

Manifestations of Domestic Violence against Women in Arab Societies: The City of Biskra, Algeria as a Model

تحليل مظاهر العنف الأسري ضد المرأة في المجتمعات العربية مدينة بسكرة الجزائر نموذجا

GUESMIA Manoubia *, Mohamed Khider
University of Biskra.
m.guesmia@univ-biskra.dz

Received: 2025/09/28

Accepted: 2025/11/03

Abstract:

This study aims to identify the manifestations of violence against women in Arab societies, where we provided an overview of the concept of violence and its forms. For the field study, we selected the city of Biskra in Algeria as a model. The study relied on the descriptive method, and a convenience sample consisting of 60 individuals of both genders, women and men, was chosen. We used the questionnaire tool to collect data from the respondents. After presenting and discussing the results, we concluded with the main manifestations of domestic violence against women in the city of Biskra .

Keywords: Violence; Family; Domestic Violence; Woman.

ملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على مظاهر العنف ضد المرأة في المجتمعات العربية، حيث تطرقنا إلى القاء نظرة على مفهوم العنف وأشكاله، ولإجراء الدراسة الميدانية اخترنا مدينة بسكرة بالجزائر نموذجا، واعتمدت الدراسة على المنهج

* corresponding author

الو صفى، وتم اختيار العينة العر ضية والتي تمثلت في 60 فردا من الجن سين ذ ساء ورجالا، واستخدمنا أداة الاستمارة لجمع البيانات من المبحوثين، وبعد عرض ومناقشة النتائج توصلنا الى أهم مظاهر العنف الأسري للمرأة في مدينة بسكرة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: العنف، الأسرة، العنف الأسري، المرأة.

Introduction

Violence is a social phenomenon that exists in every society; it is a phenomenon that has been linked to the existence of humans and has evolved throughout human history. This is the result of social and economic contexts and circumstances that allowed its emergence, turning violence into a problem with complex dimensions and intertwined causes. It encompasses a series of actions ranging from physical and material harm to psychological humiliation and other forms of abuse, extending along a wide scale that starts with threats and bargaining, passing through silencing, denial, and insults, and reaching up to murder. Violence against women is a historical phenomenon dating back to ancient times, associated with the degradation of their status and the gender-based discrimination against them, along with the dominance of a patriarchal culture of oppression.

If the issue of violence against women in all its forms and causes is considered an old yet ongoing matter, it has now become a threat to society as a whole, especially to women, who are subjected to all forms of violence in very harsh ways. This has created a vast arena for the practice of a culture of violence against them. Moreover, violence against women leaves serious psychological and social effects on women, children, and the family in general.

Problem Statement:

Violence in general, and domestic violence in particular, is a psychological and social problem, as it is a symptom of a social illness, representing a manifestation of deviant behavior (the practice of violence) within the family, which is supposed to be a safe haven for its members, providing them with tranquility, comfort, stability, and a dignified life. Allah Almighty said in His Holy Book: "And among His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought." (Surah Ar-Rum, Verse 21).

Domestic violence against women, in all its forms and causes, is an old yet ongoing issue that has captured the attention of all

organizations and institutions of civil society due to the aggravation of this phenomenon in many societies, whether developed or underdeveloped. The Algerian society has not been spared either, as recent years have witnessed a noticeable increase in the spread of this phenomenon, with most reports indicating a quantitative and qualitative rise in the practice of violence against women.

This issue poses a threat to society as a whole, especially to women who are subjected to all forms of violence in very harsh ways and for multiple reasons. In order to better understand, interpret, and analyze some aspects of this phenomenon, the current study raises the following research questions:

Main Question :

Q1- What are the main manifestations of violence practiced against women within the family ?

Sub-questions :

Q2- What are the underlying causes behind practicing violence against women within the family ?

Q3- What is the prevalence rate of domestic violence against women among the study sample ? And what is its type (physical/psychological) ?

Q4- Who practices domestic violence against women in the families of the study sample members ?

