Emirati Male's Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence Against Women in the U.A.E: A Sample from Dubai

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Abstract

The goals of this study are to identify Emirati male's attitudes in the Emirate of Dubai toward domestic violence against women in the UAE, to find the prevalence of child abuse history among the respondents, and to determine the effect of some factors on their attitudes. To achieve these goals, a self-reported questionnaire was used to collect the data from a non-random sample which consisted of (149) adult Emirati males from the Emirate of Dubai. Descriptive statistics (percentages) and analytical statistics (multiple linear regression) were used to analyze the data. Results of the study revealed that the majority of the respondents hold positive attitudes toward domestic violence against women. Also, it was indicated that around one-third of the respondents experienced some forms of child abuse during their childhood. The result of multiple linear regression analysis revealed that there is a statistically significant relationship between witnessing domestic violence and Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE. However, Age, level of education, marital status, working status, income, and experiencing child abuse were observed to be silent predictors of Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Violence against Women, Domestic Violence in U.A.E., Male Attitudes towards Domestic Violence.

الملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على اتجاهات الذكور الإماراتيين في إمارة دبي تجاه العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة في مجتمع الإمارات، ومعرفة معدل انتشار سوء معاملة الأطفال في مراحل الطفولة المبكرة بين المستجيبين، وتحديد تأثير بعض العوامل على اتجاهاتهم. ولتحقيق هذه الأهداف، تم استخدام الاستبانة لجمع البيانات من عينة غير عشوائية تتكون من (149) من الذكور الإماراتيين البالغين من إمارة دبي. كما تم استخدام الإحصاء الوصفي (النسب المئوية) والإحصاءات التحليلية (الانحدار الخطي المتعدد) لتحليل البيانات. أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن غالبية المبحوثين لديهم مواقف إيجابية تجاه العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك أظهرت النتائج أن ما يقارب ثلث المستجيبين تعرضوا لبعض أشكال الإساءة خلال طفولتهم. إلى جانب ذلك كشفت نتيجة تحليل الانحدار الخطي المتعدد أن هناك علاقة ذات دلالة إحصائية بين مشاهدة العنف المنزلي واتجاهات الذكور الإماراتيين تجاه العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة في مجتمع إمارات. على الجانب الآخر لوحظ أنه لا توجد علاقة ذات دلالة إحصائية بين العمر، والمستوى التعليمي، والحالة الاجتماعية، والحالة العملية، والدخل، وتعرض المستجيبين لسوء معاملة الأطفال في مراحل الطفولة وبين اتجاهات الذكور الإماراتيين للعنف المنزلي ضد المرأة.

الكلمات المفتاحية

1. Introduction

Domestic violence against women is a global phenomenon that affects millions of women worldwide. It is a violation of women's human rights as well as a major public health problem since it can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health. It is estimated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. However, the World Health Organization stated that some national studies show that up to 70% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime in some counties. Evidence shows that women who have experienced intimate partner violence report higher rates of depression, HIV and having an abortion compared to women who have not (WHO, 2013). Violence against women can be fatal, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018) mentioned that it is estimated that 50,000 women globally killed in 2017 by intimate partners or family members out of the 87,000 women who were globally killed in the same year, which means that 137 women worldwide are killed by a member of their own family every day. Globally, 38% of women's murders are committed by a male intimate partner (WHO, 2013). In addition, a multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women found that the most common perpetrator is the intimate partner or ex-partner (WHO, 2002). This finding was consistent with other research which indicated that 85% of all violent crime experienced by women are cases of intimate partner violence. Several cultural, social and psychological factors have been associated with the occurrence of such violence concerning both victims and perpetrators' characteristics (Kaur & Garg, 2008). Although international statistics and data disclose such an alarming number, women still hesitate to report abuse or violence. The national data in the majority of countries shows that less than 40% of the women who experience violence seek the help of any sort and less than 10% of those women required help by appealing to the police (UNODC, 2018).

Eliminating all types of violence against women is upheld by international agreements such as the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Declaration became the first international instrument addressing violence against women, providing a framework for national and international action. It defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" (UN, 1993). Domestic violence can be defined in several ways, United Nations Children's Fund defined it as a "violence perpetrated by intimate partners and other family members, and manifested through": physical abuse like (slapping, beating, arm twisting, stabbing, strangling, burning, choking, kicking and murder), sexual abuse such as (coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force),

psychological abuse which includes (isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation), economic abuse which includes (acts as denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to employment), acts of omission which includes (neglect and failure to protect the victim) and gender bias that discriminates in terms of nutrition, education and access to health care (UNICEF, 2000).

