

“Are the Men Violence Against Women in Palestine?”

ALLA H. M. HAMIDE

Pusat Pengajian Pembangunan Sosial, Universiti Utara Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Jamaludin bin Mustaffa & Prof. Dr. Noor Aznizab Ishak

School of Applied Psychology, Social Work and Policy University Utara Malaysia

Abstract

Are the men violence against women in Palestine? Palestine men constantly face social pressures as well as violence. Males in Palestine have to take major family responsibilities at a very young age as they are taught to take care of their sisters, mothers and female members of their community. As they were raised to be tough and resilient, this social upbringing makes them less tolerant to even petty issues at homes. There have been cases reported on violence against women in Palestine. However, to what extent it has an impact on the Palestinians women and its community is remained to be explored. The issue of violence against women is not given sufficient amount of attention in Palestine either due to negligence or lack in understanding of the relationship between gender and violence. Studies on violence against women in Palestine have been neglected mainly due to the strong influence of cultural norms practiced in the region. Most of the incidents related to violence against women go unreported due to family pressure as a reaction to cultural practices. This study is interested to examine what are the psychosocial aspects of the men who abused women in Palestine?

Findings for this study showed that men in Palestine engaged in violence are due to the existence of unequal relations in the division of labor between men and women. Violence against women is also more likely to occur due to pattern of behavior of power and control gained or maintained by a life partner or a family member, which results in physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, and the degradation of dignity and status of women and girls. The study sample consisted of 502 men living the city of Bethlehem.

A quantitative method was employed with various psychosocial dimensions that include economic, social, legal, behavior and psychological factors, then this article will focus on the psychological factors.

Keywords: violence, women, abuse, Palestine

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I. INTRODUCTION

In general, the thought process of criminals is different than those who are not criminals because they exhibit antisocial thought process and action (Morgan, Bateastini & other, 2015). While discussing the origination of such antisocial behavior, researchers observe that individuals from societies engaging in criminal acts and antisocial behavior usually indulge in criminal thought process and attitudes, which often leads to committing crimes (Howard-Bostic, 2015 & Holsinger, 1999). Such individuals demonstrate socially disapproved behavior and attitudes further predicting their engagement in criminal acts (Walters, 1995).

While examining the cognitive behavior of offenders, 52 thinking errors were identified by Henning & Frueh (1996) who observed that the thought process of criminals does not allow modification of errors which subsequently leads them to commit crime.

As an extension to the cognitive theory of Yochelson and Samenow (1976), Walters (1995) added cognitive errors while describing the criminal lifestyle in a hierarchical manner with the following patterns in a descending order:

- General criminal thinking
- Proactive and reactive thinking
- Individual thinking

Proactive criminal thinking refers to the goal-based, deliberate, and organized criminal thinking and behavior. Reactive criminal thinking refers to impulsive and spontaneous criminal thinking and behavior. Walters (1995) identified the following individual thinking patterns used by individuals as justification for their irresponsible choices:

1. Mollification (justifying one's criminal behavior).
2. Cutoff (the mechanism of eliminating fear).

3. Entitlement (the mechanism of miss identifying uniqueness or ownership).
4. Power orientation (the idea of controlling a criminal’s own life).
5. Sentimentality (actions for repaying past criminal act).
6. Super optimism (displaying extreme optimism to accomplish unrealistic desires).
7. Cognitive indolence (displaying least resistance to modify or rectify irrational thoughts).
8. Discontinuity (inability to follow commitments in the course of time).

In edition Walters (1995) hierarchical lifestyle theory clearly distinguishes current patterns of criminal thinking from the historical patterns in the sense that current criminal thinking takes into account the current criminality whereas historical criminal thinking takes into account the past criminality of an individual. Moreover, studies have also investigated the relationship between criminal thinking and criminal act (Howard-Bostic,2015&Holsinger, 1999; Walters, 2005).

As reported by the Palestine news and information agency (2012), 37% married women were victims of violence by their husbands in 2011 (Khoury,2007). In the West Bank, the highest rate of marital violence against wives was in the province of Jericho (47.3%) and lowest in Ramallah (14.2%).Whereas in the Gaza Strip, the highest rate of violence was 58.1% and lowest in the Rafah governorate (23.1%) (Khoury, 2007).

However, as what I conclude from reading that there is no study has examined and discussed at length the men’s attitude about the crimes against women. While most of the organizations are working with the abused women, they do not concentrate on the men in Palestine to change their behavior toward the women (Haj-yahia, 2000).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The current research aims to examine the phenomenon of crimes against women in Palestine while investigating the reasons for domestic violence in Palestine as crime. It also includes the following sub-objectives:

- 1) To examine the psychosocial aspects of the abused women in Palestine
- 2) To assess the psychological factors causing the crime.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

First the central hypothesis of the research is that there is a significant relationship between the personality traits and psychosocial behavior of the criminals, and the increased violence and abuse against women in Palestine. The study also includes the following hypotheses:

1. The men psychologies have a direct relationship with the increased violence against women in Palestine.
2. The behavior of men in certain situations also influences the increased crimes and violence against women in Palestine.
3. The attitudes of men strongly influence the increased violence against the women in Palestine.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current research is using quantitative descriptive methods to analyze its variables as well as the research outcomes. In other words, the research it will mainly focus on using quantitative method in order to set the terms with comprehensive guidelines of research framework. As an articulated set of research objectives is relevant along with their outcomes, hypotheses, and achievement of high level of reliability (Matveev, 2002), this method is more significant for the current research.

LOCATION OF THE STUDY

While the city of Bethlehem is the primary source of data for the current research, it will specifically focus on the men of this city selected for the research. Jerusalem, Hebron Street is the largest street and the Star Street is the shortest street in Bethlehem. This divided comes from the population density of the area and the streets, for example Jerusalem, Hebron street has almost 200 men from that the researcher is selecting the number of men by take almost 5 % of the total men in each area (<http://www.bethlehem-city.org/>).

Also the method of selecting sampling is nonprobability sampling , the nonprobability can be divided into two broad types : accidental or purposive. Most sampling methods are purposive in nature because we usually approach the sampling problem with a specific plan in mind. The most important distinction among these types of sampling methods are the ones between the different types of purposive sampling approaches, so the sample for the current study will be purposive method.

The instrument reliability of this study is based on examining the internal reliability and T.test. Instrument reliability is measured by means of focusing on the outlooks of violence against women and criminal activity towards women, which will be examined and analyzed from feedback forms of the respondents.

The psychological factors tested by two parts:

First part: how the female treated by the men factor? It will include the first 15 questions that are focused on recognizing the relationship between the male and the female in the house from the perspectives of men. In other words, the questions show how the female is treated psychologically and physically by the male in the house. For instance, the questions will include statements such as: "My partner insulted me in front of others" or "My partner treated me like a stupid woman among other females in the house"

Second part: how the men treat their female factor ? It will include 5 questions that are focused on recognizing the relationship between female and male in the house from the perspective of women. The questions show how the female is treated psychologically and physically by the male in the house. For instance, the questions will include statements such as: "Beat her up" or "hold her down" according to the females in the house. Both parts the questions will include the 5-point Likert scale with the statements of 1) Never, 2) Rarely, 3) Occasionally, 4) Frequently, and 5) Very frequently.

In conclusion I am thinking that both of these parts are showing the psychological factor for the Palestinian men.

III. SUMMARY

The current research aims to concentrate on the issues of crime against women by examining and focused on psychological reasons can which can possibly explain the causes of the exhibition of such behavior or how to deal or express with their emotions effectively.

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