

**The survey of effective factors on domestic violence The case study: Neyriz and Estahban cities**

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**Abstract:** Domestic violence is one of the most comprehensive kinds of violence in the world. Study and research on this issue could determine the incidence of these events and its causes. So, the results of such research and studies can be used to find ways to minimize this phenomenon and improve the life of some women tackling it. The main objective of the present study was to evaluate the factors influencing domestic violence against women in Neyriz and Estahban cities. For this purpose, a sample of 600 people was chosen from the studied population. After reviewing other studies and a theory related to violence, some hypotheses were raised and tested. The results showed that the variables financial independence, empathy, and behavior control have a relationship with domestic violence and no relationship was confirmed between the variables stereotypical beliefs and social capital with domestic violence.

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**Keywords:** Domestic violence; Women; Social capital; Empathy

**1. Introduction**

Women are half of the members of human community and should have equal rights to another half. Unfortunately, we have observed all forms of discrimination and inequality against women throughout human history, except for a short period. It is centuries that women are considered second-class human beings. Violence against women is not at all restricted to underdeveloped or Muslim communities. Violence against women has broken the boundaries of income, culture, age, and social, economic, and educational class. Women, whether in the Northern Hemisphere or in the Southern Hemisphere, whether in rich and developed countries or in underdeveloped and poor countries, from any race or nationality, are always the victims of violence causing them to be deprived of the basic human rights. This violence have ever been within the families and their footprints are still observable, despite the cultural, social, and even legal growth of modern societies. Home is the first and most important social institution that most people get their first socialization experiences there. In every culture, there are many beliefs and sayings about home as safe and comfortable environment. Home is imagined as a haven of security and prosperity. But for many women, home is a place full of pain, suffering, humiliation, and violence; a violence imposed by men on women at home; a pervasive, prevalent, and widespread violence and a very complex topic for research. It has been stated in the report of World Health Organization in 2006 that 18,000 women of

all ages have been killed due to domestic violence in Europe (Krug *et al.*, 2002). Quoted by Stickley (2008), violence causes decline in women's participation in social institutions, creation of a sense of confidence, economic inequality, etc. It is very embarrassing to the communities and countries that do not do anything to stop it and not only tolerate violence but also neglect and deny it. The main objective of the present study is to evaluate the factors influencing domestic violence against women in Neyriz and Estahban cities. Research on violence against women has been stated since nearly 4 decades that are becoming more comprehensive and deeper day by day. Some of this research (from the past to the present) will be mentioned in next parts. Due to the limited number of paper pages, a summary of previous research and studies has been provided in Table 1. Several factors may affect the formation of social phenomena. Scholars of different sciences and domains look at them from different angles and make theories about them. Phenomenon of violence is no exception. Psychologists, sociologists, criminologists, biologists, and other experts have studied a specific aspect domestic violence. These views and theories will be mentioned in next parts.

**1.1. Acquired theories**

**Social learning theory:** This theory emphasizes that people learn to be aggressive through experience or following the patterns. Children who witness violence or are treated with violence in family as the first unit of learning, learn that aggression is an appropriate and effective behavior to get what they

want. They also learn that the use of force is legitimate or not and whether aggression is a way to resolve interpersonal conflicts (Barnett *et al.*, 2004, quoted from Olson *et al.*, 2004; 6).

**Table 1:** A summary of previous studies on violence against women

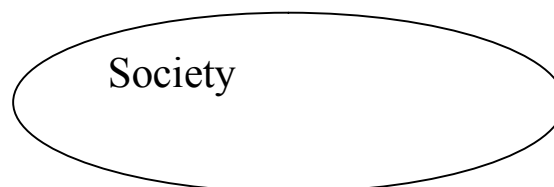
Number	Year and author(s)	Title and subject	Variables	Findings
1	Gülçür, L. (1999)	Evaluation of domestic violence and sexual assault in Ankara	Physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence	89%, 39%, 15.7%, and 5.2% of women were treated by psychological violence, physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, respectively.
2	Tong, A.R.W.C. (2003)	A multivariate model to understand the violent of husbands against their wives	Being exposure to domestic violence in childhood, personality disorder, Alcoholism, Social and economic base of the husband, satisfaction of marriage, Psychological aggression, and positive and conforming trends of spouse abuse	A significant relationship was observed between the studied variables and domestic violence
3	Pelser, E. et al. (2005)	Violence, the partner of life: The Results from an international study on violence based on gender in Malawi	Physical, emotional, economic, and sexual violence in relation with traditional beliefs of society, educations, alcohol consumption, and family income	There was a significant relationship between different types of violence and traditional beliefs of society, education, alcohol consumption, and family income
54	Marger, Martin N. 2001	The use of social and human capital among Canadian business immigrants	Social capital, parent's negligent behavior patterns, patterns of psychological damage, and domestic violence	Increased rank in social capital scale cause reduction in parent's negligent behavior patterns, patterns of psychological damage, and domestic violence.
5	Stickley, A. et al. 2008	Attitudes to violence against women in intimate and marriage relationships in Moscow	Violence, education, economic problems, and alcohol consumption	Violence had an inverse relationship with education and a direct relationship with economic problems and alcohol consumption

