

PHYSICAL INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TURKEY

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to research how often women experienced physical intimate partner violence living in urban and rural area according to their settlement location, age groups, education status, working status, prosperity levels, and what kind of physical violence they were exposed to and what kind of injuries they had and what were the main reasons of the physical intimate domestic violence against women, according to these women. The data for this study have been taken from the Research about Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey which was conducted by the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry General Directorate on the Status of Women in 2008. According to this study, at any stage of life, women in rural areas were more likely to be a victim of intimate physical violence than women in urban areas. Women experiencing physical intimate partner violence have been exposed to mostly simple assault such as throwing something, pushing or shoving, fisting, kicking, dragging and beating. Women were more likely to have minor injuries such as scratches and bruises after physical intimate partner violence, both women living in urban areas and in rural areas. Women point out the Problems with the Man's Family as the number one reason of physical intimate partner violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Physical Intimate Partner Violence, Physical Assault

Introduction

Physical violence occurs between intimate partners on a continuum of improper behavior. Physical violence against women have been seen as a significant social and public health problem by many states and legal authorities. All forms of intimate violence affect women's quality of life (Potter et al., 1994: 343). Health concerns that are associated with violence against women include physical injuries, psychological disorders, chronic pain or fatigue, depression, loss of appetite and eating disorders. Physical injury, psychological trauma and death are associated with violence against

women (Gosselin, 2007: 415). Women are the most frequent victims of physical intimate partner violence (Potter et al.1994: 349). In 1999, 85% of the 791,210 intimate partner violence victims were female (Rennison, 2001).

"Nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. Approximately four million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during a 12-month period." (*American Psychological Association, 2014*). Physical intimate violence refers to acts that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment. Physical violence may be recognized through external or internal signs. External signs include bite marks, bleeding, bruises, burns, crying, marks, missing or pulled hair, ripped clothing. Internal signs of physical abuse include broken bones, dislocations, internal bleeding and sprains. Physical violence occurs through beatings, biting, hitting, kicking, pulling of hair, punching, slapping, shoving, strangulation, striking and throwing things (Potter, 1994: 345; Gartner & Macmillan, 1995, 394).

Physical Violence in Domestic Violence

Physical violence include acts assaults, attacks with a firearm, attacks with a knife, attacks with other weapons, to be hit by a thrown object, and to be hit, slapped, knocked down, grabbed, held, or tripped (Catalano, 2007). Wagner and Mongan (1998), in their research have found that physical assault and stalking respectively were the most frequently reported forms of domestic intimate violence perpetrated against adult women in the U.S. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey data from 2001 to 2005, it was reported that 63% of the female victims of intimate partner violence were hit, slapped or knocked down; while 22% of female victims were grabbed, held or tripped (Catalano, 2007).

Physical Assault in Domestic Violence

"Physical assault is defined as behaviors that threaten, attempt, or actually inflict physical harm" (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000, p.5). From a judicial standpoint, the parameters and definitions of physical assault may be defined in different ways at global, national, or local levels. Some legal authorities divide physical assault into four categories: assault in the first degree, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, and assault in the fourth degree. First and second degree assaults are designated as aggravated assault because they result in severe and visible injuries to the victims. Assaults in the third and fourth degrees are described as simple assault based on minor visible and non-visible injuries of the victims.

According to the National Violence against Women survey (NVAW) between 1995 and 1996 in USA, physical assault was the most frequently reported crime among domestic violence cases. According to same survey

22.1% of the women experienced physical assault by an intimate partner at some time in their lives (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). The NVAW data showed that of the 16,000 people surveyed, 3.4% of women reported that they had been physically assaulted in the previous 12 months in the U.S. (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). However, women are most frequently physically assaulted by their intimate partners. Almost 72% of the women who reported to be assaulted as an adult were physically assaulted by a current intimate partner compared to only 10.6% who were assaulted by a stranger (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).

Simple Assault in Domestic Violence

According to Catalano (2007) simple assault is as an unlawful physical attack or threat of attack to anyone. Rantala (2000) categorized simple assault, identifying it as an act not involving weapons:

An unlawful physical act which does not clearly indicate presence of weapons by the offender or severely aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness (p.13).

