



### Chief Editor

**Dr. A. Singaraj**, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

### Editor

**Mrs.M.Josephin Immaculate Ruba**

### Editorial Advisors

1. Dr.Yi-Lin Yu, Ph. D  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Advertising & Public Relations,  
Fu Jen Catholic University,  
Taipei, Taiwan.
2. Dr.G. Badri Narayanan, PhD,  
Research Economist,  
Center for Global Trade Analysis,  
Purdue University,  
West Lafayette,  
Indiana, USA.
3. Dr. Gajendra Naidu.J., M.Com, LL.M., M.B.A., PhD. MHRM  
Professor & Head,  
Faculty of Finance, Botho University,  
Gaborone Campus, Botho Education Park,  
Kgale, Gaborone, Botswana.
4. Dr. Ahmed Sebihi  
Associate Professor  
Islamic Culture and Social Sciences (ICSS),  
Department of General Education (DGE),  
Gulf Medical University (GMU), UAE.
5. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Choudhury,  
Assistant Professor,  
Institute for Studies in Industrial Development,  
An ICSSR Research Institute,  
New Delhi- 110070.India.
6. Dr. Sumita Bharat Goyal  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Commerce,  
Central University of Rajasthan,  
Bandar Sindri, Dist-Ajmer,  
Rajasthan, India
7. Dr. C. Muniyandi, M.Sc., M. Phil., Ph. D,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Econometrics,  
School of Economics,  
Madurai Kamaraj University,  
Madurai-625021, Tamil Nadu, India.
8. Dr. B. Ravi Kumar,  
Assistant Professor  
Department of GBEH,  
Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College,  
A.Rangampet, Tirupati,  
Andhra Pradesh, India
9. Dr. Gyanendra Awasthi, M.Sc., Ph.D., NET  
Associate Professor & HOD  
Department of Biochemistry,  
Dolphin (PG) Institute of Biomedical & Natural Sciences,  
Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.
10. Dr. D.K. Awasthi, M.SC., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry, Sri J.N.P.G. College,  
Charbagh, Lucknow,  
Uttar Pradesh. India

ISSN (Online) : 2455 - 3662

SJIF Impact Factor :5.148

# EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research

Monthly Peer Reviewed & Indexed  
International Online Journal

Volume: 5 Issue: 5 May 2019



Published By :EPRA Publishing

CC License





## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN IN EL-OBEID, WESTERN SUDAN (Risk Factors, Causes & Response of Abused Women)**

**<sup>1</sup>Dr. Kubra Ali Ebrahim Hammad**

<sup>1</sup>Dean of the Faculty of Public and Environmental Health,  
University of Kordofan,  
Sudan

**<sup>2</sup>Dr. Mohammed Ismail Humaida**

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Public and Environmental Health,  
University of Kordofan,  
Sudan

### **ABSTRACT**

*Domestic violence has become a very widespread phenomenon, all around the world. it has immediate effects women's health, which in some cases, is fatal .In the Sudan the studies in domestic violence were limited ,one study carried out by Awad 2004 reveal that the prevalence of domestic violence was 41.6% .*

*This cross-sectional analytic community based study was carried out in El-Obeid, North Kordofan State ,Sudan. The study aims to determine associated risk factors of domestic violence against women, to assess the causes of domestic violence and to detect the response of the abused women to violence .Data were collected with pretested questionnaire and focus group discussion. Stratified random sample technique was used to fulfill the objectives of this study. Sample size of 384 married women in their household was chosen using the formula  $n = ( z^2 p q / d^2)$ . The women provided data on sociodemographic characteristics and abuse by the husband. Analysis was carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 15 (SPSS) . ANOVA analysis showed significant differences in violence against women as a result of husband's education,  $F4.718, \alpha 0.000$ , economic status  $F 3.057 \alpha 0.048$  , and alcohol and drug abuse by husband  $T 3.219, \alpha 0.001$ . The main reasons of violence include, financial (64.2%), conflict with husband's relatives (45.4%), refuse sex by wife (44.9%), go out home without permission(40.4%). Common reactions reported by the women included try to stop violence (51.1%), tell the relatives (53.1%), tell the friends (34%), and tell the neighbors (29.7%).*

*The study recommended that: raising of the community awareness about domestic violence. Culture of silence on domestic violence should be eliminated through continuous sensitization and empowerment. Educate young people early in life about gender issues, to prepare them for healthy marital relationships.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Domestic violence, Risk Factors, causes, response of abused women*

## INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is a global phenomenon that cuts across all social and economic classes. It has recently drawn attention in the medical field as a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality (Howaida 2008).

