

ISSUES WITH PERPETRATORS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Research Aim and Questions	3
Background to the issue	4
Gendered nature of domestic violence and patriarchy	4
Lack of Punitive measures for domestic violence	5
Addiction and substance abuse issues promoting domestic violence	6
Methods.....	6
Ethics.....	7
Timetable	8
The budget and resources required	10
Dissemination of results.....	10
References	12
Appendix.....	15



Introduction

The issue of domestic violence has emerged as a widespread phenomenon that has severe impacts on the victims and society at large. Domestic violence can be understood as the actions that are considered as physical, sexual, economic or psychological violence that occurs at the hands of the family members or in the domestic units, or from a current or past partner or spouse irrespective of the fact that the perpetrator had shared the residence with the victim or continues to do so (Tsirigotis & Łuczak, 2018). The proposal has been made in the discussion of the perpetrators of domestic violence and the issues with them. The issue of such forms of violence particularly abuse and violence at the hands of intimate partners has become common. The fact that intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major social concern impacting a great number of women and children has become undeniable which makes it a gendered issue (Postmus et al., 2020). Thus it can be argued that in the majority of cases, men are the perpetrators and women are the victims.

Several advances have been made in dealing with violence against women in terms of public health approaches have been made in high-income countries such as the United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Denmark (Rege et al., 2020). While most of the preventive aspects have been made in the context of victims, the current proposal will identify the issue with perpetrators. The background to the research issue has been given in the proposal and the aim has been provided as well. The methodology to be undertaken for the research and the ethical considerations have been provided as well. The required resources and budget as well as the time expected to be required have been given as well. Finally, the dissemination of the proposal has been provided.

Research Aim and Questions

The aim of the proposal is to recognise the issues related to perpetrators of domestic violence and to gather funding for support programs for helping victims.

Background to the issue

Gendered nature of domestic violence and patriarchy

While domestic violence can occur to any individual, data suggests that the majority of victims are female and that the perpetrators of the crime have been men and this makes domestic violence a gendered issue. According to data, 1 in 4 women or 23% or 2.2 million and 1 in 13 men or 7.8% or 704,000 had experienced sexual or physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner at least once since the age of 15 (AIHW.GOV.AU, 2022). Hence even in Australia, it is seen that there are more chances for women to be victimised and men to be the perpetrators. Taking into consideration the gendered nature of the composition of the domestic violence perpetrators, it can be said that one issue prevalent is the problem with patriarchy. Domestic violence can be understood as the probable traces of the primarily patriarchal organisations in societies that lead to the generation of hierarchical gender relations among men and women across the world (Metz et al., 2019). Therefore, it can be said that domestic violence which is a gendered issue is the manifestation of a patriarchal society that promotes the subjugation of women by men. The issue with perpetrators of domestic violence can be identified as the issue of patriarchy.

Feminist scholars promote the idea of domestic violence as a result of patriarchy, a system that maintains male dominance by giving them power over women to control and dominate them (Mshweshwe, 2020). Domestic violence is also promoted as being connected with the ideologies of masculinity, which is seen as an endorsement of attitudes related to patriarchy, and the assignment of behaviours and beliefs during the process of socialisation (Mshweshwe, 2020). Thus it can be stated that the issue with the perpetrators of domestic violence is that they are patriarchal in nature and are socialised with attitudes, thoughts and behaviours that are concerned with the promotion of male superiority over women. According to some researchers, the practice of domestic violence has also been attributed to the combination of interlocking factors that include patriarchy, community norms, cultural beliefs and low education levels (Mshweshwe, 2020). Patriarchy is thus upheld by community norms and cultural practices and issues such as low education lead to domestic violence of men against women. According to feminist scholars, the gender power dynamic created as a result of patriarchy is central to the idea of domestic violence (Maji et al., 2022). Based on the argument it can be stated that domestic violence occurs

as a result of the power imbalance that is skewed toward men due to patriarchy. According to Dutton & Painter (1993), the power imbalance between partners can be attributed to explaining relational violence (Maji et al., 2022). The issue with perpetrators of domestic violence is thus the power that they have over their partners which is misused.