Since domestic violence is considered a crime, UN Women works with countries at the global level to advance and accelerate the international acts, intervention and prevention methods. It also helps the governments to create frameworks and guidelines to provide necessary supports and services for the victims. As a result, many countries responded positively and started to develop a national agenda to combat such a crime. Currently, at least 144 countries have passed laws on domestic violence. Furthermore, the availability of data on violence against women has significantly increased in recent years; more than 140 countries have conducted at least one to two surveys addressing the issue (UN Women, 2018). However Arab and gulf countries still one step behind compering with well-developed countries.

In the United Arab Emirates, the government pays great attention to women's rights and women empowerment. The UAE ranked first out of 132 countries in the Women Treated with Respect indicator in the Social Progress Index 2014 report. UAE also ranked second-highest among Arab countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2017. The UAE government is trying to set the needed policies and laws as well as launching initiatives to protect women and promote gender equality in society (Women's rights in the UAE, 2019). In 2019 Ministry of Cabinet Affairs & The Future adopted a new women empowerment package of national legislative policies, and initiatives to empower Emirati women. The package is based on three principal axes: legislation and policy, services, and international representation. The legislative and policies axis will set gradually legislative frameworks concerning domestic violence, as per the country's human rights frameworks (Ministry of Cabinet Affairs & The Future, 2019). First step towards the implementation of the initiatives package was the declaration of a new family protection policy that has been approved by the UAE Cabinet in November 2019 which aimed at tackling domestic violence issues among children, women and elderly people. This policy focussed on raising the community awareness about the issue and building capacities of staff to detect potential abuse. The policy also aimed at improving coordination between the authorities and various national institutions working in the field. A further step was taken also by issuing Federal Decretal Law No. (10) of 2019 Regarding the Protection Against Family Violence which was a great addition to the existing legislative package.

Research in the Gulf counties in general and the UAE in particular neglected the issue of domestic violence, and the previous researches that have been conducted did not focus on its cultural dimension. The current research is dealing with male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE and some factors affecting these attitudes.

2. Research Questions

The following research questions were addressed in this study:

- What are the attitudes of the Emirati male in the Emirate of Dubai toward domestic violence against women in the U.A.E?
- What is the prevalence of child abuse history among Emirati male in the Emirate of Dubai?
- To what extent are the independent variables in this study (age, level of education, marital status, working status, income, witnessing domestic violence, experiencing child abuse) significant predictors of the Emirati male's attitudes in the Emirate of Dubai toward domestic violence against women in the U.A.E?

3. Theoretical Background

For the last decades, researchers have been focusing on the study of interactions between social dynamics and ecological processes and produced a set of concepts aiming at developing a framework to analyze the socio-ecological dynamics and eventually at implementing interventions (Bousquet, et al., 2015).

Based on social-ecological theory, different models and frameworks have been developed to examines lots of phenomena, domestic violence was one of them. The social-ecological framework provides guidance to factors at multiple analytic levels that may affect domestic violence. Moreover, it identifies proximal and distal factors related to domestic violence victimization at five levels which are: individual, interpersonal, community, organizational and Policy level. The first level, individual, refers to characteristics of an individual that influence violent behaviour, including knowledge, attitudes, self-efficacy, developmental history, gender, age, religious identity, racial identity, economic status, literacy, stigma, and others. The second level is the interpersonal level which refers to the interactions between couples, families and other formal/informal social networks and social support systems that can influence the violent behaviour, including family, friends, peers, co-workers, and others. The third level, organizational, refers to factors having to do with the relationships among organizations, institutions, facilities, community leaders, businesses, and transportation. The fourth level, community, focuses on the current and historical relationships of members of a specific physical or psychological community. The final level is the policy which emphasizes on the governmental laws, decrees, legislation, and policies regarding domestic violence which help in allocating resources required for the victims and assure the access to the needed services (Oetzel & Duran, 2004).

A foundational principle of the social-ecological framework is that domestic violence causes and consequences reflect interaction between factors at multiple levels. The literature review below was organized based on that theory.

4. Literature Review

Several studies have been conducted worldwide to investigate male attitudes toward domestic violence against women and its associated factors. One of the studies was conducted in Pakistan to explore men's attitudes toward wife abuse and examine predictors of the risk of physical abuse among Pakistani men. Results showed that 55% Of the men were themselves victims of physical abuse during their childhood and 65% had observed their mother being physically abused. Almost half of the respondents (46%) thought that husbands have a right to hit their wives. The socioeconomic and education status of husband and wife were found to be significantly associated with abusive behaviour. Men classified as poor were three times more likely to physically abuse their wives than others. Also, wives with no formal education were approximately five times more likely to be physically abused than others. In addition, men who reported being abused as children were nearly five times more likely to physically abuse others. Witnessing domestic violence as children also increased the risk of physical abuse (Fikree, Razzak, & Durocher, 2005).