2. Definition of Study Terms

2.1 The Concept of Domestic Violence Against Women

2.1.1 Definition of Violence

Linguistically :

In Arabic, the word "violence" ('unf') comes from the root ('A-N-F'), meaning harshness in dealing with matters and lack of gentleness, being the opposite of kindness. A person is described as violent when they are not gentle in their actions, and to embrace something violently means to take it with force. In the Hadith: "Indeed, Allah grants through gentleness what He does not grant through violence." Everything that is good in gentleness, there is evil in violence equally (Ibn Mandhour, 1997, p. 444).

In French, violence ("la violence") derives from the Latin word violenta, meaning "brutal traits in addition to force," and also refers to "rape, irrationality, and interference in others' freedoms."

Terminologically:

Violence is a term that covers a wide range of human behavior. It is defined as follows:

The psychological perspective on violence: Several psychologists define violence as: "A pattern of behavior resulting from a state of frustration, accompanied by signs of tension, and containing the intention to inflict material or moral harm on a being or a substitute for a living being" (Chakour, 1997, p. 32).

Freud (S. Freud) defines violence as: "The force that directly attacks others' persons and experiences (individuals and groups) with the intent to control them through death, destruction, or defeat."

The sociological perspective on violence: Violence, as a social phenomenon, is characterized by a harsh expression of force used to compel an individual or group to perform an act rejected by another individual or group. Violence expresses visible force that takes a physical form, such as beating, etc., and assumes the form of social pressure, with its legitimacy depending on societal recognition (Kourchi & Abi Mouloud, 2003, p. 428).

The social psychology perspective on violence: Within this approach, Hesnarde argues that violence, like other forms of behavior, is the result of a relational impasse, where self-destruction is directed simultaneously toward oneself and the other in an attempt to annihilate the other. Aggressiveness thus becomes a specific way of entering into a relationship with others (Chakour, 1997, p. 32).

2.1.2 Definition of the Family:

Linguistically:

In Arabic, family (usra) refers to a strong shield, the relatives and clan of a man, and it is also used to denote a group united by a common bond. The plural of usra is usar (Al-Mujam Al-Waseet, p. 18).

Terminologically:

The family is the primary unit from which society is formed. It is one of the most universal and widespread social phenomena, as no society naturally lacks a family system. It is the foundation of stability in social life and one of the most influential groups in an individual's life.

George Murdock defines the family as: "A social group characterized by a common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, either their own or adopted" (Al-Khatib, 2000, p. 155).

Ahmed Berry El-Wahshi defines the family as: "A group of individuals connected by marriage, blood, or adoption ties, living under one roof, interacting, and communicating with each other through their social roles as wife and husband, father and mother,

son and daughter, brother and sister, building and maintaining a shared culture among them."

It is observed that this definition is characterized by a certain comprehensiveness, as it applies to marital families, nuclear families, and extended families.

2.1.3 Definition of Domestic Violence Against Women:

This concept refers to violence (physical, psychological, economic, and sexual) practiced by the stronger party, usually the man, against the woman. It reflects the manifestations of inequality in power between the sexes and the oppression of women.

It is common for the police to refuse to intervene in incidents involving domestic violence, preferring to consider family matters as private affairs that should not be intruded upon.

Amal Al-Ahmad defines domestic violence as: "A type of aggressive behavior resulting from unequal power relations within the system of division of labor between men and women inside the family, leading to the assignment of roles and status to each family member according to the dominant economic and social system in society" (Al-Ahmad, 2001, p. 112).

The United Nations defines domestic violence as: "The violence faced by women from men within the family. It is a clear manifestation of the lack of women's human rights, or rather, the deficiency in human rights altogether. Some government policies that support or ignore violence reinforce the phenomenon of resorting to violence against women. The sense of male superiority grants men the right to beat, insult, or physically punish women as a means of asserting masculinity — a notion rooted deeply in traditional cultural values since ancient times" (Nizad, 2001, p. 173).

Garver expands on the concept of domestic violence, defining it as: "Any assault on a person, whether physical, psychological, or the deprivation of their freedom, occurring within the framework of the family institution. These effects are interrelated; for example, rape is considered an assault on a woman's body and simultaneously negatively impacts her psyche."

