



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY, GENDER ROLE, SOCIAL
SUPPORT AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE AMONG WOMEN IN
TEHRAN, IRAN**

SEYED MEHDI MOTEVALIYAN

FEM 2013 9



UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
BERILMU BERBAKTI

**RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY, GENDER ROLE, SOCIAL
SUPPORT AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE AMONG WOMEN IN
TEHRAN, IRAN**

By

SEYED MEHDI MOTEVALIYAN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.**

July 2013

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY, GENDER ROLE, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE AMONG WOMEN IN TEHRAN, IRAN

By

SEYED MEHDI MOTEVALIYAN

July 2013

Chairperson: Siti Nor Binti Yaacob, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

Wife abuse has negative consequences on wife, family and society. Wife abuse is influenced by various factors. The present study was conducted to determine the relationships between personality, social support, gender role attitude, and severity of wife abuse among Iranian women in Tehran. The study involved 398 women who sought treatment in 4 selected hospitals in Tehran City. The respondents were identified by using multistage stratified sampling technique.

This study is a cross sectional study, and the required data were collected by using structured questionnaire. Conflict Tactic Scale (CTS2) was used to measure severity of wife abuse. Five-Factor Personality Inventory (NEO-FFI) measured personality, while Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) was used to measure social support. Gender role attitude was measured using Sex Role Attitudinal Inventory

(SRAI). Descriptive statistics, Spearman correlation coefficients, Kruskal-Wallis Test and nonparametric Mann-Whitney U Test were used to describe data at univariate and bivariate levels. Multinomial logistic regression was used to determine predictors of the severity of wife abuse.

Findings showed that only 14% of the respondents never been abused by husband during last year. A total of 42.5% received minor abuse and 43.5% received severe abuse. Significant positive relationships were established between severity of total abuse, psychological abuse, physical abuse, injury and sexual abuse with neuroticism personality. Furthermore, significant negative relationships between severity of total abuse, sexual abuse, injury, and psychological abuse with extroversion personality were also established. However, no significant relationship existed between openness personality and wife abuse. Agreeableness and conscientiousness personalities had significant negative relationships with severity of total wife abuse, psychological abuse, injury, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Level of social support had significant negative relationship with severity of total wife abuse. The result of the study also showed a significant positive relationship between feminist gender role attitude and severity of wife abuse.

Multinomial logistic regression results indicated that neuroticism personality trait was a significant predictor of minor and severe total abuse, psychological abuse, severe physical abuse, and injury. Experience of father insult was a significant predictor of severe total abuse. Moreover, experience of witnessing mother punished by father was a significant predictor of severe psychological and physical abuse and injury.

The results of the current study highlighted the importance of personality traits, social support and gender role attitude in explaining the severity of wife abuse in Tehran, Iran. Therefore, strategies to prevent and intervene causes of abuse among wives in Tehran, Iran should focus on their personality, support system available for them, and also their attitude related to gender role.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PERKAITAN DIANTARA PERSONALITI, SOKONGAN SOSIAL, PERANAN GENDER DAN KEPARAHAN PENDERAAN TERHADAP ISTERI DALAM KALANGAN WANITA DI TEHRAN, IRAN

Oleh

SEYED MEHDI MOTEVALIYAN

Julai 2013

Pengerusi: Siti Nor Binti Yaacob, PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

Penderaan isteri mempunyai kesan negatif kepada isteri, keluarga dan masyarakat. Penderaan isteri di pengaruhi oleh pelbagai faktor. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menentukan perkaitan diantara personaliti, sokongan sosial, sikap peranan gender dan keparahan penderaan terhadap isteri dalam kalangan wanita di Tehran, Iran. Kajian ini melibatkan seramai 398 orang wanita yang telah pergi mendapat rawatan perubatan di 4 buah hospital terpilih di bandaraya Tehran. Responden kajian dikenalpasti melalui teknik pensampelan berstrata pelbagai tahap.