In Lebanon, the likelihood of perpetrating physical violence was more than three times higher among men who had witnessed their fathers beating their mothers during childhood than those who did not (UN Women & Promundo, 2017). El Abani and Pourmehdi (2018), as well as the National Union for Tunisian Women (1991), found that gender and education influenced respondents' perception of domestic violence against women. Men, in general, did not recognize violence as a serious social problem, and they thought that it is normal for the men to beat a woman to discipline her, they also perceived violence against women as accepted behaviour. Similar results were indicated in several studies which indicated that lower acculturation was correlated with higher acceptance of wife or woman assault (Bhanot & Senn, 2007). In Jordan, a study investigated the factors associated with the acceptance of wife-beating among currently married men and women, results demonstrated that acceptance of wife-beating is significantly associated with respondents' age, labour force participation, their view on women's autonomy, and their own history as perpetrators (Khawaja, Linos, & El-Roueiheb, 2008). A cross-nation study including four countries (India, Japan, Kuwait and the United States of America) found that men from Kuwait reported the least positive attitudes towards the violence in comparison to the other countries, the research suggests the importance of examining differences within the larger sociocultural context of political, historical, religious, and economic influences on attitudes toward gender roles and violence against women (Nayak, Byrne, Martin & Abraham, 2003). Similar results were showed in another study (Nazar & Kouzekanani, 2007). Other findings also indicated that more democratic countries were less likely to justify domestic violence, political conflict and limited economic rights for women were associated with higher levels of domestic violence acceptance amongst women and men (Sardinha & Catalán, 2018).

International organizations also conducted several multi-country studies to study domestic violence in relation with some factors that might affect people's attitudes toward it. The results were similar to the national studies mentioned above. For example, World health organization (2017) found that men are more likely to perpetrate violence if they have low education, a history of child maltreatment, exposure to domestic violence against their mothers, harmful use of alcohol, unequal gender norms including attitudes accepting of violence, and a sense of entitlement over women. Similar data were gathered from other regions like the Middle East and North Africa (UN Women & Promundo, 2017).

In the United Arab Emirates, there is a lack of research in the field of domestic violence and the few studies that were conducted focussed more on its prevalence, types and, causes and did not tackle the cultural aspect of the problem in depth. In Dubai a study was conducted by Al Serkal, et al., (2014) to measure the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women in Dubai, its associated factors and health consequences. Results showed that 31% of the sample reported a lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence with at least one act of physical abuse. Also, the study found that risk factors associated with such violence were mainly low education as well as drug and alcohol intake of the perpetrators. Almueini (2013) found in her study about determinates of violence against women in the U.A.E society that three-quarters of the respondents were subjected to some forms of violence. In addition, the study also showed that psychological abuse was the most common form of abuse, then verbal and physical abuse respectively.

Moreover, it was found that anger, family interferences and lack of proper socialization were the main causes of violence. Those results were consistent with another national research which demonstrated that emotional violence was the most common forms of abuse, followed by verbal abuse, then physical and sexual abuse respectively. The results also revealed that the forms and causes of violence experienced by battered Emirati women in the UAE did not vary according to socio-demographic factors. In addition, it showed that husbands were the perpetrators in more than half of the cases. Lack of harmony among family members ranked as the first cause, followed by poor economic conditions, then the irritability and anger (Al Suwaidi, 2013). No literature was found by the researcher in U.A.E measuring male attitudes towards domestic violence against women which adds values to the current study.

5. Methodology

A social survey was used to collect the data, the details are as following:

a. The sample

A sample of (149) adult Emirati males from the Emirate of Dubai was selected in a non-random manner. The sample was gathered from several government and non-government entities, as well as some universities in Dubai. The sample's characteristics are presented in Table (1).

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Demographic Characteristics (N = 149)

Variables		Frequency	%
Age	20 and less	19	12.8
	21-30	51	34.2
	31-40	36	24.2
	41-50	31	20.8
	51+	12	8.1
Level of education	Secondary and less	84	56.4
	Bachelor	54	36.2
	Graduate studies	11	7.4
Marital status	Single	54	36.2
	Married	95	63.8
Working status	Working	131	87.9
	Not working	18	12.1
Income	15000 and less	50	33.6
	15001-25000	48	32.2
	26000 +	51	34.2

b. Instrument

A questionnaire was developed to measure Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the U.AE (Appendix 1). The questionnaire had three sections; the first one included (7) items related to the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics.

The second part included (38) items related to respondents' childhood abuse history, and the last part included (6) items that measure the attitudes.

c. Operational Measurement

- **Dependent variable:** Attitudes toward domestic violence against women was measured by respondents' responses toward to a set of statements (6 items) which are : "A man has the right to exercise violence against his spouse", "Man, in the family has the right to use violence against women as discipline", "Domestic violence against women is tolerated by the general public in our society", "Domestic violence against women is a common problem in our society", " The government should allocate resources and services needed to support and protect women from being violated by their spouse", and " Prevention and awareness programs are needed in our society to raise awareness about this problem ". Likert scale was used and the respondents were asked to choose one of the five given answers which are: (**1**) Strongly Agree (**2**) Agree (**3**) Neutral (**4**) Disagree (**5**) Strongly Disagree.

