which types of violence are most common. The analytical method was used to clarify how independent factors affect the types of violence in the family, which was the second goal of the study.

2.1. Research population

All Saudi women whose husbands treat them badly and who live in the city of Hail make up the research population. From September 2019 to December 2019, in-depth interviews were done with 130 women who went to King Khaled Hospital and Civil Protection Center. The study also relied on.

An electronic questionnaire was used as the primary data collection tool, and a paper questionnaire was used in the face-to-face interview. The questionnaire includes the personal and social variables of the women who filled it out, as well as the three-dimensional dependent variable, which is violence by husbands. The questionnaire was analyzed by the referees, and a preliminary test was prepared. It was used on 15 respondents who were not part of the study sample. SPSS version 20 was used.

Percentages and frequencies were used to describe the study sample. Means and standard deviation were used to describe the three dimensions of violence, and the (t) test and re-test for differences between means were used to distribute respondents according to personal descriptions and social characteristics.

After getting permission from the government to do the field research and getting the respondents' permission, the data were collected. Data were collected from 130 respondents, both from the frequency of respondents among social specialists in King Khalid Hospital and respondents in the Civil Service Center.

2.2. Measuring variables in the study

1. Age: Age was measured by asking the person how many full years had passed since they were born until the research was done.
2. The respondent's work: The respondent was asked whether she was working or not.
3. The respondent's education: It was measured by choosing the respondent between a number of educational stages, starting from illiteracy until the post-university level.
4. The husband's education: It was measured by choosing the respondent between a number of

the husband's educational stages, starting from illiteracy and ending at the post-university level.

5. Existence of sons: The respondent was asked about whether there are children from the current marriage or not.
6. Monthly family income: It was measured by choosing the respondent among a number of different levels of income, starting from less than 1000 riyals to more than 20000 riyals per month.
7. The husband's religious commitment: It was measured with five statements that expressed the extent of the husband's religion. The alpha stability coefficient was calculated, and it amounted to 0.857, which allows for the collection of scale items (Table 1).
8. Physical violence: It was measured with eight statements expressing the extent of the use of physical violence by the husband towards the wife, and the respondent was asked if it does not happen at all, rarely, sometimes, or always, and the answers were coded and ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, and the alpha stability coefficient was calculated; it was 0.951, which allows the scale points to be collected and used for scientific research purposes (Table 1).
9. Psychological violence: It was measured with ten statements expressing the extent of the husband's use of economic violence towards the wife, and the respondent was asked if this did not occur at all, rarely, sometimes, or always. Responses were coded and ranked as 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, respectively. The alpha stability coefficient was found to be 0.923, which means that the scale scores can be used for scientific research (Table 1).
10. Economic violence: It was measured with seven statements expressing the extent to which the husband used economic violence against the wife. The respondent was asked whether this occurred at all, rarely, sometimes, or always. Responses were coded and ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The alpha stability coefficient was calculated and was 0.795, so the scale can be used for scientific research purposes (Table 1).

Table 1: Stability coefficients for the scale

Variable	Number of statements	Alpha
Physical violence	8	0.951
Psychological violence	10	0.923
Economic violence	7	0.795
The husband's religious commitment	7	0.857

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Description of the study sample

The results show that more than half of the respondents are employed, whether in the private or public sector and less than half are unemployed (Table 2). The vast majority of respondents are in the age group of 31 to 40 years, i.e., middle-aged (Table 3). More than 70% of the respondents obtained a secondary education (Table 4).

Table 2: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the work of the respondent

Profession	Frequency	Percentages
Working	75	57.7%
Not working	55	42.3%

Table 3: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the age of the respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20 - 30	4	3.1%
31 - 40	80	61.2%
41 - 50	38	21.2%
51 - 60	8	6.2%

Table 4: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample by respondents' educational level

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Moderate	4	3.1%
Secondary	94	72.3%
University	32	3.1%

More than half of the respondents had sons from their current marriage, and more than a third had no sons from their current marriage (Table 5). In 12% of the study sample, the husbands were not employed, and more than half of the husbands in the sample worked for a government agency (Table 6).