Slapping, hitting, pushing, grabbing, shoving and hitting with an object are reported as the most frequent physical assault against women by intimate partners according to Tjaden and Thoennes (2000). Near 30% of the survey participants have reported use of physical assault against them since the age of 18 (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). Simple assault was the most frequently repeated type of intimate partner violence according to NCVS data from 2001 (Rennison, 2003). Nonfatal intimate partner violence against the women is the most common form of crime. The other forms of intimate partner violence against the women are aggravated assault and rape/sexual assault (Catalano, 2007).

Aggravated Assault in Domestic Violence

A serious magnitude of domestic violence is generally considered as aggravated assault. This form of violence is an intentional act to cause serious physical injury to another person by use of a weapon or an instrument that is dangerous by nature (Rantala, 2000). 117,480 women were the victims of aggravated assault compared to the 471,860 women victims of simple assault by intimate partners in U.S. according to NCVS statistics from 2001 (Rennison, 2003). Compared to the relatively higher results obtained in 1999, 66% of the 672350 women intimate partner violence victims were victims of simple assault and 10% were victims of aggravated assault and robbery (Rennison, 2001).

Injury in Domestic Violence

The injuries arising from simple and aggregated assaults of domestic violence are categorized into two by Catalano (2007) : (a) More lethal injuries such as gunshot wounds, knife wounds, internal injuries, broken bones, or rape/sexual assault injuries; and (b) minor injuries such as slapping, hitting, pushing, grabbing, shoving and hitting with an object.

A study by Rennison (2001) reveals that intimate partners violence between 1993 and 1999 resulted in %50 injury rate from all reports, meanwhile 5% of female victims had serious injuries, 41% had minor injuries, and 4% had unspecified injuries. A more recent data between 2001 and 2005 by NCVS observes 510,970 cases of intimate partner violence with 51% female victim injuries of which 85% were minor while the other 15% were serious injuries. Among the serious injuries, gunshot wounds and broken bones comprised 5% and 2.4%, respectively (Catalano, 2007).

Method

In 2008 The Republic of Turkey, Prime Ministry General Directorate on the Status of Women has organized a research to find about how widespread domestic violence against women in Turkey is. The name of this research: s The Research about Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey. The basic starting point of the research has been the need to obtain nationwide urban/rural regional level data, as well as data for some basic variables in order to obtain evidence on magnitude and nature of domestic violence. The main purpose of this research was to gather a unique data set about the domestic violence against women in Turkey, which will enable the formation of policies and programs, and to improve the existing policies and programs in order to combat domestic violence against women more effectively. This research aims to create better policies to fight domestic violence and to contribute to similar initiatives aimed towards the same cause at the national level.

These data have been collected by quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

Quantitative Research; the quantitative research phase of the project aimed to obtain data on prevalence of forms of domestic violence against women on national level, urban and rural settlements in 12 regions. Qualitative Research; the aim of the qualitative stage of the research was to get detailed information about attitudes, beliefs and experiences of women and men. Interview questions have been prepared to collect information. In-depth and semi-structured interviews aimed to gather information on women exposed to violence and to learn about their experiences.

The research sample: This research on domestic violence against women has been conducted in urban and rural regions within Turkey.

Turkey was divided into 12 urban and rural areas for The Research about Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey. The cities which have a population more than 10.000 inhabitants have been accepted as urban areas and cities which have less than 10.000 populations have been accepted rural areas. Sampling size and distribution: There were 12 regions consisting of 24,048 households in total, divided into 18,144 urban and 5,904 rural households. The women who experienced physical abuse by husband or partner(s) after the age of 15 were asked to fill out the questionnaire.

The questionnaire and results of this research have been created according to the guidelines by World Health Organization's publishing "Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women". Application of field research: Field research of this experiment was conducted between July 27, 2008 and September 29, 2008. There was a secondary visit to the cities with insufficient responses on October 2008 (Directorate State of Women, 2008).

Terms / Expressions

Use of physical force against women: Victim of threat or experience created by husband or partner (s) involving use of punching, throwing objects, smacking, punching, kicking, strangling, stabbing, weapon or other harmful objects.

Spouse: Someone who is considered as spouse without a declaration of religious or official authority.

Partner: Either member of a married couple or of an established unmarried couple.