- **Independent variables:** Age, level of education, marital status, working status, income, witnessing domestic violence, experiencing child abuse are the independent variables in this study. Those variables were measured by specific questions in the first and second parts of the questionnaire (Appendix 1).

d. Validity and Reliability

The questionnaire was evaluated by a professional judge and was tested on volunteers prior to the implementation to make sure it is clear and culturally sensitive. For the reliability, SPSS was used to measure the value of the Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient, the value for the last axis (attitudes toward domestic violence) was 0.473.

e. Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) were used to identify the sample's socio-demographic characteristics, the prevalence of the child abuse history among the respondents, as well as their attitudes toward domestic violence. In addition, analytical statistics (Multiple Linear Regression) was applied to test the relationship between the independent variables and male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women. MLR is a statistical technique that uses several explanatory (independent) variables to predict the outcome of the dependent variable (Jobson, 1991). SPSS software was used for analysis.

6. Statistical Analysis

Both descriptive and analytical statistics were used to analyze the data. The results showed the following:

I. The Prevalence of Child Abuse History among the Respondents

The prevalence of child abuse history, whether directly through experiencing abuse and maltreatment or indirectly through witnessing domestic violence, among the respondents during their childhood were identified. The table below demonstrates the results.

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Child Abuse History

Questions:		Respondents' responses toward the questions:	
		(1) Yes	(2) No
1. Have you witnessed during your childhood domestic violence towards women from an adult male member in your family?	% Frequency	23.5 35	76.5 114
2. Have you experienced any form of violence or abuse during your childhood by a family member?	% Frequency	30.9 46	69.1 103
3. Have you experienced physical abuse during your childhood by a family member?	% Frequency	30.9 46	69.1 103
4. Have you experienced psychological abuse during your childhood by a family member?	% Frequency	28.9 43	71.1 106

According to table number 2, 23.5% of the respondents witnessed domestic violence during their childhood. Also, it shows that 30.9% of the respondents have experienced a form of violence or abuse during your childhood by a family member. In addition, it reveals that 30.9% of the respondents have experienced physical abuse, and 28.9% have experienced psychological abuse during their childhood by family members.

The respondents were also asked to declare if they experienced sexual abuse during your childhood by a family member. However, all the responses were negative, therefore the researcher did not include that type in the results.

Respondents who declared being exposed to physical or psychological abuse during their childhood were asked to identify the forms of abuse they have been exposed too. The table below demonstrates the results.

Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents Based on the Forms of Physical and Psychological Abuse they have been Exposed to

Forms of Physical and Psychological Abuse:		Respondents' responses toward the questions:	
		(1) Yes	(2) No
Physical Abuse			
1. Beating	% Frequency	24.8 37	75.2 112
2. Slapping	% Frequency	16.1 24	83.9 125
3. Punching	% Frequency	5.4 8	94.6 141
4. Booting (Kicking by Foot)	% Frequency	5.4 8	94.6 8
5. Pushing	% Frequency	7.4 11	92.6 138
6. Hair Pulling	% Frequency	5.4 8	94.6 141
7. Spitting	% Frequency	2.7 4	97.3 145
8. Chocking	% Frequency	2 3	98 146
9. Biting	% Frequency	6 9	94 140
10. Pinching	% Frequency	14.8 22	85.2 127
Psychological Abuse			
11. Detention	% Frequency	7.4 11	92.6 138
12. Threatening	% Frequency	10.7 16	89.3 133
13. Teasing	% Frequency	8.7 13	91.3 136
14. Spreading rumours / gossiping	% Frequency	3.4 5	96.6 144
15. Isolation from family members and friends	% Frequency	4.7 7	95.3 142

16. Using bad language	%	11.4	88.6
	Frequency	17	132
17. Calling you with harmful titles	%	4.7	95.3
	Frequency	7	142
18. Insulting	%	7.4	92.6
	Frequency	11	138
19. Embarrassment in front of others	%	8.7	91.3
	Frequency	13	136
20. Intimidation	%	16.1	83.9
	Frequency	24	125
21. Yelling	%	20.1	79.9
	Frequency	30	119

Data in table number 3 indicates the following: the most common physical abuse forms were beating (24.8%), then slapping (16.1%), followed by pinching (14.8%). The least common forms were choking (2%), followed by spitting (2.7%). The rest of the forms were ranged from (5.4%) to (7.4%). In regards to the psychological abuse forms, results show that yelling was the most common form (20.1%), then intimidation (16.1%), followed by using bad language (11.4%). Spreading rumours was the least common form (3.4%). The rest of the psychological forms were ranged from (4.7%) to (10.7%).

