

Prevalence of Suicide Attempts Among Battered Women

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Abstract

Objectives: The study aims to identify prevalence the of suicide attempts among battered women.

Methodology: A descriptive correlational study was conducted in hospitals in the city of Babylon during the period from December 2022 to April 2023 on a sample of 130 battered women. The validity of the questionnaire was verified by presenting it to experts, and its reliability was verified through a pilot study. Data analysis was carried out using SPSS, version 26.

Results: The results showed that (45.4%) of the battered women reported an average moderate level of suicide attempts, and (19.2%) were associated with a high level of suicide attempts. The study also found a relationship between the severity of domestic violence and suicide attempts. The study found a statistically significant relationship between suicide attempts. Age, marital status, age of marriage, years of marriage,

Conclusions: The study concluded that domestic violence affects suicide attempts among battered women.

Recommendations: Conduct more studies on suicide attempts among battered women. Future research should include larger samples of battered women.

Keywords: suicide attempts, battered women

Introduction

Suicide attempts are a major problem for worldwide public health. One million of the over 10 million individuals who attempt suicide each year actually succeed. In low- and middle-income countries, suicide rates are 79 percent higher. Understanding the factors that lead to suicide is essential for the development of effective methods for suicide prevention or the reduction of suicide incidence. ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

Suicide attempts as well as suicide deaths demand attention. Suicide attempts have a lifetime prevalence rate of 2.7% globally, are highly predictive of suicide fatalities, ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾.

Many more people participate in non-fatal suicide behavior in addition to those who die from it, and even more people have suicidal thoughts. Less than 25% of persons who attempt suicide seek help from support groups or medical facilities ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾.

One of the main causes of illness burden in women around the globe is suicidal attempts, but little is known about how common they are and the factors that can

make them more likely to occur in low- and middle-income countries ⁽⁷⁾. In addition, attempts at suicide are intimately associated to gender-based violence and cruelty against women in low- and middle-income nations. More than 60% of women who committed suicide in Nepal, according to a research, had experienced physical violence ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾. married women who attempt suicide are more likely to do so if they have experienced emotional abuse from their husbands ⁽¹⁰⁾. Worldwide, domestic abuse against women is becoming more common, it is regarded as a public health problem since it leads to physical and mental illnesses, including suicide, according to estimates ⁽¹¹⁾. Women may experience physical and psychological effects associated to suicide attempts ⁽¹²⁾. Approximately 1-8% of women are said to have attempted suicide, unfortunately, the bulk of these studies only highlight how sociodemographic

Factors and/or mental diseases can raise the risk of suicidal conduct ⁽¹³⁾ ⁽¹⁴⁾. Suicide is considered a behavior that results from the interaction of a number of factors, including sociocultural characteristics ⁽¹⁵⁾

Methodology

correlational descriptive study is conducted in babel city period's from December/2022 to April 2023 .The sample of the study was non- probability convenient sample consisting of (130) woman exposed to domestic violence and carried out in teaching hospitals The Scientific Research Ethical Committee at the University of Baghdad, College of Nursing has approved the study to be conducted Using self-administered questionnaire data was collected from the study participants. The research instrument is consisted of two parts:

Part I: Socio-demographic characteristics for battered women

In this part of the tool, socio-demographic data of the battered women participating in the study were taken which include {age, occupation, place of residence, educational attainment, occupation, mother's occupation, father's educational attainment, mother's educational attainment, parents' social status, income level, woman marital status, number of children, source of violence, type of violence}.

Part II: Scale assesses suicide attempts of battered women

It contains 12 items that evaluates the suicide attempts of battered women

Data are analyzed using IBM SPSS version 26.

Results

Table (1): Distribution of Women according to their Socio-demographic Characteristics

List	Characteristics	f	%
1	Age (Year) M±SD= 26.8 ± 6	16 – less than 25	39.2
		25 – less than 33	50
		33 – less than 43	7.7
		43 and more	3.1
		Total	130
2	Occupation	Housewife	40.8
		Employee	33.1
		Student	20
		Private work	6.2
		Total	130
3	Residency	Rural	36.9
		Urban	63.1
		Total	130
4	Level of education	Doesn't read and write	.8
		Read and write	8.5
		Primary school	17.7
		Intermediate school	21.5
		Preparatory school	18.5
		Diploma	32.3
		Bachelor	.8
		Total	130