Results					
Table 1 Women That Experienced Physical Intimate Partner Violence					
		At any stage of life	Last 12 months	The number of Married Women	
		%	%	N	
Settlement Location	Urban Area	38	10	7,981	
	Rural Area	43.2	9.9	2,817	
Age Group	15-24	31.9	17.3	1,194	
	25-34	36.6	12.5	3,652	
	35-44	39.7	8.7	3,009	
	45-59	45.4	4.8	2,943	
Education	Uneducated or Not finished the primary school	52.2	12.6	2,741	
	Primary School	39.9	9.1	5,237	
	Middle School	34.9	12.3	872	

	High School and Upper	25	7.9	1,948	
Working Status	Not Working	38.7	10.3	7,922	
	Working	40.7	8.9	2,876	
Prosperity Level	Low	47	13.7	4,189	
	Middle	38.9	8.9	4,631	
	High	26.7	5.5	1,978	
Turkey		39.3	9.9	10,798	

Table 1 shows that (38 %) of women in urban areas experienced physical intimate partner violence at any stage of their lives and (10 %) of women in the last 12 months. For rural areas, (43.2 %) of women experienced physical intimate partner violence at any stage of their lives and (9.9 %) of women experienced in the last 12 months. When ‘at any stage of life’ percentages have been considered, women in rural areas (43.2%) were more likely to be a victim of intimate physical violence than women in urban areas (38%). However when ‘last 12 months’ percentages have been considered there is almost no difference between women who experienced physical intimate partner violence in urban areas (10 %) and women who experienced physical intimate partner violence in rural areas (9.9 %). According to age groups, when ‘at any stage of life’ percentages have been considered, women between 45 and 59 were most likely to be a victim of physical intimate partner violence. However, when ‘last 12 months’ percentages have been considered, women between 15-24 were most likely to be victim of physical intimate partner violence. Comparing the victims’ educational level, women who were uneducated and had not finished the primary school were most likely to be a victim of intimate partner violence both for ‘at any stage of the life’ (52.2) and for ‘the last 12 months’ (12.6 %).

Table 1 shows that when the educational level increases the possibility of being exposed to physical intimate partner violence decreases for the women. Working women (40.7 %) were more likely to be exposed to physical intimate partner violence than not working women (38.7 %). Looking at prosperity level, women who experienced physical intimate violence at any stage of the life had Low Prosperity level (47 %), Middle Prosperity Level (26.7 %) and (39.3 %), respectively. It is understood that women who have low level of income were most likely to face physical intimate partner violence.

Table 2 represents that the majority of the men’s intimate physical violence against the women in both urban and rural areas were simple assaults such as slapping or throwing something (urban area 35.5% and rural area 41.4%). According to Table 2 women at any stage of their lives in urban area experienced slapping and throwing something (35.3%), pushing or shoving (19.1%), fisting (14.1%), kicking, dragging and beating (11.4%),

choking and burning (5.3%) and threats with such instruments like gun and knife or using these instruments (2.7%), respectively. At any stage of their lives women in rural area experienced slapping and throwing something (41.43%), pushing or shoving (20.1%), fisting (16.9%), kicking, dragging and beating (15.5%), choking and burning (4.8%) and threats with such instruments like gun and knife or using these instruments (2.2%), respectively. It is very remarkable that when urban and rural areas percentages' have been compared, women in rural areas experienced slapping or throwing something (41.4%) more than women in urban areas (35.5%) for at any stage of live.

Even though women between 45 and 59 were most likely to be exposed to physical intimate partner violence at any stage of life for the all kinds of physical violence means, they were less likely to be physical intimate partner violence than other age groups for the last 12 months. According to educational level, women who are Uneducated or Not Finished the primary school were more likely to be physical intimate partner violence victim than others. Working status does not create big difference to be physical intimate partner violence for the women. Comparing all prosperity level, women who have less income were more likely to be physical intimate partner violence than others.