**Family systems approach:** In this theory, family is considered as a dynamic unit in which the behavior of a family member and the incidence of that behavior has an impact on the behavior and responses of other family members (Cunningham, 1998) and the family system is understood based on

processes, patterns, and mutual relationships (Olson *et al.*, 2004). In this approach, violence of confidants has been studied as part of a broader pattern including negative reciprocity, serious pattern, showing the dominance in the family, being rejected, and being ignored. Authority theory: In this theory, the violence caused due to the conflict between man and woman in the family is attributed to the level of authority and domination of man in the family. If authority increases, conflicts also increase. Generally, violent and improper behavior is imposed by those in power on subordinates. This means that those in power want to maintain their surrounding structure by using force and violence. Men apply this tool to dominate women, but degrees and forms of using this tool vary in different societies. Feminist theories: Although there are several feminist perspectives, most theorists of this approach believe that the power imbalance is the cause of violence against women in the family. This imbalance can be seen in patriarchal societies that their structure impedes the equal participation of women in social, economic, and political systems. Social imbalance and inequality between men and women are expanded into the family, where the man imposes his power and control over the woman. Violence is one of the forms of expressing this power. Scientific research show that patriarchal societies which emphasize on the power of men and their domination in political, social, and economic areas, have a large impact on the violent behaviors of men towards women (Cunningham, 1998; 20).

### 2.1. Ecological model:

Ecological model is almost a new theory about domestic violence. This model indicates that interpersonal violence is the resultant of interaction between various factors at different social levels. This model is depicted as follows on figure 1.



**Fig. 1:** Ecological model of understanding violence (WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women)

Biological factors and personal history that each person brings to his/her relationships are shown in the innermost circle (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005; 6). At the individual level, the man has been abused or witnessed violence in the family, the father is not at home or is rejected, or is an alcoholic (Ellsberg & Heinz, 2005; 26). The Second circle shows the first

substrates of violence that are mostly linked to family or other confidants (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005; 6).

At the level of family and family relationships, the man has the control over all property of the family and decisions which are made within the family and there is a little of marital conflicts (Ellsberg & Heinz, 2005; 26). The third circle represents the structure of social institutions (formal or informal) which include social relationships (neighbors, colleagues, social networks, and friends) (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005; 6). At the social level, the woman is isolated due to low social mobility and is less socially supported. The community of men condones or ignores violence and pretends it to be lawful (Ellsberg & Heinz, 2005; 26). The fourth circle includes economic issues, social environment, and cultural norms (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005; 6). At the society level, gender roles have been defined strictly and are imposed on society and the concept of masculinity is misunderstood with violence and rough and the concept of masculine dignity is misinterpreted with domination. The dominant culture of the society has accepted the physical abuse of women and children justifies it with this assumption that man is the owner of woman (Ellsberg & Heinz, 2005; 26).