Lack of Punitive measures for domestic violence

Another issue with the perpetrators is that they often go unpunished and there is a limited amount of measures taken for the punishment of the individuals who commit crimes. It has been seen that globally the expenditure due to violence against women is around 3.7% of the overall gross domestic product of the country and is sometimes equal to what they allocate for primary education (Semahegn et al., 2019). Despite this, the prospect has been viewed as being exclusively a private matter and a negligible issue by several countries leading it to not be considered a crime (Semahegn et al., 2019). It can be argued that the prospect of promoting domestic violence as a private issue by governments leads to fostering and lowers the opportunity for women to complain.

The handling of the case by law enforcement occupies an important role in domestic violence. The use and application of outdated and inaccurate models to understand intimate partner violence lead to the misunderstanding of the factual context in which the offenders that are primary victims are located and the meaning of their actions to the context by the people handling the case (Tolmie et al., 2018). The same situation might arise when the primary aggressor is charged with an IPV offence (Tolmie et al., 2018). The people responding to the offence might be unable to understand that the response of the victim as the complainant or witness could be happening due to ongoing coercion (Tolmie et al., 2018). In this regard, a lack of punitive measures and the presence of a proper mechanism in identifying the violence and the response of the victim who might be coerced can lead to misjudgement that causes more harm to victims. Thus the issue of lack of proper identification and meting out of punitive punishment can act as an issue among perpetrators of domestic violence.

There are certain initiatives that can be undertaken by law and policymakers in dealing with domestic violence. The attachment of heavy penalties to the offenders leads to crime among fewer people (Australian National Character Check, 2022). Thus by giving penalties and high degrees of punishment the issue can be solved whereby the perpetrators do not commit such

crimes. On the other hand, the absence of such measures leads to increased domestic violence incidents. Hence an issue with the perpetrators of domestic violence is that there is a lack of punitive measures against them.

Addiction and substance abuse issues promoting domestic violence

An issue that can be identified in the perpetrators of domestic violence is that addiction and substance abuse often increase the chances of committing domestic violence. Even though not all people who engage in substance abuse experience intimate partner violence, it is seen that substance abuse is common among both victims and perpetrators (Cafferky et al., 2018). It has also been reported by previous research that by targeting substance abuse, it has been seen that the rates of intimate partner violence have been seen to reduce substantially (Cafferky et al., 2018). Thus it can be argued that the presence of substance abuse while not always leading to victimisation or perpetration of domestic violence, it plays a significant role in its occurrence. It has been found that there exists a strong correlation between the practice of substance abuse, such as alcohol and drug use and IPV or intimate partner violence and it is a general consensus that substance abuse can lead to an increase in the frequency as well as the severity of violence (Stephens-Lewis et al., 2021). Hence it can be argued that an issue with the perpetrators of domestic violence is that they might engage in drug and alcohol addiction and the engagement with such addictive behaviour leads to an increase in the degree and frequency of violence. Substance abuse or dependence on such substances is seen to be significantly associated with the perpetration of IPV among males (Stephens-Lewis et al., 2021). It has also been highlighted by findings that the amount of physical or sexual violence perpetration among men seeking getting treated for substance abuse is greater than the people in the general population (Stephens-Lewis et al., 2021). Hence a causal relationship between substance abuse and high rates of sexual and physical violence can be established.

Methods

In this research proposal, primary data has been used to get into the research question. The collection of the primary data may include the underpinning of direct follow-up from the related persons and the first-hand account from the victims. The process includes interviews through various channels such as telephonic interviews or through mailings. Differentiation may

also be seen in taking the account making the schedules (Pandey& Pandey, 2021). The interviews would not be based on any scripts, rather they will be of an unstructured type.

Unstructured interviews will go on the basis of the first-hand approach of community case workers. There will be several unstructured interviews where the data will also be exchanged in oral or written form. In this type of interview, the difference between the interviewer and interviewee has been tried to decrease (Thorpe et al., 2018). Through this approach, the main objective will be to assess the experience of the community case workers without vanity or any kind of bar.

The focus group is the community case worker in this research. The people can be segregated into several groups as the need arises. As far as the number is concerned, there are 16 caseworkers in the group. In order to avoid any type of confusion, every interviewee should be given ample time.