Table 2. Types Intimate Physical Violence Against the Women

Variables		Slapping or Throwing Something		Pushing or Shoving		Fisting		Kicking, Dragging and Beating		Choking or Burning		Threats with such Instruments like gun and knife/ or using these Instruments		Number of Women Victims
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	N	
		At any stage of life	Last 12 months	At any stage of life	Last 12 months	At any stage of life	Last 12 months	At any stage of life	Last 12 months	At any stage of life	Last 12 months	At any stage of life	Last 12 months	
Settlement Location	Urban Area	35.5	8.8	19.1	5.6	14.1	4	11.4	3	5.3	1.7	2.7	0.8	7,981
	Rural Area	41.4	8.8	20.1	6.1	16.9	4.1	15.5	4.1	4.8	1.2	2.2	0.6	2,817
Age Group	15-24	30	15.9	15.1	9.5	8.7	5.7	8.9	6	4	2.5	2.2	1	1,194
	25-34	33.5	10.9	17.9	7.2	12	4.9	9.8	3.8	4.6	2	2.2	0.9	3,652

	35-44	37.7	7.8	18.9	5	15.1	4.2	13.1	3	5.1	1.4	2.4	0.9	3,009
	45-59	43.7	4	23.3	3	20.5	2.2	16.4	1.6	6.3	0.8	3.4	0.3	2,943
Education	Uneducated or Not finished the primary school	50.6	11.5	24.3	6.5	22.9	5.5	19.8	5	7.5	2.1	3.7	1	2,741
	Primary School	37.6	7.9	19.2	5.2	15	3.8	12.3	2.9	4.7	1.3	2.4	0.5	5,237
	Middle School	32.3	10.8	19.4	8.1	10.3	5.2	8.9	4.2	4.7	2.3	1.8	0.9	872
	High School and Upper	22.3	7	14.2	4.8	7.3	2.4	6	2	4	1.3	2.2	0.9	1,948
Working Status	Not Working	36.5	9.2	19.3	5.7	14.7	4.2	12.2	3.2	5.2	1.6	2.5	0.7	7,922
	Working	38.4	7.7	19.6	5.7	15.1	3.4	13.2	3.4	5.1	1.5	2.9	0.7	2,876
Prosperity Level	Low	45.5	12.7	22.4	7.7	20.4	6.4	17.6	5.1	6.3	2.1	3.5	1.2	4,189
	Middle	36.1	7.5	18.8	5	13.1	3.2	10.8	2.7	5.1	1.6	2.3	0.5	4,631
	High	24.4	4.7	15.2	3.6	8.7	1.7	6.9	1.4	3.3	0.7	1.7	0.4	1,978
Turkey		37	8.8	19.4	5.7	14.8	4	12.4	3.3	5.2	1.6	2.6	0.7	10,798

Variables		Scratches and Bruise	Eye Injuries and Bruising	Cut and Bite	Flexure /Dislocation	Cracks in Bones/Fractures	Deep Wounds and Cuts	Tooth Fracture	Internal Organ Injuries	Burns	The Number of Women Injured as a Result of Violence
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	N
Settlement Location	Urban Area	65.6	60.3	16.1	16.6	18.2	13.9	7.8	7.6	4.3	903

Age Group	Rural area	65.2	60.1	18.3	16.5	11.8	11.7	9.7	2.1	3.2	309
	15-24	75	50.8	17.4	16.1	10.2	9.7	8	7.1	6.2	115
	25-34	62.6	62.4	18.9	16.6	16	13	3.7	8.4	3.6	359
	35-44	65.8	60.4	12.7	15.5	15.5	15.7	9.5	6.3	3.9	335
	45-59	64.6	61.5	17.7	17.4	19.5	13.1	10.9	4.1	3.8	403
Education	Uneducated or Not finished the primary school	65.4	61.6	20.4	19.1	23	18	11	5.8	5.7	401
	Primary School	64.4	63.6	14.4	16	14.5	11.1	7.1	5.5	3.3	584
	Middle School	66.1	49.4	18.6	12.8	17.2	7.9	7.9	8.2	6.9	86
	High School and Upper	69.3	52.3	16.3	15.7	10.5	15.4	7.1	7.8	1.8	141
Working Status	Not Working	65.6	61.1	16.9	17.1	17.8	13.2	8.6	6.9	4.1	880
	Working	65.3	58.3	16.2	15.3	13.5	13.7	7.5	4.4	3.9	332
Prosperity Level	Low	65.8	62	19.8	16.5	17.7	15.2	10.5	6.6	4.8	611
	Middle	64.2	61.1	13.9	18.4	16.2	10	6.1	6.8	4.4	461
	High	67.8	52.8	14.4	12.3	13.9	16.3	7.4	3.4	0.9	140
Turkey		65.5	60.2	16.7	16.6	16.5	13.4	8.3	6.2	4	1,212