Kajian ini merupakan kajian keratan rentas, dan data yang diperlukan dikumpul menggunakan soalselidik berstruktur. *Conflict Tactic Scale* (CTS2) digunakan untuk mengukur keparahan penderaan terhadap isteri. *Five-Factor Personality Inventory* (NEO-FFI) mengukur personaliti, sementara *Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social*

Support (MSPSS) digunakan untuk mengukur sokongan sosial. Sikap peranan gender diukur menggunakan *Sex Role Attitudinal Inventory* (SRAI). Statistik diskriptif, Korelasi Spearman, ujian Kruskal-Wallis, dan Mann-Whitney bukan parametrik telah digunakan untuk memerihai data pada tahap univariat dan bivariat. Regresi logistik multinomial digunakan untuk menentukan peramal keparahan penderaan terhadap isteri.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa hanya 14% responden tidak pernah didera oleh suami sepanjang tahun lepas. Sejumlah 42.5% menerima penderaan minor dan 43.5% menerima penderaan yang parah (*severe*). Perkaitan signifikan dan positif telah dibuktikan bagi tahap keparahan penderaan keseluruhan, penderaan psikologi, penderaan fizikal, kecederaan dan penderaan seksual dengan personaliti *neuroticism*. Tambahan, perhubungan signifikan dan negatif di antara tahap keparahan penderaan keseluruhan, penderaan seksual, kecederaan, dan penderaan psikologi dengan personaliti *extroversion* juga terbukti. Walaubagaimanapun, tidak wujud perhubungan signifikan di antara personaliti *openness* dan penderaan isteri. Personaliti *agreeableness* dan *conscientiousness* mempunyai perkaitan signifikan negatif dengan tahap keparahan penderaan isteri keseluruhan, penderaan psikologi, kecederaan, penderaan fizikal dan penderaan seksual. Tahap sokongan sosial mempunyai perkaitan signifikan negatif dengan tahap keparahan penderaan isteri keseluruhan. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan perhubungan signifikan positif di antara sikap peranan gender feminist dan tahap keparahan penderaan.

Hasil ujian regresi logistik multinomial menunjukkan bahawa personaliti *neuroticism* adalah peramal signifikan penderaan minor dan parah (*severe*), penderaan psikologi,

penderaan fizikal parah, dan kecederaan. Pengalaman dihina oleh bapa adalah peramal signifikan penderaan parah keseluruhan. Tambahan, pengalaman menyaksi ibu dihukum oleh bapa adalah peramal signifikan penderaan psikologi dan fizikal, dan kecederaan.

Hasil kajian ini mengengahkan peri pentingnya trait personaliti, sokongan sosial, dan sikap rol gender dalam menghuraikan tahap keparahan penderaan isteri di Tehran, Iran. Oleh itu, strategi untuk mencegah dan menangani kes penderaan dalam kalangan isteri di Tehran, Iran perlu memberi tumpuan terhadap personaliti mereka, sokongan sosial yang ada untuk mereka, dan sikap mereka berkaitan peranan gender.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to the various people who have given me their full support and encouragement in completing this thesis. I appreciate all of my supervisory committee; Dr. Siti Nor Binti Yaacob, Associate Professor Dr. Rumaya Binti Juhari, and Dr. Mariani Binti Mansor who guided my work through their comments and criticism. And I would like to thank these special people who have extended their help, support and encouragement to enable me to begin and complete this study;

- My late father; Seyed Reza Motevaliyan who believed in me and always encouraged me to continue education and wished to see my success but he never had the chance!
- My mother; Sharbanou Ferdosi who believes in me and always supports and encourages me to continue education and wishes to see my success.
- My wife; Seyede Maryam Abasikenari who by her love and encouragement and sacrifice in bearing the difficulties, I could continue my education.
- My daughter; Seyede Fatemeh Motevaliyan who believes in me and always supports and encourages me with her love to continue education.
- My brothers and my sisters who always encouraged and supported me by their love especially when I was in Malaysia.
- The assistants and participants who gave a lot of their time to help me and answer questions
- And all my friends who encouraged and supported me in difficulties.

I would like to dedicate this research to all my family including my wife, parents, daughter, brothers and sisters which their memories and presence have made the life more beautiful for me.



I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on July 16, 2013 to conduct the final examination of Seyed Mehdi Motevaliyan on his thesis entitled “Relationships Between Personality, Gender Role, Social Support and Severity of Wife Abuse among Women in Tehran, Iran.” in accordance with the Universities and University Collages Act 1971 and the Constitution of Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

Zaid Bin Ahmad, PhD

Associate Professor
Fakulti Ekologi Manusia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Tengku Aizan Bt Tengku Abu Hamid, PhD

Y. Bhg. Professor
Institut Gerontologi
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Maznah bt Baba, PhD

Fakulti Pengajian Pendidikan
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Suwaree Sivabaedya, PhD

Associate Professor
Khoo Kaen University
Thailand
(External Examiner)

NORITAH OMAR, PhD

Associate Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 19 September 2013

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Siti Nor Binti Yaacob, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Rumaya Binti Juhari, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Mariani Binti Mansor, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.



