

Abused Women

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Abstract—This article depicted the violence of women around the world and the history of movement against women abused within the past few years. It discussed different forms of women abused. It presented the reasons behind the violence against women. It included some of the real circumstances of women abused among the world.

1 INTRODUCTION

1 Introduction

The terminology of woman abuse encompasses a broad spectrum of different forms of abuse, violence, mistreatment and neglect inflicted upon women by their kin, intimate or dependent relationships. These involve violence from current, dissolving or past relationships with husbands, common-law partners, caregivers or other family members. Kelly Rutherford in her 2014 article "Abusing Women Is Criminal, Not Cultural" stated that women around the globe are victims of abuse irrespective of their race, ethnicity, age, education, cultural identity, occupation, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, and personality, physical and mental capabilities. Furthermore, from childhood to old age, women are at a high risk of being abused at virtually any phase of their life (Rutherford). Even though violence is not acceptable, women are abused in several ways, for many reasons. What is more complicated is that women don't leave their abusive partner for many reasons.

Battering women is not a new issue to be shocked about, but how these women have been abused and how the number of them is still noticeable are the things which people worry about. According to Inspire Hope website in "A History Of Battering" studies show that when monogamous relationship started, battering women appeared. Moreover, wives and children are considered as husbands' belongings. They were limited to particular parts of their homes, and their contribution to public activities was narrowed and limited. In addition, what is more awful was that women were punished by burning when they declined to mate, and when they had stillbirth, despite if the stillbirth was a consequence of abusing. Besides that, church and state gave husbands the right to punish their wives if any sign of power was showed from wives. During the Middle Ages, women could be whipped, deported for years, or murdered when they engaged in an affair or any lower offensive activities. The French Code of Chivalry stated that husbands had the right to bang their wives to the ground and beat them in their face. Also, husbands had the right to break their wives' noses, so that wives would feel ashamed forever as a result (A History Of Battering).

2 History of movement against women abused

Since the emergence of monogamous relationship, men were given the right to control and abuse women if they need. There were some people who supported men to have this right. However, there are other people who were against abusing women. According to Inspire Hope, in the late of the

seventeenth century, the Great of Russian -Peter- sat up reforms. He requested that women could join the public assemblage. In addition to that, women were given the right to accept the marriage or not. Besides that, laws were slowly being applied to limit the abusing. In 1824, the Mississippi Supreme Court did not succeed in retaining the right to rebuke a wife from written formally into law. Also, women were permitted to break up with their husbands if the abusing where in a point of threatening wives' lives. However, in 1856, the act of battering women guarded as an "article of faith". Communities put a limit on the abusing of women and children. To illustrate that, they limited blows, thumps, or punches to the back because these did not leave noticeable signs. In fact, the husbands were censured only if they abuse their wives in public or if their abusing were over the limits which were decided by the community. Moreover, the number of people who were against battering women increased. Also, the shelters were built with supporting from the part of society who was against how these women were treated. In 1967, the first shelters in the United States of America were opened in the state of Maine. Also, Women's Advocates of Minneapolis/St. Paul extended and bought a house in 1974 after they started from one bedroom (A History Of Battering).

Judges' position was with husbands' side. They did not support women to get their rights. In fact, some judges did not accept women to sue their husband. According to Inspire Hope website, in 1982, *Self vs. Self*, the California Supreme Court regulated that women were not allowed to sue their husband because that would destroy the families. In spite of these rules, some women sue their husband and they won. According to Inspire Hope "In 1985 Tracey Thurman won her suit against a Connecticut police department for negligence and violation of her civil rights. Her husband received a 15-year sentence for attacking her, stabbing her and repeatedly kicking her in the head". Moreover, in 1992 abusing women by husband was ranked to cause suffering for these women who their ages between fifteen and forty- four (A History Of Battering).

3 Forms of women abused

Some violence cost women their lives or their children's lives. However, abused women were neglected by the courts. In 1981 article "Neglecting Abused Women," Sorrel reported that Rita Fox was one of the women who lost three of her children as a result of the abusing. Fox sought a man who abused her- his name is Jackson- but she did not win the suit

because he did not show in the court. Then in October, Fox was assaulted seriously with a knife. She called the police, so they arrested him, but while the trial is pending he was released on bail. On March 9th, the police was called to help Fox. Then the police gave Jackson warrant while they should have arrested him. One hour after that, Fox's children were killed when her flat was firebombed. In fact, the police and court contributed to what happened to Fox's children. They did not take serious action when Fox complained. The Claudia Wayne-an attorney of the Women's Rights Clinic- said "What happened to Rita Fox's children is a shocking example of the result of the inadequate treatment battered women and their children receive within the legal system (Lorraine).

Many people think that women are abused just physically as a result of visible harm or sexual assaults. However, women are abused not only physical ways but also by economic and emotional ways. According to DeKeseredy, Walter S.; Schwartz, Martin D in his book 2013 "Male Peer Support and Violence Against Women: The History and Verification of a Theory", women are abused by several ways. Using male privilege is one of the ways to abuse women. In this method, men treat women as servants. They do not involve their wives in most of an important decision they make. It is kind of ignoring wives' presence. Another way of abusing is by using children. Children are used to make women guilty about them. Moreover, husbands use children to relay messages. The third way of abusing wives is by minimizing, denying, and blaming women. In this kind of method, men deny that the abuse exists. In addition, husbands blame their wives for abusive acts and that they cause it.