The qualitative approach has included pluralistic views in the interview and in the data collection (Miller et al., 2018). The qualitative data collection has also aligned the important data which have not been published in the direct conversation but get ample scope to be published in the interview.

Ethics

Ethics in the work should be maintained in order to maintain the integrity of the research. As far as the concern goes, ethics has helped to apply the rules and regulations that are concerned with the research. In qualitative research, the need for ethics has been described as the emergent one (Roth & Von Unger, 2018). In the concerned research, ethics will be used in the interview with the community case workers. The ethical need is to maintain the confidentiality of the case worker. The maintenance of confidentiality will be assessed by the interviewers and the interview data will be accessed by the pertinent persons only. The maintenance of privacy will also be achieved by not asking any irrelevant questions to the interviewees. The same onus will also be focused on the interviewers who will not ask for any gifts or prizes from the case workers. Community case workers will not ask for any personal data from the interviewers. The complex concern about ethical maintenance is that in fewer occasions the responsibility of the

higher authorities may not go with ethical maintenance (Swain & Spire, 2020). In this respect, personal responsibility will play a component in keeping up the responsibility.

Timetable

With the help of the timetable the research will manage the total working process within 12 months:



Activities	Time-frame
Analyzing the research topic and the relevancy	1st month
Finding various relevant literature and understanding the statistical concepts	2nd month
Manage the unstructured interviewing process	3rd month
Further reviewing all kinds of literature	4th month
Elevating the various methodological steps (Interview) Identified the focus group	5-7 month
Collected some relevant information	8-9 month
Write up all information and the interview outcome	10-11 month
Finalizing the proposal	12 month

Table 1: Timetable

(Sources: Created by Self)

Following the time frame, the total working process will manage for better conducting this proposal's success purpose. This timetable has a huge contribution to improving this research progress in some systemic manner for expecting better and fair outcomes.

The budget and resources required

Budget planning is the major factor in conducting individual research work for evaluating their success. For this research progress purpose, the budget has mainly been allocated to manage the collection of the primary data and the social research conduction purpose which are respectively almost \$80000. On the other hand, the assistance of social research needs almost \$55000 to manage the better way for collecting data to improve their research progress. As per the need, the transcribe of the interviews and focus groups budget is almost denoted 70 dollars for every hour of their service. In order to manage the counselling process it needs to charge \$95 per hour to improve the progress of this research work. Here the researcher needs some of the other budgets to mitigate the issue of the meeting, accommodation, time of meeting and the place of the interviewing process to improve the better conducting of this research paper. Therefore, the total budget is 136870 \$.

Dissemination of results

The dissemination of the results should be based on the perspective of Australia. As far as the concern has gone in the research, the result has been based on the data that has been perceived from the interviews. In this perspective, the context of domestic violence has been taken into account. The lack of suitable measurement in diminishing the issue has been regarded as one of the challenges in the research. In the method part, the importance of the primary data as well as the unstructured interview has been added. These two proponents will be used in further assessing the research. Ethics will be approached in maintaining the core theme of the research. In addition, the timetable has given the idea about the nitty-gritty of the research. The data that will be perceived from the relevant research will be forwarded to the concerned authorities. The objective of the research will be based on the identification of the pertinent issues which are

attached to domestic violence perpetrators and suggesting relevant solutions. The sole need for this activity will be based on to assign for the funding allocation for the research. The data will be published in a relevant journal form.



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Appendix

- 1. How many domestic violence cases have you seen in your career?**
- 2. Who do you think are usually victims?**
- 3. What is the reason behind this violence?**
- 4. Is there any mental impact for this situation?**
- 5. What are the major impacts on the child and youth?**
- 6. Do you think domestic violence to some extent a behavioral issue?**
- 7. Who are usually the perpetrators of such crimes?**
- 8. Do you think that the perpetrators have some underlying mental health issues that lead them to commit violence?**
- 9. Have you seen any interrelationship between drug and alcohol addiction and perpetuation of domestic violence?**
- 10. Do you think there are enough initiatives to change the behaviour of the perpetrators?**
- 11. Do you feel the punishment for such crimes are adequate?**
- 12. Have you seen any remorse in the perpetrators of domestic violence?**