According to Table 3, women were more likely to have scratches and Bruises after a physical intimate partner violence; both women living in urban areas (65.6 %) and in rural areas (65.2 %). Except Internal Organ Injuries, there are no big differences between women living in urban and in rural areas in injury types. Similarly, all age groups have very close percentages of all types of injuries. However, women who are High School and Upper graduates were more likely to experience minor injuries such as scratches and bruises, while women who were Uneducated or had not Finished the Primary School were more likely to experience more serious injuries than other graduates. Working status does not create big difference to have physical intimate partner violence type injuries. There are no big differences in percentages for all kinds of types of injuries for the Working status. Even though women who have more income level were more likely to

have simple injuries, women who have less income level were more likely to have serious injuries than others after physical intimate partner violence.

Table 4 indicates that according to the women who experienced physical or sexual violence living in urban area, the three most important reasons of the physical and sexual violence were Problems with the Man’s Family (31.1 %), Men Related Reasons (23.1 %) and Economic Difficulties and Challenges (21.1 %), . Women living in rural area indicate that Problems with the Man’s Family (31.1 %), Economic Difficulties and Challenges (21.1 %) and Women Related Reasons (20.4 %), are the most important factors respectively.

All age groups said that Problems with the Man’s Family (31.1 %) was the most possible reasons of physical or sexual intimate partner violence. Similarly, women from all educational level see the Problems with the Man’s Family was the most possible reasons for physical or sexual intimate partner violence. Comparing with the others, women Uneducated and not Finished the primary School consider Economic Difficulties and Challenges (24.2 %) a more serious reason for the intimate partner reason. It is very surprising that even not working women consider the Problems with the Man’s Family (31.1 %) was more important reason for the physical or sexual intimate partner violence than Economic Difficulties and Challenges (21.1 %). Women that have the Low Prosperity Level rated Economic Difficulties and Challenges (25.8 %), compared to women who have the High Prosperity Level rated it only (14.5 %). For all Prosperity Levels, the Problems with the Man’s Family was the main reason of physical or sexual intimate partner violence.

Variables		Economic Difficulties and Challenges	Problems with the man's family	Man's Bad Habits	Men Related Reasons	Woman Related Reasons	Problems with the Woman's Family	Problems with the Children	No Particular Reason	Do not Know or Remember	Other Reasons	Number of Women Experienced Physical Violence
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	N
Settlement Location	Urban Area	21.1	31.2	10.4	23.1	17.5	3	11	9.3	0.9	11.1	3,279
	Rural Area	23.4	33	6.8	16.7	20.4	2.2	16.7	8.2	1.9	11.8	1,273
Age Groups	15-24	15.7	31.5	3.5	27.3	25.3	4.5	7.5	9.2	1.6	13.8	454
	25-34	20.7	32	6.8	22.1	19.8	3	12.3	9.4	1.2	10.9	1,443
	35-44	27.1	33.1	10.8	18.3	14.6	2.4	13	7.6	1.3	11.7	1,265

	45-59	20.8	30.3	13.1	20.9	17.1	2.1	14.5	9.7	0.8	10.2	1,390	
Education	Uneducated or Not finished the primary school	24.2	31.7	8	16.2	18.4	1.9	15.4	10.6	2	9.9	1,458	
	Primary School	22.5	33.9	10.1	19.4	18.6	2.6	12.5	8.2	1	10	2,229	
	Middle School	18.8	29.1	8.5	33.3	18.8	5	9	7.2	0.6	12.5	331	
	High School and Upper	15.5	24.9	10.6	31.9	16.9	3.8	9.1	9.6	0.3	17.9	534	
Working Status	Not Working	20.9	31.6	9.3	21.1	18.1	2.6	12.7	9.9	1.1	11.4	3,313	
	Working	23.7	31.8	9.7	22.1	18.9	3.1	12.4	6.8	1.2	11	1,239	
Prosperity Level	Low	25.8	32.5	9.4	18.1	18.2	2.9	13.7	8.7	1.4	10.9	2,070	
	Middle	20.2	31	9	22.5	17.8	2.5	12.6	9.2	1.1	10.7	1,911	
	High	14.5	31	10.7	27.3	19.9	3.3	9.5	9.3	0.4	13.7	571	
Turkey		21.7	31.7	9.4	21.4	18.3	2.8	12.6	9	1.1	11.3	4,552	