### 3.1. Integrative view (theoretical framework of research):

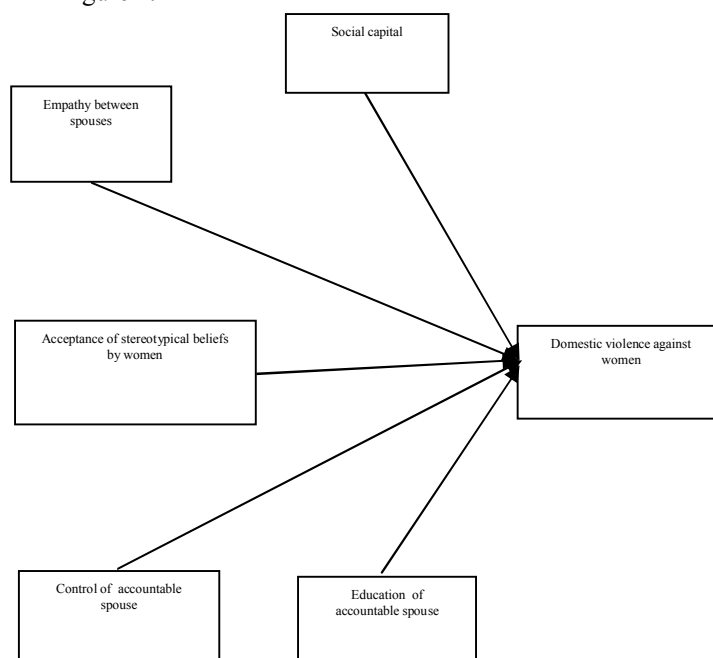
Social phenomena are multidimensional, so they should be studied from different perspectives. Phenomenon of domestic violence is no exception and has cultural, social, legal, psychological, and physical dimensions. Scholars from various fields of science have studied this phenomenon. It is obvious that none of these studies alone seem to be adequate to explain the phenomenon of violence. Hence, we cannot select merely one of the discussed theories as the theoretical framework of the present study. Integrating multiple perspectives in a way that they complement each other seems to be necessary to explain the theoretical framework of domestic violence phenomenon. Multifaceted nature of studied issue makes us to review the models and theories raised in different fields and select those that are closer to the objective and the scope of research and use them as the integrative view. In Iranian society have always been based on patriarchal system throughout the history. This will lead to an imbalance of power within the family and using violent behavior against family members is the result of this imbalance. On the other hand, traditional atmosphere of society, especially about women has not allowed them to participate in economic, social, cultural, etc fields. Undoubtedly, this will be somehow an obstacle to economic independence of women in Iranian society. This issue has been raised in the

theory of feminists and can be used as one of the theoretical bases of research. By reviewing the theories discussed in theoretical framework part, it can be found that feminist theories, theories of Zeldo, Strauss, and Giles which have emphasized on sociological and cultural factors have been used as the integrated approach of the study. Research hypotheses have been proposed based on the integrated view and the study of the views of others.

#### 4.1. Research hypotheses:

- 1- Men with different stereotypical beliefs, use violence against their wives in different ways.
- 2- Men with different level of education do not apply the same level of violence against their wives.
- 3- There is a relationship between social capital and domestic violence.
- 4- Men with different levels of behavioral control, impose different levels of domestic violence on their wives.
- 5- There is a significant difference between empathy and violence.

According to above-mentioned views, theoretical model of the present study can be depicted as shown in Figure 2.



**Fig 2:** Theoretical model of the present study

#### 5.1. Research Methodology:

This study is based on a survey. Statistical population of this research includes married women of Neyriz and Estahban cities. Cochran formula was used to determine the size of studied sample. Which was obtained 330 for each city? According to the

characteristics of statistical population, multi-stage cluster sampling method was found the best method for sampling. Married women were the unit of sampling those interviewers was sent to their homes to collect the required information. An author-made questionnaire was used to collect data. This questionnaire was developed using the definition of violence and its types and previous studies, especially the research conducted by WHO (World Health Organization) in ten countries for ten years.

The questionnaire consisted of 60 open and closed questions related to the subject of research. In order to make the researchers familiar with the questionnaire and the way of using it, three training sessions were held to help the interviewers to have a better communication with the respondents and ask the questions in an appropriate way. Face validity and construct validity methods were used to determine the validity of the questionnaire.

The correlation was calculated 0.82 in construct validity. Given that some questions of the questionnaire measured the attitude, Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire which was obtained 0.78. This figure shows that there is an inner harmony between attitude-measuring statements. Descriptive Statistics tools such as concentration and dispersion indices, one or multivariate tables, and diagram and deductive statistics tools such as Spearman correlation coefficient, Kruskal-Wallis test, and TAU B Kendall test were used to analyze the data. All these tests and analyses were done using SPSS software.