II. Emirati Male's Attitudes toward Domestic Violence against Women

To identify the Emirati male's attitude toward domestic violence against women in the UAE, the respondents were asked to express their opinions toward a set of statements. The table below demonstrates the results.

Table 4. Distribution of the Responses toward the Statements

Statements:		Respondents' responses toward the statements:				
		(1) Strongly Agree	(2) Agree	(3) Neutral	(4) Disagree	(5) Strongly Disagree
1. A man has the right to exercise violence against his spouse	% Frequency	2.7 4	7.4 11	10.1 15	31.5 47	48.3 72
2. Man in the family has the right to use violence against women as discipline	% Frequency	2.7 4	9.4 14	15.4 23	30.2 45	42.3 63
3. Domestic violence against women is tolerated by the general public in our society	% Frequency	2.7 4	7.4 11	14.8 22	32.9 49	42.3 63
4. Domestic violence against women is a common problem in our society	% Frequency	17.4 26	22.1 33	28.2 42	19.5 29	12.8 19
5. The government should allocate resources and services needed to support and protect women from being violated by their spouse	% Frequency	37.6 56	28.9 43	25.5 38	4 6	4 6
6. Prevention and awareness programs are needed in our society to raise awareness about this problem	% Frequency	52.3 78	25.5 38	13.4 20	4 6	4.7 7

Data in table number 4 demonstrates the following: 79.8% of the respondents do not think (disagree to strongly disagree) that a man has the right to exercise violence against his spouse. Results also reveal that 72.5% of the respondents disagree to strongly disagree with men using violence against women as a discipline method. Moreover, it was observed that 75.2% of the respondents thought that domestic violence against women is not tolerated by the general public in our society. Furthermore, results show that 39.5% of the respondents perceive domestic violence against women as a common problem in our society. According to table number 4, 66.5% of the respondents agree to strongly agree that the government should allocate resources and services needed to support and protect women from domestic violence. Also, 77.8% of the respondents think that prevention and awareness programs are needed in our society to raise awareness about this problem.

III. Factors Affecting Emirati Male Attitudes toward Domestic Violence Against Women

To test the effect of the independent variables on Emirati male attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE, multiple linear regression statistical strategy was applied. The table below demonstrates the results.

Table 5. Summary of Multiple Effects of Explanatory Factors on Emirati Male's Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence Against Women in the UAE

	Male's Attitudes Toward Domestic	B	Beta	t	P
1.	Age	-.412	-.136	-1.324	.188
2.	Level of Education	-.066	-.012	-.134	.893
3.	Marital Status	.296	.041	.402	.688
4.	Working Status	-1.485	-.139	-1.541	.126
5.	Income	-.089	-.021	-.223	.824
6.	Witnessing domestic violence	3.056	.372	4.234	.000
7.	Experiencing child abuse	-.538	-.071	-.802	.424

$R^2 = .146$, F = 3.439, P = .002

Data in table number 5 indicates the following: knowledge of the independent variables in this study explains approximately 14.6% of the variance in the Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE (R^2 = .146). In addition, results demonstrate that there is a statistically weak to medium significant relationship between witnessing domestic violence and Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women (Beta = .372, t = 4.234, P = .000) after controlling the effect of other independent variables in the regression equation, which means that witnessing domestic violence is the only predictor in this study that affects Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE.

According to table number 5 there is no significant relationship between Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against and the following independent variables: Age (Beta = -.136, P =.188) level of education (Beta = -.012, P = .893), marital status (Beta = .041, P= .688) working status (Beta = -.139, P = .126), income (Beta = -.021, P =.824) and experiencing child abuse (Beta = -.071, P = .424). Therefore, those independent variables are considered to be silent variables in predicting Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE.

7. Discussion

The results demonstrated that the majority of the respondents, more than two-thirds, hold positive attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE. This positive attitude can be interpreted by several factors. Launching several family and women protection laws and policies is one of the factors since it sends a clear message to everyone in the society that domestic violence is considered a crime in the UAE and that violence against women is not tolerated. The UAE exceptional women empowerment agenda could be another reason,

women have the same constitutional rights as men, they have access to education, jobs, social and health benefits and hold many leadership positions in the government, which means that women are equal to men, and as previous literature stated, empowering women in the society is the key for gender equality and breaking the cycle of violence. Additional reason might be the influence of the UAE leaders and rulers on Emirati males, our leaders set great examples on how to respect women and trust their abilities and capabilities which was clearly demonstrated on the decision of giving them half of the Federal National Council seats in 2019. A very high literacy rate (93.1%) among adult males in the UAE (IndexMundi, 2019) can also explain such result because the previous literature indicated that lower acculturation was correlated with higher acceptance of wife or woman assault (Bhanot & Senn, 2007).