WHO defines domestic violence or intimate partner violence as "pattern of physical, sexual and, or psychological abuse by a person with whom the victim has had an intimate relationship" (Ali. et al. 2007).

Violence against women includes all verbal, physical, and sexual assaults which violate a woman's physical body, sense of self and sense of trust, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or country. Violence against women has been identified as a major public health and human rights issue, and has been estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to account for between 20% of healthy years of life lost in women aged 15 to 44 (Alhabib. Et al 2009).

Worldwide, domestic violence is as serious a cause of death and in capacity among women aged 15 – 49 years as cancer, and a greater cause of ill health than traffic accidents and malaria combined. In addition to causing injury, violence increases women's long-term risks of a number of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse, and depression. Secondary to the biopsychosocial effects of battering are the high costs of such violence (Alhabib. et al. 2009).

In England, 1 in 4 women may experience violence in their relationship with men. (Panos 1998).

Severe repeated and systemic violence occurs in at least 5 of every hundred marriage in Britain. Between 40 and 45% of murdered women are killed by their male partners. (Stark et al 1981).

In developing countries, women are more susceptible to domestic violence, for example one study in Karachi in 2000 reported that all husbands surveyed admitted that they shouted at their wives, even when they were pregnant [Marais. et al 1999].

In Zimbabwe, the study carried out in 2006 revealed that the domestic violence prevalence ranges from 39.4% to 53.5% for the four couple groupings, which is quite high requiring corrective measures (Gwazane 2006).

The study carried out in Iran in 2000 revealed that 38% of married women reported physical violence (Shaikh.2000).

In Arab countries, domestic violence is not only under-recognized and under-reported, but it is also considered as one of the most significant epidemics. Studies carried out in the Arab world show that 70% of violence occurs in big cities, and that in almost 80% of cases those

responsible are the heads of families, such as fathers or eldest brothers (Ioanna 2012).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 3.2. Study design:

A cross-sectional analytic community based study design was used to fulfill the objectives of the study.

### 3.3. Study area:

#### 3.3.1. Location:

Elobeid is the capital of North Kordofan State. Its area have estimated by 81km<sup>2</sup> and the distance from Khartoum is about 560km. Elobeid is connected to Khartoum by an asphalt motorway, a railway line and air flights taking off its airport several times a week.

#### 3.3.2. Population:

The population of the Town estimated by 440483 people. There are 38000 houses, 40000 families[Sudan census2009].

#### 3.3.3. Services:

##### 3.3.3.1. Health services:

Health services consist of four governmental hospitals, single private hospitals and 17 health centers.

##### 3.3.3.2. Educational services:

There are for universities in the city, twenty one secondary school and one hundred and twenty basic schools.

### 3.4. Study population:

Married women in household in Elobeid Town.

### 3.5. Sampling:

#### 3.5.1. Sample size:

The sample size was determined using the following formula:

$$n = (z^2 p q / d^2)$$

Where:

*z* is the value of the standard normal variable corresponding to 95% level of significance.

*P* is the prevalence of domestic violence (*p* = 0.5) and (*q* = 1 –*p*) since no prior information exist.

*d* is a marginal error (*d* =0.05)

Accordingly a sample of 384 household was obtained.

#### 3.5.2. Sampling technique:

The households were chosen by the method of stratified random sample technique.

The households in Elobeid city are currently divided in to class one, class two and class three, which considered as strata, where the households was selected from each strata of Elobeid town so the total number of household selected were 384 households.

### 3.6. Data collection:

(i)-In this study interview with respondent using a structured pre-coded questionnaire was used to collect data from study group. The questionnaire was constructed in a way that the respondents

could respond easily, based on the main objectives of the study.