Emotional abuse is another way to abuse women, but many people do not believe that women can be abused emotionally. In fact, they do not include it in abusing behaviors. Women are made to feel bad about themselves. Also, men use mind games to make their wives feel that they are crazy. Controlling what the women do, where they go, and who they see is another way to abuse women which called isolating abuse. Further, women's contribution in public activities may limit or prevent. The sixth way of abusing women is called using intimidation, where in this method men use their looks and actions to make women afraid from them. Also, men may display a weapon and destroy women's property. Using economy abuse is the seventh way of abusing women. In this way, women are prevented from hiring or remaining a job. Also, men may abuse women by taking their wives' money (DeKeseredy 5). In a brief, these are some ways, but not all the ways that men use to abuse women.

4 Reasons behind women abused

The target in some researches was to find out the reasons for men to abuse women. In "Domestic violence - why men abuse women" researchers have had some factors that can be the reasons to abuse women and children. One of the reasons is that men intend to use violence behaviors and emo-

tional abuse in order to control their families. They have the thought that the more they are aggressive the more they can control families. The second reason is that men believe how they treat their families is one of their rights. Moreover, they think that they can choose the way they like if their wives in them houses. The third reason is the misconception of the meaning for a real man. Some men think that being rough is one of men's characterization. Another reason is that men believed that they are qualified to have sex with their partners. Another one is that some men are not responsible for their behavior, and they may refer that for their addicting to alcohol as an excuse. Stress in work is another reason which may lead men to treat their wives aggressively. Further, another reason is that when men get angry from their friends, bosses, or coworkers, they do not show them their violence reaction. Instead of that, they hurt their families as a result (Domestic violence - why men abuse women).

Feeling jealous is another reason for men to abuse their wives. In "Men tell Oprah why they beat the women they love.", one man- his name is Sir- acknowledge that he abused his wife because he was jealous when his wife danced with another man. He said, "It set me off. I remember walking up to her and smacking her full force," he also said, "I grabbed her by her neck, and I kind of held her against the car. Then, I walked her over to the bushes and threw her in there, and I just started choking her. It was with every bit of rage, every bit of anger I've ever had"(CNN website).

5 Community responsibilities to protect women

Protecting abused women and children is the task that some people think it is a government task, where other do not. According to Mills Linda G in his 2000 article "Woman Abuse and Child Protection: A Tumultuous Marriage (Part I)", some people who are against the act of abusing women believe that defending these women is government's chore. However, Mills said "I believed, as most child welfare workers do, that a woman who is battered has a duty to protect her children. However, I did not believe that a battered woman has a heightened duty to protect her children, especially when the father is abusive". Moreover, child welfare workers believe that abused mothers do not deserve to remain their children if they are not able to protect them from their abusive husbands (Mills 199 - 200).

Many people wonder to know why these women do not leave their abusive partners. Besides that, some researches were made to consider the reasons for these abused women. In 2003 article "Why Doesn't She Just Leave?," Anderson et al reported that their data indicated that lack of money was the reason for 45.9% of 184 abused women to remain with their abusive men. Also, 28.5% of 114 abused women stated that the lack of places to go was their reason to stay with their abusive husbands. Moreover, other abused women's reason to not leave their husband was the lack of support from police and

courts. Indeed, 13.5% of 54 and 6.8% of 27 said that the lack of support from police and courts respectively was their reasons to remain with their abusive husbands (Anderson et al).

Moreover, some abused women do not leave their aggressive husbands because they are afraid that they will lose their children if they leave their abusive partners. However, few women decide to relinquish custody of their children in order to leave their abusive husbands. According to Goetting, Ann in her 2000 book "Getting Out: Life Stories of Women Who Left Abusive Men", Blanca is one of the women who chose to leave her husband even if that cost her to lose her right of keeping her children with her (Goetting).

6 survey

Participants survey included 48 people. Participants included 43 females and 5 males. All participants in this study were volunteers. The survey included the following questions:

- What is your age?
14.58% of them their age are 18 to 24 , 8.33% of them are between 35 to 34, 14.58% of them older then 45, while 62.50% represent the age between 25 to 34.
- Do you think abusing is recognized enough as a serious issue?
68.75% of them response yes while the rest response no.
- Hitting children is often used as a form of discipline, do you think it is right to hit a child as a form of discipline?
47.92% of them response with no , 43.75% was for "It depends on the situation", while only 8.33% agree with statement.
- Do you think people who know someone is being abused that do not report it should also be blamed?
47.92% of them corresponding with " would tell a neighbor, relative or friend about their suspicions first rather than social services or the police.", 35.42% response yes , and the remain response no.
- Do you think people who know someone is being abused that do not report it should also be blamed? Who do you think is a typical victim of domestic violence and/or abuse?

The response was as following

27 response yes, 9 response no, while the rest of them response as " it is none of their business" or

They might as well be the abusers" equally. "

- Who do you think is a typical victim of domestic violence and/or abuse?

Poor, uneducated, trailer-trash women is the response of **46.67%** .

Educated, successful women was the response for **11.11%**, Children was the response for **42.22%**.

7 Conclusion

Being conscious individuals we all are well aware that lives are fragmented by acts of physical violence and the whole community pays its price. Hence, each one of us owes a responsibility to work for eradicating this evil from its roots. We must no longer support the status quo and raise our voice against it as our silence can be lethal for the entire community. We must spread awareness against this heinous crime and also teach women and girls how they can safeguard themselves against it. Violence against woman and girls should be condemned not only because it is an unacceptable norm, but be-

cause every form of injustice or oppression is a sheer violation of human rights that demands our prior attention and a dynamic contribution for its eradication.

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