Also, the UAE economic and political stability might play a role in creating such a positive attitude, since previous literature indicated that political conflict and limited economic rights for women were associated with higher levels of domestic violence acceptance amongst men (Sardinha & Catalán, 2018). On the other hand, results revealed that only 39.5% of the respondents perceive domestic violence against women as a common problem in our society, the conservativeness of the UAE society ,as well as the lack of disclosure and transparency in speaking or reporting the abuse due to the stigmatization, could be a major explanation for this perception.

It was also found that around one-third of the respondents experienced child abuse in their childhood, whether physical or psychological, this result is not consistent with the previous literature that indicated a lower rate of child abuse in UAE (DFWAC, 2015), a small sample size could be the reason behind it. In addition, around one-fourth of the respondents declared witnessing domestic violence against women, this result is consistent with the literature available in the UAE about violence against women which showed similar rates (Al Suwaidi, 2013). Lack of awareness among families about the negative impact of witnessing domestic violence on the child wellbeing as well as culture acceptance of such behavior might be the reason.

Based on the results of statistical analysis, witnessing domestic violence was observed to have a statistically significant relationship with Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women. This finding is consistent with previous literature (Stiles, 2002) and can be explained by many reasons. First of all, witnessing domestic violence has a negative impact on a person's cognitive, behavioural, and emotional development. Second, witnessing such violence as a child reinforces the idea of perceiving violence as a means of resolving conflict.

Also, it reinforces the gender-inequality issue, since it sends a clear message to the child mind that violence against women from a male family member is justifiable and accepted in our community, especially when they life in a male- dominant society that perceives male as a superior human being. Moreover, people who witness domestic violence show a greater willingness to exercise violence themselves in their future relationship because the trauma associated with such violence creates not only short but also long-term impacts.

In addition, the results of the statistical analysis revealed that there is no statistically significant relationship between Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence against women and (Age, level of education, marital status, working status, income, and experiencing child abuse). This means that Emirati male's attitudes do not differ based on those independent variables. Therefore, those independent variables are considered to be silent variables in predicting Emirati male's attitudes toward domestic violence. This result is not consistent with the previous literature which indicated that the above-mentioned variables tend to have a significant relationship with male's attitudes toward domestic violence. This omission of the relationship might happen due to sampling procedures since the sample was non-randomly drawn, and the sample size was small as well.

8. Conclusion

Emirati males in the Emirate of Dubai hold positive attitudes toward domestic violence against women in the UAE society. Still, a small group may be characterized as conservative, holds negative attitudes toward such violence. Furthermore, the results of the study revealed that around one-third of the respondents experienced child abuse during their childhood and that around one-fourth of them witnessed domestic violence. Also, it was observed that witnessing domestic violence was the only predictor affecting Emirati male's attitudes towards domestic violence. The rest of the independent variables (age, level of education, marital status, working status, income, experiencing child abuse) were not found to have a statistical association with Emirati male's attitudes.

The results of the study point to the UAE solid laws, legislations and policies that are in place to empower women in all aspects of life, protect them from experiencing such violence, and to create positive attitudes towards domestic violence in the society. The study suggests that there are many more awareness and prevention measures and programs that need to be applied with the help of governmental and non-governmental entities to eliminate such violence.

Limitations of the study are the small sample size, using a non-random sample and limiting the sample to the Emirate of Dubai. Further research is needed to explore the effect of more independent variables on Emirati male's attitudes towards domestic violence against women in the UAE society in accordance with international literature by adding more independent variables in the analysis.

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Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire in English & Arabic

A Questionnaire to Study

Emirati Male's Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence Against Women in the U.A.E:

A Sample from Dubai

"Field Study"

2019

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PhD Student in Applied Sociology – University of Sharjah

Supervised by: Prof. Hussain Al Othman

Acting Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Associate Professor-University of Sharjah

Dear Respondent:

The purpose of the current study is to identify the attitudes of the Emirati Male in the Emirate of Dubai towards domestic violence against women in the U.A.E, through getting the responses of adult Emirati males in the Emirate of Dubai toward the questions listed in this questionnaire. Therefore, you are kindly requested to read the questionnaire thoroughly, respond honestly and reflect your own point of view, to help the researcher reach to results and recommendations that might resolve this issue. Please note that the responses you provide will be treated with confidentiality and anonymity, and the information gathered will be used only for scientific research purposes. Therefore, please do not write your name or evidence of your character, as the aim is purely scientific and data will be presented in vague statistical tables.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

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College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dept. of Sociology

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قسم علم الاجتماع

First: Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Respondent.

