

Violence against women in Egypt : Psychological and social consequences

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Is to investigate the perception of a sample of Egyptian women and men to the issue of gender violence, the personal experience of women of such violence and the psychological consequences that might follow therefore.

Cross-sectional observational study.

Women were interviewed by means of :

A questionnaire designed to investigate demographic background, personal knowledge and attitude towards violence against women in and outside the family.

Checklist of personal exposure of domestic violence applied to married women only.

ICD- 10 checklist for psychological symptomatology applied to women who themselves had experienced domestic violence.

Men were interviewed regarding their demographic background and their attitude towards domestic violence against women.

Results were tabulated for descriptive purposes.

The definition of violence against women adopted in this study is the definition of the International Declaration against Violence against women adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 20th of December 1993.

The most commonly reported symptoms were feelings of helplessness (97%), depressive symptoms (92%), lack of self confidence (87%) and a chronic feeling of apprehension ,anticipation of violence (85%). generalized Anxiety disorder (36 cases), adjustment disorder (28 cases), dysthymic disorder (15 cases), and major depressive disorder (1 case).

Spouse behavior that women consider violence :

polygamy 96% -marital rape 93%-preventing wives from going out of the house 83%-withholding children after divorce 77%-enforced obedience 72% preventing wives from traveling 70% Psychological consequences of violence(Psychological r?action % feelings of helplessness 97-depressive symptoms, inappropriate sleep and fatigue 92-lack of confidence in others 87-chronic feeling of apprehension and anticipation of violence 85-lack of self confidence 84-bouts of anger 79 chronic ambiguous feeling of guilt 68-mood swings 50-flashbacks and nightmares of certain violent incidents 12) Diagnosis were:

PTSD 2 .1%-GAD 36 .19%-Adjustment disorder 28. 15%-Dysthymic disorder 15. 8%-Major depressive disorder 10.5% gender violence is a considerable phenomenon in Egypt, that it constitutes a psychological health problem to women and that it has psychological consequences that deserve special attention and intervention on the part of mental health professionals.