

Evaluation of National Policy about Domestic Violence against Women in Iran

Bahareh Fallahi (corresponding author)
PhD student in Housing
Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia
+60105069754 bahare.fallahi@yahoo.com

Aida Mehrad
PhD student in social psychology
Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia
+60102609060 aida_238@yahoo.com

Abstract

One of the unpleasant behaviors that threatens women's life and leads to various disquiets among family members is domestic violence. Prevention of this social dilemma and recognizing of its mechanism supposed as a vital and predictable fact in national policies. Into the bargain, it is enough necessary to determine the national policies for protecting women to meliorate mental health in society. The goal of current literature is looking at the factors that may contribute to domestic violence against women. Also, this paper evaluate position of women in constitute law, civil law and national policies in Iran with the purpose of women's protect in the society.

Keywords: domestic violence, women, national policy, Iran

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its determination on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 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 in private life" (Islam, 2010; Jaochim, 1999). As well, the term 'gender-based violence' refers to "any acts or threats of acts intended to hurt or make women suffer physically, sexually or psychologically,

and which affect women because they are women or affect women disproportionately" (Richters and te Leiden 1994). The definition of 'gender-based violence' is most often "used interchangeably with violence against women" (Krantz and Garcia- Moreno 2005). The violence refers as any action against women that appears in various form such as physical, sexual or mental damage. Additionally, it is any kind of suffering by women that involve some threats such as acts, pressure or arbitrary deprivation of freedom, which occurred in public or in private life. These abnormal behaviors and performances have bad effect among family and society. The violence

against women is one of the critical abnormal behaviors that appear in most of developing and under developing countries. Actually, all countries try to control and decrease the rate of it in various ways. In fact, the violence assumed as a universal dilemma that around half of women contact with it in during of their life (Caha, 2010).

The explanation of violence confirms by the United Nations as considerable issue and tries to prevention it via different policies in society. Moreover, the violence is any reactions that lead to physical, psychological and sexual harms (Heise L et al., 1994). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the prevalence of violence against women in all over the world was considerable. Based on recent study of WHO, around 35% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence in the world (Walby & Allen, 2004). Regarding to previous years, the WHO announced that the prevalence of violence in different facets were around 15.0% physically abused, 42.4% sexual abused and 81.5% mentally abused in previous years in Iran (Faramarzi et al., 2005). Also, the concern of violence against women still “remains one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations worldwide” (Fried 2003).

One of the main factors for these complications is lack of precise statistics about this abnormal phenomenon (Kishwar, 2005). In fact fully, the violence reported so rarely by women or the criminal to Justice System. In some cases, the justice system does not enough attention to this considerable dilemma (Farhi, 2001). National

policies are formulated in the form of short plans in order to increase the welfare of the persons in Iran. The role of females in these plans for improving their positions is the challengeable concern. In present literature, researchers focus on violence against women by considering the role of national policy framework toward violence against women and implementation of policies that performed in Iran for improve their condition and solving the difficulties that appear through this abnormal behavior.

The Natures of Domestic Violence among Women

The violence assumed as social abnormal behavior that shows from one or more than one person toward woman. Regarding on the United Nations domestic violence defined as any kind of irregular behavior that determined founded on sexuality (Brasileiro, 1997; Bunch, 1997). As well, the United Nations denoted to some factors that have serious role on seem or perform against women. In actual fact, this domestic violence done for diminishes and rejects the rights of women and pushing them in the way that criminal requests (Pop, 2003). This abnormal social behavior has several facets that have destructive effect on women right in society (Ertürk, 2009). The domestic violence included numerous difficulties and unfortunately there is no any fundamental strategy for monitoring and limiting it (Bloom, 2008). This abnormal behavior performs in two forms of mental and physical that usually appears by husband, father or brother at home (Richardson,

Petruckevitch, Chung, Moorey, & Federm, 2002). In addition, there are some responsible factors such as culture, economic, relation between family members etc. which should be consider to these threaten abnormality reaction and conduct it (Corrine,1996; WHO ,1996) . In line with, Payne and Linda (2009) explained domestic violence has insufficient effect on women' life and creates irreversible crisis for them.