## **6.1. Definition of research variables:**

### **1.6.1. Domestic violence against women:**

Specific indicators to measure the dependent variable (violence against women) are as follows:

- Psychological violence such as mocking and squibbing; lack of attention to recommendations/consultation; threatening to take the children, marry again, get divorced, and kill; inattention, slander, pessimism, disrespecting the responder or the family members of the responder, etc.
- Physical violence such as slapping, pulling hair, biting, hitting, squeezing the throat, etc. Sexual violence such as having sex against the woman's desire, unconventional sexual relationships, etc.
- Economic violence such as not giving spending money to the wife, taking the income of the wife, etc.
- Controlling the behaviors such as preventing the woman from education, prevent the woman from socializing with her family, controlling his social communications, etc.

**Social capital:** Social capital has been defined as the ability of actors to secure benefits through membership in social networks or other social structures. Social capital emphasizes on characteristics of relationships between people and the norms controlling these relationships. Social capital of family specifically occurs in relationships of family members and implies the relations between parents and children and other family members. Social trust and social networks are indicators of social capital. In the present study, social networks have been specifically taken into account in assessing the relationship between social capital and domestic violence against women. Empathy between spouses: Awareness, knowledge, and understanding of spouse's emotions (Reber, 1985; 238).

- **Controlling the behaviors:** Any behavior from the husband or other family members restricting or controlling the measures and actions of the wife (Reber, 1985; 84, 154).

**Stereotypical beliefs:** Prejudice and judgment about others without having previous knowledge. Indicators of this variable are shown in Table 4.

**Education:** Number of years that a person has been engaged in studying in formal educational institutions

## **2. Data analysis:**

Descriptive and deductive indicators were used to analyze the data and then the appropriate and needed statistics were applied to test the research hypotheses. The scale of dependent and independent variables was ordinal. Hence, Kruskal-Wallis and TAU B Kendall's tests were used to test the significant differences between the studied groups and the relationship between them.

### **1.2. Deductive analysis:**

The dependent variable in our study is domestic violence that is divided into two categories of physical and mental. This variable is non-parametric and cannot be quantitatively measured. According to the criteria set for the study of violence and its types, violent behaviors were divided into three categories including low, medium, and high. Altogether, 16 indicators were determined to study the violence (Physical or mental). The violence of men who had imposed 5 or less than 5 of the determined types of violence on their wife was considered "low", the violence of men who had shown 5 to 10 types of violent behaviors was classified as "medium", and the violence of men who had 11 or more violent behaviors was regarded as "high".

**Table 2:** Frequency distribution of the respondents according to the type of psychological violence

Type of violence	Spouse		Father		Brother		Others		None		No answer		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
mocking and squibing	75	14/2	0	0	10	1.7	16	2/7	316	52/7	173	28/8	600	100
Lack of attention to recommendations/consultation	82	13/7	6	1	3	0/5	4	0/7	306	51	199	33/2	600	100
not giving spending money	27	4/5	1	0/2	2	0/3	2	0/3	372	62/2	195	32/5	600	100
preventing the woman from education	32	5/3	7	1/2	2	0/3	2	0/3	356	59/3	201	33/5	600	100
slander	13	2/2	0	0	0	0	5	0/8	384	64	198	33	600	100
threatening to take the children	13	2/2	0	0	0	0	2	0/3	377	62/8	208	34/7	600	100
threatening to marry again	16	2/8	0	0	0	0	1	0/2	378	63	204	34	600	100
threatening to get divorced	19	3/2	0	0	0	0	2	0/3	377	62/8	202	33/7	600	100
threatening to kill	8	1/3	0	0	0	0	2	0/3	391	65/2	199	33/2	600	100

**Table 3:** Frequency distribution of the respondents according to the type of physical violence

Type of violence	Spouse		Father		Brother		Others		None		No answer		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
slapping, pulling hair	40	6/7	0	0	3	0/5	1	0/2	376	62/7	180	30	600	100
punching and kicking, squeezing the throat	16	2/7	0	0	1	0/2	0	0	388	64/7	195	32/5	600	100
Hitting with a belt or hose	10	1/7	0	0	0	0	0	0	393	65/5	197	32/8	600	100
biting, hitting causing injury	11	1/8	0	0	0	0	0	0	390	65	199	33/2	600	100
Twisting the hand causing damage	10	1/7	0	0	0	0	0	0	396	66	194	33/3	600	100
Physical damage or Ruptured eardrum	3	0/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	398	66/3	199	33/2	600	100
Broken bones or ribs	1	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	6/7	199	33/2	600	100