Discussions

Physical intimate domestic violence is very harmful for the women victims' physical and psychological health. To fight and establish affective public policies against physical intimate domestic violence against women, dimensions and reasons of the problem should be known correctly. In the name of solving this problem, the Research about Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey has been conducted by the Republic of Turkey, Prime Ministry General Directorate on the Status of Women to learn how widespread of domestic violence against women in Turkey is.

The main purpose of this research is to gather actual and updated data about the domestic violence against women through urban and rural areas within Turkey. Also this research would help to create better public policies to fight against domestic violence and to contribute to similar initiatives aimed towards the same cause at national level. In order to compare domestic violence against women both in urban and rural areas separately, the research sample has been selected from urban and rural households.

According to this research when considered for the variable ‘at any stage of life’, women in rural areas (43.2%) were more likely to be a victim of intimate physical violence than women in urban areas (38%). But for the last 12 months, there is almost no difference between women that experienced physical intimate partner violence in urban areas (10 %) and in rural areas (9.9 %). According to Rennison’s (2000) study between 1993 and 1998, women in urban areas (9.5 %) experienced more nonfatal intimate partner violence than women in rural areas (8.1 %).

The NCVS data from 2001 to 2005 indicated that females who were living in urban areas were more likely to experience nonfatal domestic violence than their rural counterparts. In fact, females who were living in rural and suburban areas reported the same level of nonfatal domestic violence (Catalano, 2007). The reason why women in rural areas in Turkey are experiencing the physical intimate partner violence more on the contrary to the literature should be investigated. When we compare the social status of women in rural areas with the social status of women in urban areas, women who are living in the rural areas have lower status about the gender equality than others. Thus the reason why women in rural areas in Turkey are experiencing the physical intimate partner violence more on the contrary to the literature can be explained based on cultural codes of Turkish people who are living rural areas.

This study found that women experienced simple assault such as slapping and throwing something at any stage of their lives in urban areas; (35.3%), pushing or shoving (19.1%), fisting (14.1%), kicking, dragging and beating (11.4%), respectively. It is seen that women who experienced physical intimate partner violence are been exposed mostly to simple assault such as throwing something, pushing or shoving, fisting, kicking, dragging and beating.

According to NCVS data from 2001, simple assault was the most repeated type of crime for intimate partner violence (Rennison, 2003). Rennison (2001) in another study also found the similar results that almost 60% of all assaults against women were simple assaults. Mostly perpetrator men want to control women. When these men cannot control the women, they apply violence to scare them. When perpetrator men want to scare the women, they choose the less heavy violence means. Another explanation of why men apply simple assault against women is that they are afraid of being punished by judicial authorities. When the women victims of domestic violence are injured by the men, they call for public help and health services. When the domestic violence and injuries are disclosed, authorities ask for the perpetrator. Because the perpetrators are punished by the law, they choose simple assault means against the women instead of aggregated assault.

According to this study, women were more likely to have minor injuries such as scratches and bruises after physical intimate partner violence; both women living in urban areas (65.6 %) and in rural areas (65.2 %). Rennison (2001) found similar results that of all injuries 42% of injuries were minor injuries such as cuts and bruises. Perpetrators want to scare the women and control them. Most of the times there is no need to attack the women to scare them. Only when the perpetrator men want to punish the women, they choose attacking with the aggregated assault means. On the other hand, simple physical injuries are the results of simple assault in which men just want to scare the women.