Garver adds that the concept of domestic violence also involves the confiscation or annulment of an individual's ability and right to make decisions concerning their own body, life, and behavior.

2.1.4. Operational Definition of Domestic Violence Against Women:

It is any violent act occurring within the family framework, based on gender, perpetrated by a family member—particularly males (father, brother, husband, son, etc.)—using their authority, guardianship, or relationship with the woman. It is carried out without acceptable justification against her in her private life, whether she is a (mother, sister, wife, or daughter), and results in physical, psychological harm, or both.

This includes threats of committing such acts (violence) specifically, such as various forms of beating, restriction of freedom, arbitrary deprivation of basic needs, coercion to perform acts against the woman's will, expulsion from the home, verbal abuse, sexual assaults, causing fractures, physical and psychological injuries, psychosomatic disorders, and social and economic mistreatment.

This represents a reflection of manifestations of inequality in power between the sexes within the family.

2.2 Factors Causing Domestic Violence Against Women

Domestic violence against women is considered one of the concerning social issues in both Eastern and Western societies alike. The factors causing it vary according to the society, culture, and prevailing values within that society. These causal factors can be summarized as follows:

2.2.1. Biological Factors:

There is consensus among specialists that biological factors are the primary element driving some individuals toward aggressive and violent behavior. This includes the destruction of certain brain cells, addiction to alcohol and drugs. Scientists have also found that physical illnesses and the use of narcotic drugs can lead to aggressive behavior (Hellis & Hills, 1999, p. 220).

2.2.2. Psychological Factors:

Accompanied by the failure to satisfy the individual's emotional needs and the inability to adapt psychologically and socially, this gradually leads to internal conflict or a type of instability. These factors include:

The couple's failure to communicate effectively and negotiate rationally, persuade, and gain insight into their problems, leading instead to verbal disputes and preparing for quarrels. This fosters feelings of rejection, abandonment, and hostility toward the other party. The attack on the other partner becomes the immediate or direct cause of violence, as the man resorts to assaulting the woman (Al-Issoui, 2004, p. 479).

The man's sense of inferiority and loss of self-confidence drives him to practice violence against his wife or sister to

compensate for his feelings of inadequacy, often through physical violence or threats to defeat and prevent the woman from excelling over him.

The man's inability to respond appropriately when rejected, insulted, mocked for his poverty or ignorance, or provoked into jealousy by his wife, leads him to assault her to reassert dominance.

The man may also resort to violence within his family to relieve tension and frustration he feels at work, being unable to express anger toward his boss, thus displacing his anger onto his wife and children.

Having been subjected to violence in childhood or witnessing his father beating his mother, the man learns violence as an acquired behavior stemming from a history filled with despair and frustration.

A sadistic tendency where the man enjoys torturing and assaulting his wife.

A masochistic tendency in the wife, where she deliberately provokes her husband's anger to satisfy her pathological need for suffering.

Women who experienced violence from parents or siblings during childhood are more likely to tolerate marital violence and remain silent about it since violence is not a new experience for them—it has been a way of life (Al-Khatib S. A., 2002, p. 293).

2.2.3. Social Factors:

The social environment of the individual significantly influences them, and social and economic factors play a crucial role in the occurrence of domestic violence, including:

Social upbringing based on violent child-rearing practices that create weak and insecure personalities, leading individuals to later compensate for this weakness through violence.

Social learning through imitation and modeling, where children exposed to their father's violence against their mother or sisters grow up in families that disrespect and belittle women, encouraging them to replicate this behavior in the future.

Family structure systems that ensure male control and absolute authority within the family. Arab society, in particular, raises males to use force and violence against women to assert control and legitimize male authority within the family—an idea even women accept.

The presence of children often leads women to endure and preserve the family unit, especially if they believe patience and time will eventually change the man (Al-Khatib S. A., 2002, p. 293).

Lack of alternative options for the woman; if she is a housewife without work or income, she cannot leave the marital home and must endure violence for the sake of her family's welfare.