**Table 4:** Frequency distribution of the respondents according to their attitude to stereotypical beliefs indices

Variable	Kruskal-Wallis test			TAU B Kendall		
	N	sig	Chi-square	N	sig	R kendall's-b
Stereotypical belief - Violence	584	0/279	2/554	584	0/689	-0/016
Stereotypical belief - physical violence	584	0/236	2/887	584	0/517	-0/027
Stereotypical belief - Mental Violence	584	0/261	2/690	584	0/203	-0/052
Spouse Education - Violence	557	0/001	18/579	557	0/013	-0/096
Spouse Education - Physical Violence	557	0/050	9/450	557	0/058	-0/074
Spouse Education - psychological violence	557	0/001	18/518	557	0/002	-0/120
Social capital - Violence	600	0/012	8/824	600	0/007	-0/105
Social capital - physical violence	600	0/006	10/150	600	0/002	-0/119
Social capital - psychological violence	600	0/065	5/466	600	0/415	-0/32
Behavior control- violence	574	0/001	13/160	574	0/004	0/119
Behavior control- physical violence	574	0/002	12/673	574	0/006	0/113
Behavior control - psychological violence	574	0/001	23/104	574	0/000	0/196
Empathy - Violence	575	0/000	25/038	575	0/000	-0/185
Empathy - physical violence	575	0/000	24/638	575	0/000	-0/185
Empathy - psychological violence	575	0/000	26/494	575	0/000	-0/201

**Table 5:** The results of Kruskal-Wallis test and TAU B Kendall correlation coefficient

Words and phrases	I agree		I do not agree		I don't know		No answer		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
A good woman should obey her husband even if she does not accept	231	38/5	299	49/8	43	7/2	27	4/5	600	100
Family problems and issues should be only discussed and between the family members	534	89	37	6/2	7	1/2	22	3/7	600	100
It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss	161	26/8	358	59/7	46	7/7	35	5/8	600	100
A woman should be able to choose her	120	20/8	401	66/8	39	6/5	35	5/8	600	100



own friends, even if her husband doesn't agree										
It is a woman's duty to have sex with her husband, even if the relationship does not feel good	276	46	183	30/5	92	15/3	49	8/2	600	100
A woman comes to her husband's family with a white dress and leaves them with a shroud, even if she is treated with injustice	156	26	388	64/7	29	4/8	27	4/5	600	100
A man has the right to hit his wife if she doesn't do the household chores good	22	3/7	540	90	14	2/3	24	4	600	100
A man has the right to hit his wife if she disobeys him	49	8/2	493	82/2	31	5/2	27	4/5	600	100
A man has the right to beat his wife and take her out of the house if he suspects her loyalty	55	9/2	468	78	49	8/2	28	4/7	600	100

## 2.2. The first hypothesis: Men with different stereotypical beliefs, use violence against their wives in different ways:

As shown in Table 5, this hypothesis deals with the difference between different levels of stereotypical beliefs and the imposed violence. In order to examine the significant difference between these two variables, Kruskal-Wallis test was used. The results indicate that there is no significant statistical difference between different levels of stereotypical beliefs and violence. This means that faith in stereotypical beliefs has no impact on the level of violence. On the other hand, the relationship between these two variables was also examining using TAU B Kendall test. The results shown in Table 5 indicate that this relationship is insignificant (Sig. = 0.689). This was also observed in different types of violence (Physical and psychological).

## 3.2. The second hypothesis: Men with different level of education do not apply the same level of violence against their wives:

Undoubtedly, education level of a person can be effective in formation of his/her attitudes and their practice. The impact of education on family relations and in particular the relationship between spouses is a topic that needs to be studied. The effect and relationship of this variable with violence were also studied and tested. For this purpose, the education level of the spouses of the respondents (husbands) were divided into 6 categories including illiterate, elementary or guidance school, high school, associate's degree or a bachelor degree, a master degree or higher, and seminary education. The question is that whether the education levels affect the rate of men's violence against women or not? The results show that education level has an impact on the rate of violence. This means that the higher the education level of men is, the lower the rate of violence will be and vice versa. This inverse relationship was also observed in TAU B Kendall test. It should be noted that this relationship also holds true for the indicators of physical and psychological violence.