Question #	Question	Response Number
1	Age: (Kindly mention in years) ………………………..	
2	Level of Education: (1) Illiterate (2) Reads and Writes (3) Primary (4) Preparatory (5) Secondary (6) Diploma (7) Bachelor (8) Graduate Studies	
3	Marital Status: (1) Single (2) Married (3) Divorced (4) Widow (5) Separated	
4	Working Status: (1) Working (2) Not working	
5	Occupation: (Please Specify) ………………………..	
6	Do you have your own income? (1) Yes (2) No	
7	What is your monthly income in Dirham if you answered Yes? (1) Less than 5000 (2) 5001 – 10000 (3) 10001 – 15000 (4) 15001 – 20,000 (5) 20001 – 25,000 (6) 25001 – 30000 (7) 30,001 – 35000 (8) 35000 – 40000 (9) More than 40000	

Second: Respondent's Childhood History in Relation with Domestic Violence

Question #	Question	Yes (1)	No (2)
1	Have you witnessed during your childhood domestic violence towards women from an adult male member in your family?		
2	Have you experienced any form of violence or abuse during your childhood by a family member?		
Physical Abuse			
3	Have you experienced physical abuse during your childhood by a family member?		
If your response to #3 was (YES), kindly specify the form of physical abuse:			
4	Beating		
5	Slapping		
6	Punching		
7	Booting (kicking by foot)		
8	Pushing		
9	Burning		
10	Hair pulling		
11	Breaking of body parts		
12	Spitting		
13	Chocking		
14	Biting		
15	Pinching		
16	Others, please specify …………………….		
Psychological Abuse			
17	Have you experienced psychological abuse during your childhood by a family member?		
If your response to #17 was (YES), kindly specify the type of psychological abuse:			
18	Detention		
19	Threatening		
20	Teasing		
21	Spreading rumours / gossiping		
22	Deprivation of educational rights		
23	Deprivation of medical rights		
24	Isolation from family members and friends		
25	Using bad language		
26	Calling you with harmful titles		
27	Insulting		
28	Embarrassment in front of others		

Question #	Question	Yes (1)	No (2)
29	Intimidation		
30	Yelling		
31	Others, please specify _………………………..		

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Question #	Question	Yes (1)	No (2)
Sexual Abuse			
32	Have you experienced sexual abuse during your childhood by a family member?		
If your response to #32 was (YES), kindly specify the type of sexual abuse:			
33	Sexual Harassment		
34	Sexual Assault/Rape		
35	Exposure to abnormal sexual practices		
36	Forced to watch pornographic movies		
37	You were photographed in inappropriate sexual positions		
38	Others, please specify ……………………….		

Third: Respondents Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence Against Women

Express your opinion towards the statements mentioned in the table below, where the answers may range from 1 to 5 as described in the options.

Question #	Statements	Response Number
1	A man has the right to exercise violence against his spouse. (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
2	Man, in the family has the right to use violence against women as discipline. (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
3	Domestic violence against women is tolerated by the general public in our society. (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
4	Domestic violence against women is a common problem in our society. (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
5	The government should allocate resources and services needed to support and protect women from being violated by their spouse. (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
6	Prevention and awareness programs are needed in our society to raise awareness about this problem (1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree	
	END OF QUESTIONNAIRE	

Dear Respondent, kindly ensure to fill in all the fields in this questionnaire.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

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UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

رقم الاستبانة

استبانة لدراسة

اتجاهات المواطنين الذكور نحو العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة في مجتمع الإمارات

دراسة ميدانية على عينة من إمارة دبي 2019

إعداد الباحثة : غنيمة البحري

البريد الإلكتروني : U19102848@sharjah.ac.ae

طالبة دكتوراه في علم الاجتماع التطبيقي – جامعة الشارقة

إشراف : أ.د. حسين العثمان – جامعة الشارقة

أخي الكريم :

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على اتجاهات الذكور المواطنين نحو العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة في مجتمع الإمارات : عينة من إمارة دبي ، من خلال إجابة عينة من الذكور المواطنين البالغين و المقيمين في إمارة دبي على الأسئلة الواردة في هذه الإستبانة. لذا يرجى التكرم بقراءة هذا الاستبيان بشكل دقيق و الإجابة على الأسئلة الواردة فيه بصراحة و بصورة تعكس وجهة نظركم الشخصية، و ذلك بغرض الخروج بنتائج و توصيات تسهم في علاج هذه المشكلة. علما بأن المعلومات التي سيتم الحصول عليها سيتم التعامل معها بسرية تامة و لن يتم استخدامها إلا لأغراض البحث العلمي. و عليه لن يطلب منك أخي الكريم كتابة اسمك أو أية معلومات تدل على شخصيتك، فالهدف من جمع هذه المعلومات علمي بحت، و البيانات ستعرض بشكل جداول إحصائية مبهمة.