This study found that Problems with the Man's Family (31.1 %), Men Related Reasons (23.1 %) and Economic Difficulties and Challenges (21.1 %), are the main three reasons for violence. It is very strange that women experienced physical intimate partner violence point out Problems with the Man's Family as the number one reason of physical intimate partner, then Men Related Reasons and Economic Difficulties and Challenges as subsequent reasons. Benson and Fox (2001) studied the roots of domestic violence and concluded that mental health problems, communication and personality styles, economic difficulties, geographic location, and experience with domestic violence all can contribute to the phenomenon. They found that individual psychological problems, stress, inability to solve conflict in a relationship, jealousy, inadequate income, financial crisis, unemployment, job instability, living in a disadvantaged neighborhood, and experiencing and witnessing domestic conflict during childhood are the main visible causes of domestic or partner violence. It has also been reported that couples who face severe financial crises suffer three times more incidents of violence than couples who faced lesser financial crises (Benson & Fox, 2001).

Men Related Reasons such as individual psychological problems, stress, and inability to solve conflict in a relationship, jealousy and experiencing and witnessing domestic conflict during childhood and Economic Difficulties and Challenges such as inadequate income, financial crisis, unemployment, job instability are very known as root causes of intimate domestic violence. The frequency of verbal disagreements and of high levels of conflict in relationships are strongly associated with physical violence (Jewkes, 2002).

This study found that women between 15-24 were most likely to be victim of physical intimate partner violence. Rennison's (2000) also found that women between 20-24 were the most frequent victims of intimate partner violence. This means governments should establish affective public policies to protect women between 20-24 from the physical intimate partner violence. According to Catalano (2007) , in the lowest income category,

females between the ages of 20 and 24 were 20% more likely to be victimized by an intimate partner than those in households with a higher income. Women at ages 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006*). ***These results show that women between 20-24 ages are the most vulnerable groups. The women between 20-24 ages are the most inexperienced and freshly married group. They do not know how to handle their problems and how to resist against their husband's and his family's wishes to control her. The struggle between the young women and his husband goes on constantly. For this reason, governments should organize special programs for the young married women.***

According to prosperity level, it is understood that women who have low level of income or living in a disadvantaged area which have low income were most likely to face physical intimate partner violence. Benson and Fox (2001) showed that economic factors have negative effects on the potential for domestic violence; as income levels fall, violence levels rise. This finding has been supported by other scholars. "In general, the lower the annual household income, the higher the rate of intimate partner violence" (Rennison, 2001, p. 6).

Intimate partner violence affects people regardless of income. However, people with lower annual income (below \$25K) are at a 3-times higher risk of intimate partner violence than people with higher annual income (over \$50K) (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006*.) It is often the younger women who bear the brunt of this phenomenon. Poverty and associated stress are key contributors to intimate partner violence. Although violence occurs in all socioeconomic groups, it is more frequent and severe in lower groups across such diverse settings as the USA, (Jewkes, 2002).

Women that live in economically weak areas are more likely to experience domestic violence than other women. Poverty has a direct effect on the domestic violence rate. Poverty has been linked to increased rates of domestic violence. Economic freedom is very important for the women. Women who suffer both domestic violence and poverty feel that there is no financial support to help her to quit from the cycle of violence. For this reason domestic violence victims who are living in an economically disadvantaged area should have been supported by the economically.

These research findings indicate that physical violence against women is widespread throughout the country. Women are mostly exposed to violence from their spouses or intimate partners. Cultural heritage of the Turkish community is transferring domestic violence to the next generations. For example, 32 percent of women mentioned problems with husband's family. This result shows that families try to control their children even

though they are married. Creation of public awareness and mental transformation is needed to free-families from their parents' interventions.

The most important part of this study is its useful results. These results can be used for creating awareness on the scale and scope of the problem and to guide and inform the development of targeted policies and strategies. New programs may be established to support the overall objectives to protect women from the domestic physical violence.

The results of this study can guide government agencies, women organizations, media, politicians and researchers to see the all aspect of the physical violence against women in Turkey. According to the results of this study, most of the physical violence problem starts with the man, and man's family. This research results shows also urgency of the importance of public awareness about the gender equality in the family. Moreover, the socio-economic status of women should be strengthened in the family.

All of the efforts recommended here about the physical violence against women must be supported by mass media and educational campaigns. In order to reduce all kinds of domestic physical violence, effective public policy, legal intervention, organized community and health services are needed (Kilpatrick, 2004). As a result, for communities there is a strong responsibility to take serious action toward successful prevention and interventions for all types of physical violence in domestic violence.

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