Ten trained female interviewers conducted the interview; they were graduate of faculty of medicine and health science, department of health science, Kordofan University.

(ii)- Also five focus group discussions were conducted with currently married women in the selected communities to gather deep information from the victims of domestic violence, regarding the magnitude of the causes, impacts, and strategies for prevention. A total of 5 focus group involving 55 married women were conducted .

**3.7. Pre-testing:**

Pre-test was done to insure the understandability and acceptability of the questionnaire by the respondents.

**3.8. Ethics:**

Ethical permission for the study was obtained prior to data collection ,by contacting and receiving approval from the Ministry of Health of the city . Verbal informed consent was taken from all the women and they were assured that all the information would be kept confidential. Women who refused to participate were replaced by women residing in the next neighborhood who fulfilled the criteria.

**RESULTS**

Regarding the reasons of violence according to abusive married women, near two third (64.2%) of them attributed it to financial conflicts, near the half of them attributed it to conflict with husband's relatives (45.4%), (40%) of them attributed it to go outside the home without permission, (44.9%) of them attributed it to refuse of sex by the wife, third (34%) of them attributed it to hitting children.

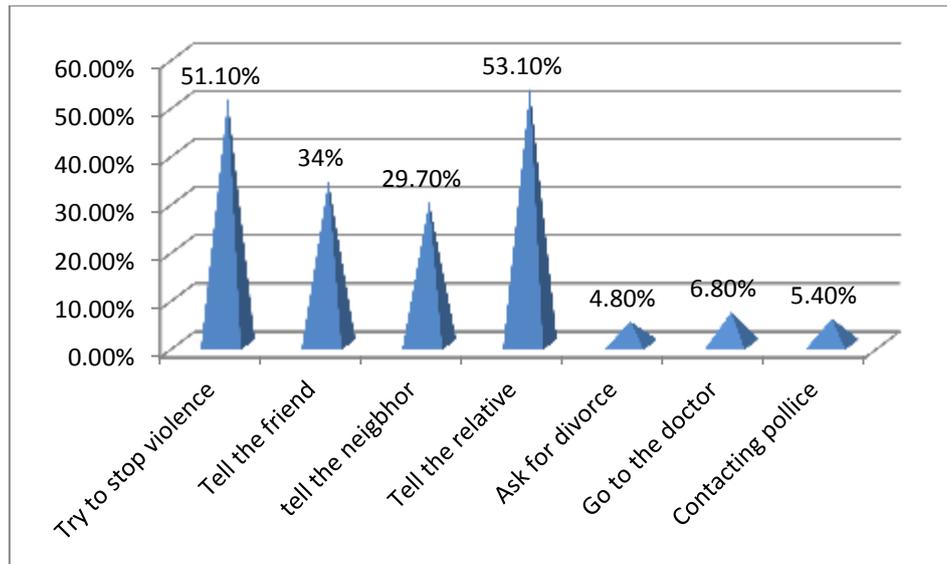
The other reasons for conflicts with husband were reported by married abused women as: infertility (12.3%), no having son (15.3%), husband being addiction to drugs(17.4%),alcohol admission (19%) , conflicts with wife's relatives(32.3%) ,interference by wife's parents (23.1%),interference with husband's parents(29.7%),not doing household chore properly(30.3%),conflicts about family planning (27.1%),husband taking another wife (31.1%),husband favoring wife over other(28.6%),suspected infidelity by husband (38.6%),and refusing of employment of wife by husband (37.1%) table(1).

Table(1) the reasons for violence according to abused women opinions in Elobeid town . (n=350).