Table 5: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the presence of sons

Sons	Frequency	Percentage
There are children	86	66.2%
No children	44	33.8%

Table 6: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the husband's career of the respondent

Career	Frequency	Percentage
Not working	15	12.3%
Private occupation	27	20.8%
Government job	87	66.9%

Regarding the husband's educational level, we find that the vast majority of the sample is a university husband, followed by a secondary school (Table 7). Most of the respondents have a monthly household income ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 riyals (Table 8).

Table 7: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the educational level of the interviewed husband

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Moderate	8	6.2
Secondary	35	26.9%
University	75	57.7 %
Post-university	12	9.2

Table 8: Frequencies and percentages of the study sample according to the monthly household income

Monthly income	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1000 riyals	8	6.2%
From 1000 to less than 5000	36	27.7%
From 500 to less than 10000	54	41.5%
From 10000 to less than 20,000	20	15.4%
20000 or more	12	9.2%

It is clear According to the results so far, the majority of the sample consists of female respondents who are employed, middle-aged, have secondary education, have sons from their current

husband, the husband works in the government and their monthly household income is between 1000 and 5000 riyals.

3.2. Forms of violence

Table 9 that psychological violence is the most common form of violence in the study sample, with an arithmetic mean of 24.56 and a standard deviation of 12.44, followed by economic violence with an arithmetic mean of 19.64 and a standard deviation of 6.54, and finally physical violence with an arithmetic mean of 12.15 and a standard deviation of 6.69.

Table 9: Means and the standard deviation for the three forms of violence

Dimensions of violence	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation
Physical violence	12.15	6.69
Psychological violence	24.56	12.44
Economic violence	19.64	6.54

This result agrees with the study by Bassiouni (2018) indicating that the most common type of violence is verbal violence, as well as the study of Mansour (2014) also showed that moral violence is the most prevalent, followed by social and then economic violence, and Rada (2014) and Krahé (2018) agreed that psychological violence is the most prevalent of the other types. However, the results differ from the study of Briere and Jordan (2004), which concluded that the most common form of violence among wives is physical violence, followed by psychological violence. The studies by NCFA (2013), Kalaca and Dundar (2010), and Carlson (2000) agreed that physical violence is the most common, followed by psychological and sexual violence. The difference in the results may be due to the different nature of the societies in which the study was conducted.

3.3. The relationship between the variables

From Table 10, it can be seen that there are significant differences in the respondents' exposure to physical and psychological violence at 0.05 level of significance and at 0.01 level of significance for economic violence by husband when the respondents are classified based on their work, while the non-working wife is exposed to more violence in its three dimensions by a husband than the working wife. This is in line with the results of the studies of Ka'ab (2019), NCFA (2013), and Carlson (2000). The results show that non-working women are more affected by violence than working women.

From the data in Table 11, it can be seen that there are differences in the respondents' exposure to psychological violence when they were classified according to the presence of sons from the current marriage. That is, respondents who have sons are more exposed to psychological violence, with a higher significant difference than respondents who

do not have children. This is consistent with the findings of [Muhammad and Jibril \(2019\)](#). There are also significant differences in respondents' exposure to economic violence at 0.05 level of significance, while there are no differences in physical violence. From the data in [Table 12](#), it is clear that there is no relationship between the age of the respondent and

exposure to any of the three forms of violence by the husband. This differs from the findings of the studies conducted by [NCFA \(2013\)](#) and [Krahé \(2018\)](#), which agreed that there is a relationship between age and exposure to violence by the husband against his wife and that the age group most exposed to violence is the age group (20 to 35 years).

