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

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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 PENDERAAAN TERHADAP ISTERI DALAM KALANGAN WANITA DI TEHRAN, IRAN

Oleh

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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

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa hanya 14% responden tidak pernah didera deh 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 menyaki ibu dihukum oleh bapa adalah peramal signifikan penderaan psikologi dan fizikal, dan kecederaan.

Hasil kajian ini mengenengahkan 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 adauntuk mereka, dan sikap mereka berkaitan peranan gender.
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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.

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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
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