SEYED MEHDI MOTEVALIYAN

Date: 16 July 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VIII
DECLARATION	XII
LIST OF TABLES	XVI
LIST OF FIGURES	XVIII
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	XIX
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	10
1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS	13
1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	13
1.4.1 General Objective	13
1.4.2 Specific Objectives	14
1.5 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS	14
1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	17
1.7 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	19
1.7.1 Walker's Cycle of Violence Theory	20
1.7.2 Learned Helplessness Theory	21
1.7.3 Ecological Systems Theory	22
1.7.4 Personality Traits Theory	23
1.7.5 Social Support Theory	24
1.7.6 Social Learning Theory	25
1.8 INTEGRATION OF THEORIES	27
1.9 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	30
1.10 DEFINITION OF TERMS	32
1.11 SCOPE OF THE STUDY	35
1.12 LIMITATIONS	35
CHAPTER 2	37
LITERATURE REVIEW	37
2.1 WIFE ABUSE	37
2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES, HISTORY OF ABUSE AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE	39
2.3 PERSONALITY AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE	48
2.4 GENDER ROLE ATTITUDE AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE	53
2.5 SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SEVERITY OF WIFE ABUSE	58
CHAPTER 3	64
3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN	64

3.2	LOCATION OF THE STUDY.....	65
3.3	POPULATION OF THE STUDY.....	66
3.4	DETERMINATION OF SAMPLE SIZE.....	69
3.5	SAMPLING PROCEDURE.....	69
3.6	DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES.....	73
3.7	INSTRUMENTATION.....	74
3.7.1	Demographic characteristic.....	74
3.7.2	Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2).....	75
3.7.3	The Five-Factor Personality Inventory (NEO-FFI).....	79
3.7.4	Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS).....	81
3.7.5	Sex Role Attitudinal Inventory (SRAI).....	82
3.8	VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE STUDY SCALES.....	84
3.8.1	Validity.....	84
3.8.2	Reliability.....	90
3.9	PILOT STUDY.....	92
3.10	DATA ANALYSIS.....	93
3.10.1	Multicollinearity.....	93
3.10.2	Descriptive Analysis.....	94
3.10.3	Inferential Analysis.....	94
	CHAPTER 4.....	96
	FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....	96
4.1	DESCRIPTIVE FINDINGS.....	96
4.1.1	Age, Education, Occupation, Income, Marriage Duration, and Number of Children of Respondents.....	97
4.1.2	History of Abuse.....	99
4.1.3	Wife Abuse among Respondents.....	100
4.1.4	Severity of Abuse of Respondents.....	102
4.1.5	Personality Scores.....	103
4.1.6	Levels of Social Support.....	104
4.1.7	Gender Role Attitude.....	106
4.2	INFERENTIAL ANALYSIS.....	107
4.2.1	Family Background, Abuse Context, Witness of Abuse and Wife Abuse.....	107

4.2.2	Personality and Severity of Abuse	122
4.2.3	Social Support and Severity of Wife Abuse	129
4.2.4	Gender Role Attitude and Severity of Wife Abuse	132
4.3	MULTIVARIATE FINDINGS	135
4.3.1	Predictor of Severity of Total Wife Abuse	136
4.3.2	Predictor of Severity of Psychological Wife Abuse.....	140
4.3.3	Predictor of Severity of Physical Wife Abuse	142
4.3.4	Predictor of Severity of Sexual Wife Abuse.....	145
4.3.5	Predictor of Injury of Wife	146
4.4	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....	149
	CHAPTER 5	154
	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STUDY	154
5.1	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....	154
5.2	CONCLUSION	159
5.3	IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS.....	161
5.3.1	Theoretical Implications	161
5.3.2	Practical and Policy Implications	164
5.4	RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY.....	165
5.4.1	Recommendation for Women	165
5.4.2	Recommendation for Family	166
5.4.3	Administration and Policy Maker, and Future Studies	167
5.5	LIMITATIONS.....	168
	REFERENCES.....	169
	APPENDIXES:.....	197
	<i>Appendix 24: Distribution Of Respondents By Response To Cts2 Items</i>	229