Analyzing the Relationship between the Family Population and Single parenting with the Domestic Violence against Children

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ABSTRACT

This study is mainly aimed at analyzing the relationship between the family population, single parenting, and the domestic violence against the children in Ahwaz. It is a survey research, which is done by a questionnaire, randomly in Ahwaz. The population was all the male and female students studying at high school, who were 384 in total selecting by the cluster sampling method and were calculated by the Cochran Formula. To collect data the CTQ questionnaire (Child Trauma Questionnaire), (Berenstain, 1995) and the population questionnaire were used. Such statistical indicators as the percentage, mean, standard deviation (SD), Pearson correlation coefficient, t-test, regression analysis were used to analyze the data. The results showed that there is a significant negative correlation between the family population and parents’ violence against children. However, there isn’t any significant correlation between single parenting with the parents’ violence against children.

Key word: domestic violence, family population, single parenting, child abuse

Introduction

Violence against children is the problem of millions of children as well as families, which take place in every society, and the effects, are remarkable on children of any race, social class, and religion, and the effects exist in all the periods of the individual’s growth. However, it is observed that the studies done on the issue are in the early stages and are not completely reported. Due to this fact, the real statistics are more than the cases reported. (7). According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, in 1995 15-1000 children, less than 18 years old have been suffered from sexual abuse, physical abuse, and ignorance (8,13). There are many factors playing role in the incidence of violence against children. Annoying parents have been the victims of physical and sexual abuse. The stressful life conditions such as poverty and density, social isolation, lack of a supportive system, and parents’ drug abuse, all increase the stress level in the vulnerable families and increase the possibility of violent behavior and negligence about children (4). Glass [5] showed families with lower levels of education, more population, a weaker job situation, and less income, are more probable to have violate family relationships. Moreover, the results of Mohammad Khani’s (1999) study showed that the high family population, low education, parents’ depression, social isolation, parents’ lack of social care, the experience of separation and addiction among parents, the father’s job, and the mother’s housewife job are among the other predisposing factors of child abuse. Berger [2] studied the effect of population and family income on the physical violence against children, and showed in the single-parent families, with a depressed parent, the experience of alcohol use by the mother, and populous families, the existence of parents’ violence history in childhood, and the family’s low-income, the incidence of child abuse is significantly more than the other families. The results of, Glass [5], showed family factors such as a high number of the population, marital conflict, single parenting had a significant difference with the family violence. According to the social theory of, behavior is learned in two ways; either through rewarding the behaviors (instrumental learning), or through the conscious or accidental observation of the others’ behavior (modeling). Therefore, children learning through either way to be violent may continue the learned pattern in the adult period as well. Furthermore, Bandura mentions the interference of the underlying conditions such as population density, pollution, etc. in creating aggression, and one can enjoy it in explaining the role of the family dimension in child
abuse. What makes the issue remarkable in the traditional and developing societies, is the fact that due to the cultural reasons of these countries, although there are many cases of these problems and there are serious consequences of these problems, these problems are not concerned sufficiently yet (4,10). Therefore, violence in the family patterns causes the exposure of it to the society and the continuation of the patterns and violent behaviors in the social relationships. The children, whose mothers are harassed physically by the fathers, are faced with higher risk factors to transfer the violent behaviors of the next generation. Therefore, considering this issue and presenting scientific and applicable solutions can play a vital role in the society and family health. Therefore, the present study was one aiming at analyzing the relationship between the factors of family population and single parenting with the domestic violation of families against children in Ahwaz.

**Aim of the Study:**

Analyzing the relationship between the family population with the domestic violation against children

Analyzing the relationship between single parenting with the domestic violation against children

**Hypotheses of the Study:**

2. There is a relationship between single parenting with the degree of domestic violation against children.

3. There is a relationship between the degrees of domestic violation against children.

**Methods:**

This is a survey study which was done by the use of questionnaire in Ahwaz. The population was all the male and female students and their parents studying at high school in Ahwaz and they were 384 subjects, calculated by Cochrane formula. These students were selected through cluster sampling from different regions of the city, and the questionnaire was given to them randomly. To measure each of the variables of the study, the statements were designed by Likert type and other types, and by the technique of questionnaire, the necessary data were collected and analyzed. When the questionnaire was completed by the subjects, SPSS was used to analyze the data in two levels of descriptive and analytical statistics, the statistical indicators such as percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson correlation coefficient, and regression, and t-test were used.

**Tools:**

1. The CTQ (Child Trauma Questionnaire): the CTQ was used to measure the child abuse. CTQ is a self-report tool and is used to measure the child abuse in childhood. CTQ measures the abuse in five subscales, and achieves a general score indicating a general maltreatment. Five subscales of CTQ including five subscales of Emotional abuse (EA), physical abuse (PA), Sexual Abuse (SA), emotional negligence (EN), and the physical neglect (PN). In this study, the child abuse questionnaire is adopted by the questionnaire of: It should be mentioned that in this study, the sexual abuse subscale has been removed, just like the Yeylao and Mikaeli’s questionnaire in which this subscale has been removed due to the ethnic and cultural issues. Generally, 40 statements have been used to measure the degree of parents’ violence against children. In the present study, the reliability coefficient of this questionnaire was measured by Alpha Cronbach and the results were achieved; child abuse=91%, emotional abuse=0.87, physical abuse=0.85, emotional negligence=0.70, and physical negligence=0.75.

