

Physical Abuse of Women with Deliberate Self Poisoning in Tehran-Iran

Hassanian-Moghaddam H (1), Sarjami S (2). Shaheed Beheshti Medical University-Iran

(1)Department of Clinical Toxicology & Forensic medicine; Loghman-Hakim Poison Hospital.(2)Consultant Psychiatrist, Counseling Service of University

Objective: Violence against women is an practice found in many societies (1, 2). Data about its occurrence and associated factors are scarce in Iran. This study was undertaken to determine the prevalence of physical abuse among women who were hospitalized due to deliberate self poisoning in Loghman-Hakim Poison Center, the only referral hospital for poisoned patient in Tehran. **Materials:** A cross sectional prospective study using a questionnaire carried out for all hospital admissions of self-poisoned women during 2005. Age, current physical abuse, education level, agents used, access, history of previous repetition, current smoking and substance abuse and psychiatric diagnosis were measured in two different groups categorized as housewives or others. **Results:** The total of participants was 1575. Mean age was 26.3 ± 8.6 years, 738(46.9%) never married, 584(37.1%) were married, 158(10%) were engaged and 76(4.8%) were divorced. Literacy level was 6.2 %, 18.6%, 58.9% and 16.3% for elementary, middle, high school and more respectively. The 573 (36.4%) women had taking psychotropic drugs and 430(27.3%) had chronic physical disease. Pharmaceutical agents and agricultural poisons were used deliberately in 93% and 5.1% of cases respectively. Benzodiazepines were the most commonly used agent (23.1%). 980 (62.2%) had made no suicide ideation. The main cause of suicide was marriage problems. 549 (34.9%) of participants had self harm repetition. Addiction was claimed in 11(0.7%) while 10.3% were cigarette smoker. Current physical abuse was claimed or detected in 363(23%) and the difference in housewives (65%) versus the others (35%) was significant ($P < 0.02$). There were 1405 (89.2%) of them underwent psychiatric assessment of whom. Adjustment disorder (60%) and depression (34.2%) were the main diagnosis. **Conclusion:** The rate of physical abuse among women attempting deliberate self poisoning in Tehran, especially housewives, was high. Teaching life skills, new legislation and establishing a mental health service is necessary in Iran. **References:** (1) [Bhandari M, Dosanjh S, Tornetta P et al.](#) Musculoskeletal manifestations of physical abuse after intimate partner violence. [J Trauma](#) 2006; 61(6):1473-9.(2) [Kocacik F, Dogan O.](#) Domestic violence against women in Sivas, Turkey: survey study. [Croat Med J](#) 2006; 47(5):742-9.