How the marriage was initiated—whether without parental consent or without one partner's full agreement—broad social circles of the husband or wife, intense jealousy between spouses, and differences in views regarding their social relationships with others can trigger violence between them (Al-hor, 2008, p. 48).

The husband's desire to remarry or divorce, prompting him to abuse his wife physically, sexually, and emotionally to impose his will on her (Al-Ahmad, 2001, p. 118).

The husband's deep-rooted belief that he is the head of the family, with the right to discipline all members, especially his wife, as if he owns her.

2.2.4. Economic Factors:

These include:

Poverty and unemployment affecting the family's financial status, leading to conflict between husband and wife as she demands the provision of household needs, causing the husband stress and frustration over his inability to fulfill his duties.

Economic dependence where the man financially supports the woman, thus feeling entitled to abuse and humiliate her, while she must accept it due to her inability to support herself.

Economic independence for some women gives them a sense of rivalry with men, feeling that they work and earn equally or more, leading them to reject any guardianship or control.

The husband's demand to seize his wife's financial savings or salary, and if she refuses, he resorts to neglect, verbal abuse, or physical violence (Al-hor, 2008, p. 48).

Economically dependent women, unable to support themselves and their children, are often forced to stay in violent marriages, especially if they have no one to turn to for protection.

Difficult housing conditions, such as cramped homes and large family sizes, often lead to disputes over shared facilities, causing frequent family conflicts between spouses, siblings, and other family members.

2.2.5. Cultural Factors:

Culture and its deeply ingrained elements play an essential role in shaping individual behaviors, including violence, which can be learned from the society one lives in. These factors include:

Clear disparities in the educational level and academic qualifications between men and women, especially when women are more highly educated.

Cultural norms and standards prevalent in Arab societies that encourage gender inequality by endorsing male dominance and female subjugation (Al-Issoui, 2004, p. 481).

Ignorance and lack of knowledge on how to deal with others and show respect, which can exist on both sides—man and woman.

Weak religious commitment and the misinterpretation of the principle of male guardianship, justifying violence against women as the best way to correct their behavior.

From the above, it can be concluded that the motives and causes of domestic violence are intertwined. Domestic violence is a complex social phenomenon that cannot be attributed or explained by a single factor. Rather, it results from the interplay of multiple factors, with its forms, frequency, and intensity varying according to the social contexts in which it occurs and the diversity of the individuals involved.

2.3 Forms of Violence Against Women Within the Family

Women face various forms of gender-based violence throughout different stages of their lives, most of which occur within the family environment, perpetrated by those who are supposed to provide them with security and protection — the dearest and closest individuals to them. The type of violence inflicted on women varies according to their age and the prevailing cultural level of their families. These forms include:

2.3.1. Physical Violence:

Physical violence is considered the most visible form of domestic violence because it can be observed and detected due to the traces, bruises, and injuries it leaves on the body. Manifestations of physical violence and bodily abuse against women appear in several forms, including: hitting with a hand, striking with a sharp object, throwing objects in anger, pushing violently, strangling, biting, spitting, trampling, grabbing forcefully, hair-pulling, burning (especially with cigarettes), and threatening with a weapon. Physical violence can be observed and legally and criminally proven.

2.3.2. Psychological Violence:

This form manifests as psychological or verbal harm, aiming to cause emotional suffering for the woman and affect her psychologically. It is considered one of the most dangerous types of violence because it is intangible and does not leave clear material evidence, making it difficult to prove or legally acknowledge its existence (Maki & Adjem, 2008, p. 91).

Based on testimonies from many women who were victims of domestic violence, (Follingsted, 1990) and others described a set of

behaviors representing psychological or verbal violence, categorizing them as follows:

- Verbal attacks such as mockery, verbal harassment, and the use of expressions intended to make the woman feel incompetent to keep her under control.
- Isolation, separating the woman from her social environment.
- Extreme jealousy and possessive behavior, such as monitoring the woman's behavior and accusing her of infidelity.
- Verbal threats of assault or torture.
- Repeated threats of abandonment or divorce.
- Destruction of her personal property (Al-Doua & Derouich, 2007, p. 02).