The reasons for violence	Frequency		Total	%
	Always	Sometimes		
Financial	83	142	225	64.2
Infertility	28	15	43	12.3
Not having son	17	37	54	15.3
Hit the children	27	92	119	34.0
Alcohol consumption	48	19	67	19.0
Taking drug	50	11	61	17.4
Refuse sex by wife	38	119	157	44.9
Conflict with husband's relatives	55	104	159	45.4
Conflict with wife's relatives	44	69	113	32,3
Go out of home without permission	42	98	140	40.0
Not doing household chores	31	75	106	30.3
Interference by wife's parents	15	66	81	23.1
Interference by husband's parents	42	62	104	29.7
Conflicts about family planning	37	58	95	27.1
Husband has another wife	79	30	109	31.1
Husband favorite wife over other	40	60	100	28.6
Suspected infidelity by husband	51	84	135	38.6
Refusing employment	38	92	130	37.1

The response of abusive women to violence was limited by the options available to her; more than half of them (51.1%) keep silent and try to stop the violence alone, third of them (34%) tell their friends, near the third of them tell their neighbors (29.7%), more than half of

them tell the relatives (53.1%), few proportion (6.8%) of them go to the doctors, (4.8%) of them decided to ask for divorce ,and( 5.4%) of them contacting the police figure (1).



**Figure (1) the reaction of abused women to violence in El-Obeid. (n=350).**

Abused women were asked about why they keep silent and try to stop violence alone ,the majority of them say that they need their husband (79%),

most of them said that they afraid of people talking (94.4%), (82,7) of them said that they need their children table (2).

**Table (2) why the abused women try to stop violence alone in El-Obeid. (n=179)**

The reasons	Frequency		Total	%
	Sometimes	Always		
I need my husband	79	50	129	72.0
Afraid of community	74	95	169	94.4
I want my children	90	60	150	83.7

The physical abused women were asked about the injuries that they were experienced after any physical violence ,the majority of them (87.8%) said that they were experienced pain end through

24 hour,(9%) of them were experienced fractures,(1.9%) of them were experienced abortion ,and (12.3%) of them were experienced functional impairment table (3).

**Table (3) the experienced harm by the abused women after physical behavior in El-Obeid. (n=154).**

The harm	Frequency		%
	Sometimes	Always	
Pain end through 24 hour	60	75	87.8
Fractures	10	4	9
Abortion	2	1	1.9
Functional impairment	12	7	12.3

Regarding the think of abused women about conflict with husband, (67.1%) of them said that it is mistake, (80.2%) of them said that it is

natural, (50%) of them said that it is crime table (4).

**Table (4) the opinions of abusive women about the domestic violence by their husband in El-Obeid. (n=350)**

The opinions	Frequency		Total	%
	Sometimes	Always		
It is mistake	129	106	235	67.1
It is natural	144	137	281	80.2
It is crime	120	55	175	50

The majority of the discussant (90%) of them said that the most common type of domestic violence controlling behaviors including shouting and restriction of movement ,also more than half of them (56%) mention hitting as physical behavior.

The reasons of conflict with husband were discussed with women's groups ,most of them (81.8%),(80%), attributed it to the conflicts with husband's relatives, and go outside the home without permission respectively, three quarter of them(74%) attributed it to neglect of husband and children by . the discussant also reported some reasons of domestic violence which were concerned with husband such as alcohol and drug addiction ,economic status of husband, illiteracy and experience of violence in childhood.

The women in group asked about the response of abused women to domestic violence, high proportion of them (80%) said that they tell the friend and relatives, more than half f them (60%) said that they keep silent or go to their relative's home, near the half of them (44%) said that the abused women usually asked for divorce, and quarter of them (25%) said that the abused women contact police.

The discussants were asked about why the women whom experienced violence keep silent .high proportions of them ( 87%), (84%), (78%),said they need their husband, need their children ,and afraid f people 's talking respectively.

The discussants were asked about the measures taken to stop domestic violence against women ,most of them said that the first measures should focus in a family , advising the couple to discuss all family issues in a gentle and courteous way was briefly raise between group .The second measure should in intensive provision of formal and informal education for females on their rights and problems of cohabitation.

## DISCUSSION

This community based study carried out in El-Obeid – Western Sudan, the study aimed to determine associated risk factors of domestic violence against women ,to assess the causes of domestic violence and to detect the response of the abused women to violence . .

Regarding the main reasons for violence in our study; (64.2%) of abused women attributed it to financial conflicts .Our finding consistence with study carried out by Ali 2007 in Karachi which revealed that the main reasons for conflicts with husbands

were report as financial causes (65%), but disagree with study carried in Zimbabwe by Tom Tom 2013 which stated that 13% of

respondent attributed domestic violence to financial causes.