## 4.2. The third hypothesis: There is a relationship between social capital and domestic violence:

Table 5 shows that there is a significant relationship between these two variables (Sig. = 0.007 for domestic violence and Sig. = 0.002 for physical violence), except in cases of psychological violence (Sig. = 0.415). The difference between the average levels of social capital and levels of violence were also tested. The results of Kruskal-Wallis test shows that violence has a significant relationship with different levels of social capital. This means that women who have less social capital tolerate more violence and vice versa.

**Table 6:** Mean and standard deviation of domestic violence by spouse's education level

Education level	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
illiterate	33	1/032	0/049
elementary or guidance school	146	1/014	0/033
high school	197	1/012	0/027
associate's degree or a bachelor degree	173	1/008	0/022
a master degree or higher	11	1/004	0/010
Total	557	1/012	0/029

**Table 7:** Mean and standard deviation of violence in terms of social capital

Levels of attitudes	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation
Low	79	1/012	0/033
Medium	412	1/011	0/027
High	109	1/017	0/032
Total	600	1/012	0/03

## 5.2. The fourth hypothesis: Men with different levels of behavioral control, impose different levels of domestic violence on their wives:

The findings related to this hypothesis, shown in Table 5, indicate that there is a significant

relationship between the rate of exercising the domestic violence in general and its indicators (physical and mental) and different levels of behavior control. On the other hand, the relationship between different levels of behavior control and violence was also examined. This means that the less the controlling behaviors of men is, the less violent behaviors will be imposed on women and vice versa.

### **6.2. The fifth hypothesis: There is a significant difference between empathy and violence:**

The findings related to this hypothesis, shown in Table 5, indicate that there is a significant relationship between mean levels of empathy and violence. Also, a significant inverse correlation was found between all levels of empathy with domestic violence and its indicators. This means that the more the empathy between spouses is, the less the violence would be.

## **3. Discussions**

"Faith in stereotypical beliefs" was one of the variables supposed to be effective imposing violence against women. In a nutshell, we can say that stereotypical beliefs are prejudices and judgments about others without having previous knowledge. Undoubtedly, prejudices about the beliefs within the society can practically affect the actions of actors. So, we tried to see that whether these beliefs can be effective in imposing domestic violence or not. Hence, this hypothesis was raised and tested. Our default assumption in this hypothesis is that those who believe in stereotypical beliefs are more likely to show violent behaviors and vice versa. This hypothesis was tested and the results showed that this variable has no significant relationship with domestic violence. To ensure more, the concept of domestic violence was divided into two parts including physical violence and psychological violence. It was observed that faith in stereotypical beliefs has a significant statistical relationship with none of these two indicators. In a study conducted by Tang (2003; 95) in Canada, the significant relationship of this variable with domestic violence was confirmed. Also, in a study conducted in Malawi in 2005, 57% of women believed that traditional beliefs of the society are the cause of domestic violence. In another research conducted by Akin and Soubasi in Turkey and published in 2004, a significant relationship was found between physical violence and traditional beliefs, while the present study rejects such a relationship. This may due to the differences between communities in terms of culture, society, religion, etc. Studies have shown that in countries where these stereotypical beliefs are less common, less violence and patriarchy are seen. The study conducted by Nayak *et al* confirms this argument.

The results of testing the hypothesis of significance of difference between different levels of education and domestic violence showed that educated the more the men are, the less likely they are to use violence against their wife. However, it should not be forgotten that this factor alone will not guarantee the non-violent behaviors. The relationship between men's education and domestic violence was confirmed in the studies conducted by Polser *et al* and also Stickely *et al*.