2. The population questionnaire: this questionnaire was used to collect some of the demographic data and independent variables of the study such as age, sex, the family population, single parenting, and the parents’ education. In the present study, the reliability coefficient of the questionnaire was calculated by Alpha Cronbach and the results were achieved; for the family population variables, it was equal to 81%, and for single parenting it was equal to 0.79%.

**Results:**

The descriptive findings of the study show that in the parents sampling, 38% of them are men and 61.5% are women. Furthermore, in the students sampling, 34.1% are boys and 65.9% are girls. Moreover, the findings show that the parents’ educational level range from illiterate to academic education and 8.3% of the fathers are illiterate, 24.2% have passed the elementary school, 24% have passed the secondary school, 31.5% hold diploma, 4.9% hold A. A (higher Diploma), and 8.9% hold B.A or higher. In addition, the descriptive findings show that 4% of the recipients are 3 people, 23.2% are 4 people, 27.5% are 5 people, 23.6% are 6 six people, 10% are 7 people, 8% are 8 people, and 4% of them are 9 or more people. In table 4.9 the frequency and percentage of the subjects present in the study based on the number of subjects’ situation are shown. As it is observed in the above table, the mean and SD variable of the student’s age is 16.01 and 0.98, the variable of father’s age is 46.63 and 7.44, the mother’s age variable is 40.21, and 5.98, and the variable of family population is 5.56 and 1.67, respectively.
Description of the Parents’ Abuse Variable against Children and Its Different Dimensions:

As it is observed in the above table, the mean and standard deviation of the parents’ abuse is 64.80 and 17.56, the variable of emotional abuse is 20.15 and 8.3, the variable of physical abuse is 8.01 and 3.78, the variable of emotional negligence is 28.19 and 6.54, and the variable of physical negligence is 8.44 and 2.74, respectively.

Table 1: Mean, Standard Deviation, the Least and the Most Scores of Subjects in Variables of Parents’ Violence against Children and its Different Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable</th>
<th>Number of Statements</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>The Least Amount</th>
<th>The Most Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole Family Violence</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>64.80</td>
<td>17.56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20.15</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Negligence</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28.19</td>
<td>6.54</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Negligence</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.44</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analytical Findings:

Hypothesis 1:

There is a relationship between the family populations with the degree of domestic violence against children.

Table 2: The Results of the One-Way Variance to Compare the Degree of Domestic Violence in Families with Different Numbers of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>Degree of Freedom</th>
<th>Mean of Squares</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Significance level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal Family</td>
<td>432.62</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>721.43</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family with Population</td>
<td>113811.11</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>301.88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>118139.74</td>
<td>383</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results show that, there is a difference among the families with different populations, and the more family members are, the more violence against children is (p=0.001, F=2.39). These findings show that the first hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 2:

There is a relation between single parenting and the domestic violence against children.

Table 3: The Results of Independent t-test to Compare the Degree of Parents’ Violence against Children in Normal and the Single-Parent Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation (SD)</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>Degree of Freedom</th>
<th>Significance Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal family</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>64.77</td>
<td>16.93</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Parent Family</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>65.13</td>
<td>24.14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As it is observed in the above table the mean and the standard deviation of the parents’ violence against children in normal family groups are 46.77 and 16.93, and in the single-parent family groups are 65.13 and 24.14, respectively. As it is observed in the above table, the result of the independent t-test show that there is not any difference between normal with single-parent families regarding the degree of parents’ violence against children (p=0.91, t=0.10). It was presupposed that in single-parent families the violence against children is more than that of the normal family. This finding shows that the second hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion and Conclusion:

Domestic violence against children is one of the common social hurts in the society nowadays, which has created families and authorities’ concern. This study aimed at analyzing the relationship between the family population and single-parent families with the domestic violence against children. In this regard, the relationship between the independent variable (the family population and the single-parent family) was analyzed with the degree of the domestic violence, the results of which are presented in the following:

According to the results it turns out that there is a significant correlation between the family population and the family violence against children. The more family members are, the more parents’ violence against children is. The populated families are regarded as one of the centers of child abuse. The highest population of the family is both limited in paying attention to children and it wins the family attention to the family concerns and problems resulting from increasing the population. Furthermore, it engaged the family very much, and results in conflict and violence within families.

This finding was compatible with the findings of, Galss [5]. It was presupposed that in single-
parent families, the degree of violence against children is more than that of the normal families, because the single-parent families are susceptible to the stress conflict, unequal distribution of emotional and material attentions, emotional stress, lack of supportive systems, opposite motivations, insecurity and anxiety, and the children in the single-parent families are the victims of violence more than the children in normal flies; however, in this study there was not observed any significant relationship probably due to low-number of single-parent children.

Regarding the results, the most to the least range of parents’ violence are emotional negligence, emotional abuse, physical negligence, and the physical abuse against children, respectively. One of the findings of the present study is the functional significance, the results of which can aware the policy makers of the parents’ violence and maltreatment against children, as well as the abnormal social consequences of it so that they adopt a policy to decrease violence against children, and help effectively to the incidence of violence in the family, improve and maintain the health and strength of families.

Reference