Other reasons for violence as mentioned by abused women include conflict with husband's relatives (45.4%), go outside the home without permission (40%) , refuse of sex by the wife (44.9%).This finding was supported by the previous studies , in Uganda by Michael 2005 which revealed that 17% of women attributed violence to refuse of sex by the wife, and study carried out by Ali 2007 in Karachi which revealed that 4.8% of women stated that refuse of sex by the wife lead to violence In Ethiopia , study carried out by Shanko 2008 stated that 40.4% of women stated sexual incompatibility as cause of violence.

The response of an abused women to violence in this study was limited by the options available to her, more than half of them (51.1%) keep silent and try to stop the violence alone, this result consistence with result of study carried out by Zeinab et al in Sudia Arabia 2010 which stated that a half of abused women (50%) reported receiving no help at all .However , Howaida 2008 ; reported that 18.9% of abused women in Egypt react to violence by doing nothing.

Another reactions to violence by women include tell the relatives (53.1%), tell their friends (34%), and tell the neighbors (29.7%). This agree with study carried out by Zeinab 2010 which stated that reactions of abused women in Al-Ahsa included complaining to their own family, or a friend in only one-third of cases.

This because some women in our society believe that husband's violence against their wives is acceptable, also they fear from negative social stigma attached to the victims of violence against woman..

Few proportion of women in our study 4.5% decided to ask for divorce. This result consistence with result of study carried out by Awad in Sudan 2004 which stated that few proportion of abused women (6.1%) were asked for divorce. Our finding disagree with study carried out by Ali 2007 in Karachi which stated that 26% of abused women initiated some legal action for separation, divorce or for recovery of property.

In our society, divorce (or even being unmarried) is socially unacceptable, especially when requested by the wife. Divorcees suffer social isolation or even further violence from other members of the family (as they are not allowed to live independently in a separate home). Moreover, the divorce is not easily obtained. According to Islamic law (*sharia*) the right to divorce is exclusively granted to the

husband, and abusers tend to refuse to divorce their victims.

With regard to the physical injuries our study revealed that (87.8%) of physically abused women were experienced pain end through 24 hour. This support by previous study carried out by Michaelin in Uganda 2003 which stated that the most common injury reported by women was pain lasting more than one day (39.9%)..

## CONCLUSIONS

Exposure to women abuse was more prevalent among women whose husbands were , non-educated and drug abuser. Women who experienced violence kept it to themselves ,and think it is private issue.

The main reported reasons for the violence are financial , conflict with husband's relatives and refuse sex by wife .which are public health issues should be addressed by health professionals. Common reactions reported by the women included staying quiet, and tell the relatives.

## REFERENCES

1. Alhabib. et al (2009), *Domestic Violence Against Women: Systematic Review of Prevalence Studies. Journal of Family Violence* (2010) 25:369 – 382.
2. Ali.T.S. et al (2007) .*Prevalence of and reasons for domestic violence among women from low socioeconomic communities of Karachi, WHO ,Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal, Vol13, No6.*
3. Gwazane (2006), *A study to determine factors associated with domestic violence among concordant and discordant couples in Zimbabwe, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Vol. 1 No. 7 [Special Issue –June 2011].*
4. Ioanna (2012) . "Domestic violence: A major Health and Human Rights issue in the world" *MSc in International Medicine Health Crisis Management School of Medicine University of Athens. Athens pp11*
5. Michael. et al (2003) *Domestic violence in rural Uganda: evidence from a community-based study. Bulletin of the World Health Organization;81:53-60.*
6. Panos Institute( 1998). *The Intimate Enemy: Gender Violence and Reproductive Health, pp. 1-20. Panos Briefing No. 27. London: Panos Institute.*
7. Shaikh MA. *Domestic violence against women— perspective from Pakistan. Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association, 2000, 50(9):3124.*
8. Shanko et al (2008). *Domestic violence against women in Kersa, Oromia*
9. Zeinab et al (2010). *Domestic violence and its impact on married women's health in Eastern Saudi Arabia. Saudi Med J 2011; Vol. 32 (6): 612-620.*