Table 10: Explains the differences between the averages of husbands who are violent toward their wives when they were grouped by the nature of their work

Dimensions of violence	The work	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	t value	probability value	Level of significance
Physical violence	Work	75	19.307	- 0.689	0.02	0.05
	Not work	55	20.109			
Psychological violence	Work	75	22.213	-2.567	0.012	0.05
	Not work	55	27.763			
Economic violence	Work	75	11.146	-2.026	0.001	0.01
	Not work	55	13.527			

Table 11: Illustrates the differences between the means of violence used by husbands against wives when classified according to whether or not there are sons

Dimensions of violence	Having sons from the current marriage	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	(t) value	probability value	Level of significance
Physical violence	Having sons	86	12.5116	0.851	0.123	Non
	Not having sons	44	11.4545			
Psychological violence	Having sons	86	25.8721	1.691	0.000	Non
	Not having sons	44	22.0000			
Economic violence	Having sons	86	19.4651	0.011	0.011	0.05
	Not having sons	44	20.0000			

Table 12: Binary correlation coefficients between the forms of violence and the independent variables

Independent variables	Forms of violence		
	Physical violence	Psychological violence	Economic violence
Age	0.157	0.127	- 0.048
The educational level of the respondent	0.018	- 0.015	- 0.061
Husband's career (profession)	0.016	0.109	0.009
Husband's educational level	- 0.337 **	- 0.236 **	- 0.257 **
Family monthly income	- 0.080	- 0.148	- 0.271 **
Housing Level	- 0.138	- 0.351 **	- 0.494 **
Husband's religious commitment	0.287 **	0.552 **	0.523 **

** Significant at 0.001 level

The results also indicated that there is no relationship between the husband's career and any of the three forms of violence; the values of the binary correlation coefficients were 0.016, 0.109, and 0.009, and all are not significant at the 0.05 level.

The results also show that there is no relationship between the level of education of the wife and the experience of violence by the husband, while there is an inverse relationship between the level of education of the husband and the practice of violence in its three forms against the wife, which is consistent with the findings of the [NCFA \(2013\)](#), [Chokkanathan \(2012\)](#), [Kalaca and Dundar \(2010\)](#), and [Muhammad and Jibril \(2019\)](#). Regarding the monthly income of the family, the results showed that there is no correlation between it and psychological or physical violence, but there is a strong inverse correlation with economic violence, while the level of housing, the results confirmed that there is a strong inverse correlation between the level of housing and both psychological and economic violence, this could be due to the low economic level of the family, which requires the

participation of the wife in bearing the economic burdens by the husband. This is consistent with the study of [Bassiouni \(2018\)](#), [Carlson \(2000\)](#), [Chokkanathan \(2012\)](#), and [NCFA \(2013\)](#), which emphasize the existence of a relationship between the economic level of the family and violence. Regarding the husband's religious commitment, the results clearly show that there is a strong inverse correlation between the husband's religious commitment and each of the three forms of violence; this is a logical result as a result of the nature of the place of study, which is keen on religious commitment, which calls for not harming the wife. The previous results also indicated that the working woman is less exposed to violence than the non-working woman, and the higher education level of the husband makes him less violent, as does the higher economic level.

4. Conclusion

The results of the study show that the most common type of violence among the battered women

in the study was psychological violence, followed by economic violence, and finally physical violence. This result is consistent with the study of Bassiouni (2018), while it differs from the study of Briere and Jordan (2004). The results also indicated that women who don't work face more violence than women who do work in all three areas. This is in line with the results of Muhammad and Jibril (2019) and Meshaal (2016). It was also found that respondents who have children were more affected by psychological violence than respondents who do not have children. The results also indicate that there is no relationship between the wife's experience of violence at the hands of her husband and her age, the husband's occupation, her level of education, or her housing situation. The results show a strong and inverse correlation between husbands' religious commitment and each of the three forms of violence. This is a logical result considering that the focus of the study was on religious commitment, which calls for not harming the wife. This study stands out because it examined all common types of violence, whereas most other studies in the field have examined only one type of violence. The current study is also distinguished by looking at the forms of violence in the city of Ha'il, especially among those who visit King Khalid Hospital and the Civil Defense Center.

5. Recommendations

1. Focus more on educating those who want to marry about the importance of preserving the family and the harm that violence does.
2. Pay more attention to the committees for resolving disputes and marital problems to reduce the causes of violence.
3. Make girls aware of the importance of work and education.
4. Passing a series of laws that criminalize all forms of violence.
5. Conducting further studies and research to clarify some factors that were not considered in the study and their relationship with violence.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest

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