شاكرة لك تعاونك

أولاً : الخصائص الديموغرافية ، والاجتماعية ، والاقتصادية للمبحوث

رقم الإجابة	الســـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــؤال	رقم السؤال
	العمر : يرجى التحديد بالسنة	1
	المستوى التعليمي : (1) أمي (2) يقرأ ويكتب (3) إبتدائي (4) إعدادي (5) ثانوي (6) دبلـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــوم (7) بكالوريوس (8) دراسات عليا	2
	الحالة الزواجية : (1) أعزب (2) متزوج (3) مطلق (4) أرمل (5) منفصل	3
	الحالة العملية : (1) تعمل (2) لاتعمل	4
	المهنة في حالة العمل : يرجى التحديد	5
	هل يتوفر لك دخل خاص بك : (1) نعم (2) لا	6
	كم دخلك الشهري بالدرهم في حال الإجابة بنعم : (1) أقل من 5000 (2) 5001 – 10000 (3) 10001 – 15000 (4) 15001 – 20000 (5) 20001 – 25000 (6) 25001 – 30000 (7) 30001 – 35000 (8) 35001 – 40000 (9) أكثر من 40000	7

ثانياً: خبرات الطفولة الخاصة بالمبحوث المرتبطة بالعنف المنزلي

رقم السؤال	الس‬ـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــؤال	نعم (1)	لا (2)
1	هل شاهدت في طفولتك عنف موجه من قبل ذكر بالغ في الأسرة تجاه أنثى بالغة في نفس الأسرة ؟		
2	هل تعرضت في طفولتك لأي شكل من أشكال العنف أوالإيذاء من قبل أحد أفراد أسرتك ؟		
العنف الجسدي			
3	هل تعرضت في طفولتك لعنف جسدي من قبل أحد أفراد أسرتك؟		
إذا كانت إجابة السؤال رقم 3 بنعم يرجى تحديد شكل العنف الجسدي :			
4	الضـــــــــــــــــــــــــــرب		
5	الصفـــــــــــــــــــــــــع		
6	اللكـــــــــــــــــــــــــم		
7	الـــــــــــــــــــــركـــــــــــــل		

لا (2)	نعم (1)	السـؤال	رقم السؤال
		الدفع والرمي	8
		الحـــــــــرق	9
		شـــد الشعـــــر	10
		الكســـــــر	11
		البصـــــــق	12
		الخنـــــــق	13
		العـــــــض	14
		القـــــرص	15
		أخرى : يرجى التحديد :	16
		العنف النفسي	
		هل تعرضت في طفولتك لعنف نفسي من قبل أحد أفراد أسرتك؟	17
		إذا كانت إجابة السؤال رقم 17 بنعم يرجى تحديد شكل العنف النفسي :	
		الحبـــــــــس	18
		التهـــــديـــــد	19
		السخرية والاستهزاء	20
		نشر الإشاعات المغرضة عنك	21
		المنع من التعليم	22
		المنع من الحصول على العلاج الطبي	23
		عزلك عن الأهل والأصدقاء	24
		السب والشتم	25
		نعتك بألقاب مؤذية	26
		الإهـــــانـــــة	27
		الإحراج أمام الآخرين	28
		التخـــــويـــــف	29
		الصـــــراخ	30
		أخرى : يرجى التحديد :	31

			العنف الجنسي
		هل تعرضت في طفولتك لعنف جنسي من قبل أحد أفراد أسرتك؟	32
		إذا كانت إجابة السؤال رقم 32 بنعم يرجى تحديد شكل العنف الجنسي :	
		التحـــــــــــــــرش	33

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لا (2)	نعم (1)	الســـــــــــؤال	رقم السؤال
		هـــــتـــــك العـــــــرض	34
		ممارسات جنسية شاذة	35
		الإجبار على مشاهدة أفلام خلاعية	36
		تصويرك في وضعيات جنسية غير لائقة	37
		أخرى : يرجى التحديد :	38

ثالثاً: اتجاهات المبحوث تجاه العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة

عبر عن رأيك تجاه المقولات الواردة في الجدول أدناه، علما بأن الإجابة قد تتراوح ما بين 1 إلى 5 كما هو موضح في خيارات الإجابة

رقم الإجابة	السـؤال	رقم السؤال
	للرجل الحق في تعنيف زوجته (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	1
	للرجل في الأسرة الحق في استخدام العنف ضد المرأة كأسلوب تأديبي لتقويم سلوكها (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	2
	العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة سلوك مقبول في مجتمعنا (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	3
	العنف المنزلي ضد المرأة مشكلة قائمة في مجتمعنا (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	4
	يجب أن تخصص الحكومة الموارد و الخدمات اللازمة لدعم و حماية النساء المعنفات من قبل أزواجهم (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	5
	نحتاج في مجتمعنا لبرامج وقائية و توعوية لرفع وعي المجتمع بهذه المشكلة (1) أوافق بشدة (2) أوافق (3) محايد (4) لا أوافق (5) لا أوافق بشدة	6
نهاية الاستبيان		

أخي الكريم، يرجى التأكد من تعبئة كافة الخانات، شكرا لتعاونك