Pierre Bourdieu has divided the types of capital into three parts including economic capital, symbolic capital, and cultural capital. Having or not having any of these types of capital can determine a person's destiny is personal and social life. Social capital is defined as the ability of actors to secure benefits through membership in social networks or other social structures. Social capital emphasizes on characteristics of relationships between people and the norms controlling these relationships. Social capital of family specifically occurs in relationships of family members and implies the relations between parents and children and other family members. Social trust and social networks are indicators of social capital. In the present study, social networks have been specifically taken into account in assessing the relationship between social capital and domestic violence against women. One of the factors that can affect violent or non-violent against women is the social capital of women. The relationship between social capital and violence against women was not confirmed in the present study. Even after dividing the domestic violence against women into physical and psychological violence, no relationship was found between these variables. However, a relationship between these two variables was found in a study by Zoltor *et al* (2006). This means that women who had a rich social capital were less exposed to domestic violence. One of the questions in the questionnaire dealt with this issue that whether the women had talked about the violence imposed on them or not. The data indicate that more than half the respondents who were abused by violence did not talk about it with anyone and rest of them only consulted their parents, sisters, and brothers. As the level of education of most respondents and their parents was low, they had lower levels of social capital. Those who had higher social capital didn't manage to use it because it was a taboo for them to talk about the inner issues of family with others outside the home and family. So, non-confirmation of the inverse relationship between these variables can be due to above-mentioned reasons. However, the role of other unknown factors should not be ignored in this regard.

When a family is formed by the marriage of two persons, according to the society's cultural system, certain normative patterns that are already defined will rule the family. These patterns vary in different communities. Patriarchal and authoritarian patterns are common in some societies, while democratic models are preferred in other cultures. These patterns naturally affect the family norms. Evidence indicates that patriarchal model has been dominant in the family system around the world and this it shows that men mainly want to consciously or unconsciously control their partner's behavior or thoughts. Traditional and patriarchal patterns have been also common in Iranian culture throughout the history, although we have witnessed some changes and developments in the family system in recent decades influenced by the global cultural patterns. As we move from large cities to smaller cities, we see that these cultural patterns are more highlighted. This mainly to traditionalism and the high cost of breaking the traditions in such communities. It is obvious that the communities studied in the present research are not no exception. Behavior control in this study intends some cases such as preventing from socializing with the family, relatives, and friends, indifference, sensitivity of man about the normal relations of his wife with other men (colleagues, neighbors, etc), and so on. The relationship between this variable with domestic violence was examined and the research hypothesis was confirmed. This means that the more the controlling behaviors of the man is, the more severe reactions the wife would show followed by the exercise of various types of violence (Psychological, physical, financial, etc) by the man against his wife. The research data and evidence show that the men who have more control over the behaviors of their wives will resort to violent behaviors more than other men. Findings about above-mentioned hypothesis can confirm the theory of domination and authority raised by new Marxists and Feminists. They believe that similarly to normative system ruling the society which tries to control the behaviors of actors; men try to do so within the family.

Usually, several factors are involved in a successful marriage. These factors include cultural identity, having the same religious beliefs, deep interest in each other, empathy between spouses, etc. Empathy between spouses can be defined as awareness, knowledge, and understanding of another person's emotions. This variable can be measured through various indicators. Chalabi says that if you want to reduce violence in families, family members should agree and cooperate with each other, have empathy with each other, consult with each other, and have common interests in dealing with problems.

As discussed in previous part, there is a significant negative relationship between empathy and imposing or not imposing the violence on women by their husbands. This means that the likelihood of imposing violence on women is less in families where there is more empathy and sympathy between spouses. This hypothesis was also confirmed in the present study. Chalabi and Rasoulzadeh also confirmed the inverse relationship between empathy and violence against children in their study.

### 1.3. Recommendations and Guidelines:

Based on the findings of the present study, the following guidelines are recommended in order to reduce domestic violence against women:

Instructional strategies:

- 1- Education of children (girls and boys) from the first years of school in order to learn the skills of communication, problem solving, and dealing with aggression.
- 2- Public education through the mass media to change attitudes towards women as the second sex.
- 3- Making women familiar with their rights.
- 4- Increasing the level of education of women and men.

### 2.3. Application of preventive measures:

- 1- Trying to reach equality in terms of women's and men's rights through the activities of human rights organizations.
- 2- Proposing and implementing plans to prevent violence against women, especially domestic violence.
- 3- Increasing social awareness and trying to change attitudes, beliefs, and values which consider violence against women a common behavior and overlook it.
- 4- Developing women's NGOs to train them.
- 5- Establishing a permanent organization to gather information and statistics on violence against women.
- 6- Supporting research on violence against women and ways to prevent it and also practical application of the presented solutions.

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