Preventing Domestic Violence

The violence needs to various elements for prevent and elimination that should be supported and observed by individuals and society (Moore, Frohwirth, & Miller, 2010). In reality, each country has specific methods for controlling domestic violence and this fact depends on culture of that country (Rasoulia, Habib, Bolhari, Hakim Shooshtari, Nojomi, & Abedi, 2014). In Iran, these elements are making aware the population toward this threaten reaction and increasing the level of their knowledge, protection of the legal rights of women and providing convenient job based in women' skills (Ghahari, Mazdarani, Khalilian, & Zarghami, 2008; Hasheminasab, 2006). Furthermore, the appropriate culture attended to women and their rights for decrease the amount of violence in society (Clark, 1998; Musazadeh, Merghati, Sadaghiyanifar., & Ara, 2010). Consequently, this appropriate solution has been more thoughtfulness to facets of women presence in society (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).

Women in Constitution of Law and Civil Law in Iran

Regarding Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran (1989), Article 21, was adjusted to contain government should guarantee the females' rights in all fields by concerning to the Islamic rules. Also, in Civil Law, Article 642, in Chapter nineteen "Crimes against Family Rights and Responsibilities" has indicated that man will be punished by law if he does not pay maintenance to his wife "Anyone who fails to pay his wife's nafaqa (maintenance), while he has the financial ability, subject to the wife's tamkin (obedience), or fails to pay other members of his family that he is legally responsible to pay their nafaqa, shall be sentenced by court to three months and one day to five months' imprisonment" ("Islamic Penal Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran – Book Five," 2013). Likewise, in Article 645 in Civil Law has been mentioned. Whenever a husband gets married without recorded the official documents punished to one year of imprisonment. Article 619, it is mentioned men who bother females in public places will be punished from two months to six months as well as whipping 74 .

National Policy Framework in Iran toward Domestic Violence against Women

National policies are formulated in the form of short plans in order to increase the welfare of the people in Iran. There is five short term plan in Iran that appointed. In first, second, third and fifth plan there were no Articles about

the violence against women. Actually, in fourth plan, in Article 111 (3), just mentioned measures legally in order to prevent of violation against females. Article 89 (5) has been sanctioned the comprehensive plan in order to support females rights in different field such as social, economic, legal and executive issues. ("The Law of the Fourth Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran," 2014).

Implementation of Policies on Domestic Violence against Women in the Iran

There are some strategies in Iran which have performed on violence against women such as; counseling service area for young couples, empowering females and establishing pre-marital consulting courses emphasizing men and females' right to each other (Ashtiani, 2008). In addition to create a telephone number (129) in 24 hours for all persons to call when there is a violence against women, creating Health Houses for victims of violence, protect the rights victims of violence through speech therapy and psychotherapy (Ghasemi, 2009). Additionally, there are some managing training programs in different fields such as training of a culture of tolerance in schools, life skills to raise the skills of persons for solving their problems, growing the information of persons about their rights and couples' duties to prevent violence against women. Creating the human rights research centers in this issue in the universities ("National Review on Women's Status in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2014).

Establishing family courts in which females counselors are in employment (*The Citizenship Rights Charter*, 2013), to making in the Courts a sector on the support of females and children, creating "National Committee for Organizing Counseling Services as well the medical centers deal with the harassment against women to referred them to the Judicial authorities and disciplinary in the country, considering a security plan in the National Document on Domestic Violence Prevention" that is now continue ("National Review on Women's Status in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Beijing+20)," 1995).

Conclusion

Domestic violence against women is a problem in each society. This problem exists in all over the world. The role of national policies in preventing and responding violence against women is very important by providing services and legislate in order to support women. National policies are formulated in the form of short term plan in Iran in order to development in different fields such as educational, economic and political issues. Unfortunately in the first, second, third and fifth development plans were no Article about the violence against women. However, in fourth plan focuses on situation of women especially women that face with violence. This literature review shows that the necessity of the national policy about the rights women, identifies the women who are victims of violence, and mentions the signs or indicators of violence.

Policy Implication

National policies should receive special attention to improve the victims of violence. Certain measures should be taken to make these victims feel more welfare, and to improve their conditions, especially they should receive

consular services and health services. More affordable residences should be provided to them. In addition, more attention should be paid to the improvement of training plane, which can be achieved by considering workshop and seminar, mass media and relation between NGO and affected women.

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