5	Parent social status	Living together	107	82.3
		Separated	7	5.4
		One parent alive	15	11.5
		Both parent died	1	.8
		Total	130	100
6	Monthly income	Insufficient	8	6.2
		Barely sufficient	21	16.2
		Sufficient	101	77.7
		Total	130	100

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

The table 4-1 shows that average age for battered women is 26.8 ± 6 years in which the half of them seen with age group of “25-less than 33 year”. The occupational status for women reveals that 40.8% of them are housewives while 33.1% of them are working as governmental employee. The residency clarifies that 63.1% of women are resident in urban and remaining are resident in rural. Regarding level of education, the

highest percentage refers to “diploma” among 32.3% of women. The social status for parents of battered women refers to normal social status in which 82.3% of women reported that their parents are living together. The monthly income is reported as sufficient among 77.7% of women and only 6.2% reported insufficient monthly income

Table (2): Distribution of Women according to their Social Status

List	Characteristics	f	%
1	Marital status	Unmarried	37.7
		Married	56.9
		Divorced	3.8
		Widowed	1.5
		Total	100
2	Having children	Unmarried	37.7
		No	12.3
		Yes	50
		Total	100
3	Age at marriage (Years) M\pmSD= 13.3 \pm 11	Unmarried	37.7
		15 – less than 20	16.9
		20 – less than 24	36.2
		25 – less than 30	9.2
		Total	100
4	Years of marriage M\pmSD= 5 \pm 6	Unmarried	37.7
		1 – less than 6	30
		6 – less than 11	17.7

	11 – less than 16	10	7.7
	16 and more	9	6.9
	Total	130	100

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

The table 2 reveals that 56.9% of women are married and 37.7% of them are still unmarried. More than half of women reported they have children (50%). The average age at marriage for women refers to 13.3 ± 11

years and the highest percentage seen with age group of “20-24” years. The years of marriage refers to “1-less than 6” years among 30% of those married women and the average years refer to “ 5 ± 6 years”.

Table (3): Distribution of Women according to Domestic Violence

List	Characteristics	f	%
1	Father	20	15.3
	Mother	16	12.3
	Father's wife	4	3.1
	Mother's husband	7	5.4
	Brother	26	20
	Sister	1	.8
	Husband	39	30
	Others	17	13.1
	Total	130	100
2	Verbal	34	26.2
	Physical	12	9.2
	Psychological	22	16.9
	More than one	62	47.7
	Total	130	100

f: Frequency, %: Percentage

This table shows that sources of violence that are highly frequent for battered women are husband (30%), brother (20%), father (15.3%), and mother (12.3%).

The types of violence reported are verbal violence (26.2%) and more than one type (47.7%).

Table (4): Overall Evaluation of Suicidal Attempt Behavior among Battered Women

Suicidal attempt	F	%	M	SD
Low risky	46	35.4	5.74	2.838
Moderate risky	59	45.4		
High	25	19.2		
Total	130	100		

f: Frequency, %: Percentage

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low= 0 – 4, Moderate= 4.1 – 8, High= 8.1 – 12

This table exhibits that battered women are associated with moderate risk of suicidal attempts as reported

among 45.4% ($M \pm SD = 5.47 \pm 2.838$).

Table (5): Relationships among Suicidal Attempt Behavior and Sociodemographic Variables of Battered Women (N=130)

Variables		Suicidal Behavior				Relationship
		Low	Moderate	High	Total	
Age (year)	16 – less than 25	23	23	5	51	$r_s = .207$ P-value= .018 Sig= S
	25 – less than 33	22	28	15	65	
	33 – less than 43	1	6	3	10	
	43 and more	0	2	2	4	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Occupation	Housewife	14	25	14	53	$r_s = .115$ P-value= .191 Sig= N.S
	Employee	20	16	7	43	
	Student	8	15	3	26	
	Private work	4	3	1	8	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Residency	Rural	16	23	9	48	$r_s = .010$ P-value= .906 Sig= N.S
	Urban	30	36	16	82	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Level of education	Doesn't read & write	0	0	1	1	$r_s = .073$ P-value= .408 Sig= N.S
	Read and write	1	6	4	11	
	Primary school	9	10	4	23	
	Intermediate school	9	12	7	28	
	Preparatory school	12	9	3	24	
	Diploma	14	22	6	42	
	Bachelor	1	0	0	1	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Parent social status	Living together	40	46	21	107	$r_s = .095$ P-value= .284 Sig= N.S
	Separated	1	4	2	7	
	One parent alive	5	9	1	15	
	Both parent died	0	0	1	1	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Monthly income	Insufficient	2	4	2	8	$r_s = .094$ P-value= .290 Sig= N.S
	Barely sufficient	7	9	5	21	
	Sufficient	37	46	18	101	

Total	46	59	25	130
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r_s = Spearman correlation coefficient, P= Probability, Sig= Significance, N.S= Not significant, S= Significant, H.S= High significant

This table reveals that there is significant relationship between suicidal behavior and women's age at p-

value= .018, while there is no reported relationship among remaining variables.