2.3.3. Economic Violence:

This includes:

- Preventing the woman from working and giving her little or no money.
- Denying her access to her financial resources, such as depriving her of her inheritance rights.
- Forcing a working woman to hand over her bank check to the man.
- Using and spending her salary without her permission or knowledge of where the money is spent.
- Seizing her personal property, such as jewelry, etc.
- Neglecting to provide for her and depriving her of her basic needs like clothing and food, etc.

If the woman demands her rights or the fulfillment of her needs, the man may revolt against her, accusing her of being wasteful or incapable of managing and using money. He may even physically assault her to prevent her from demanding increased allowances or regaining control over her salary in the future.

2.3.4. Sexual Violence:

In addition to the previous forms of violence against women within the family, there is sexual violence, which involves coercion, threats, or the misuse of sexuality to harm her. It is considered one of the most disturbing and dangerous forms of violence, especially since it often remains hidden due to the victim's shame and fear of retaliation by the perpetrator on one hand, and fear of societal blame on the other. Sexual abuse of women within the family may occur through:

- Verbal expressions or sexual comments about the woman and her body.
- Sexual harassment and the use of obscene insults.

- Incestuous rape and indecent assault.
- Marital rape or forcing the wife to engage in perverted and deviant sexual practices against moral and religious norms (Maki & Adjem, 2008, p. 93).
- Mutilation or distortion of sensitive sexual organs.

Sexual violence within the family is often surrounded by extreme secrecy, preventing cases from reaching the police or the courts, as it would tarnish not only the victim's reputation but also that of the entire family.

Studies indicate that the aforementioned forms of violence are interconnected; verbal violence can precede, coincide with, or follow physical or sexual violence. Violence and cruelty can escalate to the point of murder in some cases.

3. Field Study Procedures

3.1 Research Method and Procedures

applied. In the present study, the descriptive method was used; it is a descriptive and exploratory study. The descriptive approach is the most commonly used method in studying topics related to human fields. Given that this study has a psychosocial nature, it was found appropriate to use this type of methodology.

It is defined as: "A method based on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data by extracting its meanings, starting from identifying the research problem, setting hypotheses, then selecting the research sample, and choosing methods for collecting information and data, as well as establishing rules for classifying, analyzing, and interpreting them in clear and precise statements (Mensi, 2002, p. 44).

3.2 Study Boundaries

Municipality of Biskra.

The city of Biskra is considered one of the most important urban centers in southeastern Algeria. It is the capital of Biskra Province, often referred to as the "Gateway to the Desert." The city is located at the northern foothills of the Saharan Atlas Mountains and represents a natural transition point between the Sahara Desert and the Tellian region, which gives it a strategic location and a semi-arid climate—mild in winter and hot in summer.

The municipality of Biskra covers an area of approximately 127 km² and serves as the administrative and economic center of the province. According to recent estimates, its population is around 600,000 inhabitants, while the latest official census recorded about 205,600 residents and nearly 34,000 households, with an average of six individuals per family.

The city includes a large number of both modern and traditional residential neighborhoods, among the most notable of which are: Hai Ezzohour, Hai El Moujahidine, Hai El Alia, Hai Sidi Ghazal, Hai Oued El Hadid, Hai Essayhi, Hai El Boukhari, Hai Bab Ed-Darb, and Hai 200 Logements, in addition to its historical districts that form the original core of its urban development.

Biskra is regarded as a dynamic urban center due to its economic and social diversity, and it plays a pivotal role in linking the northern and southern regions of the country.

3.3 Study Sample

The study sample included 60 individuals of both genders. The questionnaire was distributed to them randomly in order to understand their perspectives on the manifestations and causes of the phenomenon of domestic violence against women in Algerian society.

The type of sample used is the accidental (convenience) sample, which was randomly distributed among several families from the city of Biskra, across different neighborhoods, including El Alia El Est, Bab Ed-Darb, El Boukhari, Essayhi, and El Moujahidine districts.

The characteristics of the study sample individuals according to the variables of gender, age, marital status, and educational level are illustrated in the following table:

Table No. (1): Characteristics of the Study Sample Individuals (n=60).