Table (6): Relationships among Suicidal Attempt Behavior and Marital Status Variables of Battered Women (N=130)

Variables		Suicidal Behavior				Relationship
		Low	Moderate	High	Total	
Marital status	Unmarried	23	19	7	49	$r_s = .199$ P-value= .023 Sig= S
	Married	22	35	17	74	
	Divorced	1	3	1	5	
	Widowed	0	2	0	2	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Age at marriage (Years)	Unmarried	23	19	7	49	$r_s = .170$ P-value= .054 Sig= N.S
	15 – less than 20	5	13	4	22	
	20 – less than 24	14	22	11	47	
	25 – less than 30	4	5	3	12	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Years of marriage	Unmarried	23	19	7	49	$r_s = .216$ P-value= .014 Sig= S
	1 – less than 6	10	23	6	39	
	6 – less than 11	10	9	4	23	
	11 – less than 16	3	4	3	10	
	16 and more	0	4	5	9	
	Total	46	59	25	130	
Husband's work	No	23	20	9	52	$r_{pb} = .146$ P-value= .097 Sig= N.S
	Yes	23	39	16	78	
	Total	46	59	25	130	

r_s = Spearman correlation coefficient, r_{pb} = point biserial correlation coefficient, P= Probability, Sig= Significance, N.S= Not significant, S= Significant, H.S= High significant

This table indicates that there are significant relationships among suicidal behavior among women with their marital status and years of marriage at p-values= .023 and .014.

Discussion

Sociodemographic Data of The battered women

Regarding the sociodemographic characteristics of battered women in table (1) Half of the women are between the ages at (25-33) ,The occupational status for women reveals that 40.8% of them are housewives The

residency clarifies that 63.1% of women are resident in urban, The monthly income is reported as sufficient among 77.7% of women. With 1025 women in Malatya Province in their study 39.3% of the study's female participants were discovered to be between the ages of (26 – 35). In study found 63% were homemakers and resident in urban. Found diploma educational level (48, 1%) and that 63% of women their parents are living together ⁽¹⁶⁾ ⁽¹⁷⁾ The table (2) reveals that 56.9% of women are married and More than half of women reported they have children (50%). were 40.1% had children, 56.7% were married. found that 75.3% of them were married and have children ⁽¹⁸⁾. ⁽¹⁹⁾. The average age at marriage for women refers to 13.3±11 years and the highest percentage seen with age group of “20-24” years and The years of marriage refers to “1-less than 6” years among 30% of those married women It was found that age at marriage for women 18–25 years and The years of marriage refers to “1 less9 years” years among 26.7 % of those married women ⁽²⁰⁾ ⁽²¹⁾. This table (3) shows that sources of violence that are highly frequent for battered women are husband (30%), and The types of violence reported are verbal violence (26.2%) and more than one type (47.7%). found 63% of women that sources of violence are husband and more than one types of violence 52%. ⁽²²⁾

Overall Evaluation of Suicidal Attempt Behavior.

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This table (4) exhibits that battered women are associated with moderate risk of suicidal attempts as reported among 45.4%, The sample of the study was from an educated social class, with a high religious and cultural orientation, fears of punishment and harm, and a lack of suicide attempt. Found that women are associated with moderate risk of suicidal attempts these results validated the current research ⁽²³⁾ found the risk of suicidal attempts among 53% women were moderate this finding consisted with our study finding ⁽²⁴⁾.

Suicidal Attempt Behavior and Sociodemographic Variables of Battered Women

This table (5) reveals that there is significant relationship between suicidal behavior and women's age at p-value= 0.018 ⁽²⁵⁾,) found the result indicated that there was a significantly positive relation between suicidal Attempt and participants' age (p=0.003),

Conclusion

The study concluded that domestic violence affects suicide attempts among battered women. .

Recommendations

Conducting more studies on suicide attempts among battered women. Future research should include larger samples of battered women.

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