Gender		Male				Female				dici meli total
Age		≤ 25 years		> 25 years		≤ 25 years		> 25 years		
Marital Status		Sin gle	Mar ried	Sin gle	Mar ried	Sin gle	Mar ried	Sin gle	Mar ried	
Educa tional Level	middl e or less	/	1	1	1	1	/	/	2	
	Secon dary	3	/	3	3	/	/	1	1	11
	Unive rsity	6	/	5	4	14	/	10	5	44
Total		9	/	9	8	15	/	11	8	60

From the table, we observe that the study sample was divided by gender into males and females, with the number of males being 26, representing 43.33% of the total sample size, while the number of females was 34, representing 56.66% of the sample — the

predominant percentage, meaning that more than half of the sample were females.

This is due to some difficulties faced by the researcher with the male category, as they refused to answer the questionnaire questions and denied the existence of violence practiced against women by men within the family, arguing that if such violence exists, it is justified and legitimate, thus seeing no need to conduct the study.

The ages of the sample individuals ranged between [20-57] years, with an average age of 29 years. We notice that the average age is greater than 25 years, meaning that the majority of the participants are adults of both genders.

The educational level of the sample individuals ranges from intermediate or lower for 5 individuals (8.33%), which is a small percentage; secondary education for 11 individuals (18.33%), also a low percentage; and university education for 44 individuals (73.33%), which is a high percentage.

Thus, the majority of the sample individuals have a university education level for both genders, males and females.

As for marital status: for the age group of 25 years and under for both genders, all were single. For the age group above 25 years, among males there were 9 single and 8 married individuals, while among females, there were 11 single and 8 married individuals.

Overall, we notice that the number of singles in the sample is 44 individuals (73.33%), representing the dominant percentage, while the married individuals numbered only 16 (26.66%).

From this, we conclude that within the sample, the proportion of females is greater than that of males; regarding marital status, singles constitute the majority; and university education is also the predominant educational level; and the age group above 25 years is the majority for both genders.

3.4. Data Collection Tool:

The questionnaire, which was distributed to the respondents, consisted of a set of questions divided into four axes according to the questions posed in the research problem.

4. Presentation and Discussion of Study Results

4.1 Presentation and Discussion of Sample Members' Responses to the First Question

In your opinion, what are the most important manifestations of violence against women within the family?

The results are as follows in the table below:

Table (2) : Frequencies and Percentages of Sample Members' Responses to the First Question /3K ≠N and N=60

Rank	Statement	Males/K1	Females/K2	3K	%
1	Mistreatment	20	26	46	76.66
2	Verbal abuse	19	26	45	75
3	Constant arguments	19	25	44	73.33
4	Imposing isolation on the woman by preventing her from going out	14	26	40	66.66
5	Beating	17	22	39	65
6	Threatening	9	15	24	40
7	Failure to provide support (maintenance)	9	15	24	40
8	Expulsion from the house	9	15	24	40
9	Degrading the woman because of her gender	8	16	24	40
10	Deprivation of education	9	14	23	38.33
11	Seizing property	7	14	21	35
12	Abandonment	7	14	21	35
13	Intentional injury	3	11	14	23.33
14	Killing	4	7	11	18.33

From the results shown in Table (2), it can be observed that the sample members consider the most important forms of violence against women in the family, whether single or married, to be mistreatment, with a percentage of 76.66%. This is followed by verbal abuse (75%), constant arguments (73.33%), and imposing isolation on the woman by preventing her from going out (66.66%). These are manifestations of psychological violence, which is defined as any act that causes psychological harm to the victim. In 1990, Follingstes and others, based on statements from many women victims of domestic violence, described a range of behaviors that express psychological violence and categorized them as follows:

- Verbal attack, such as using labels to make the woman feel incompetent, aiming to keep her under control.
- Isolation, which separates the woman from her social environment.
- Intense jealousy, possessive behavior, and monitoring all her actions.

- Verbal threats of assault, torture, or divorce.
- Destruction and damage to her personal belongings (Al-Doua & Derouich, 2007, p. 02).

These manifestations are closely linked to the loss of self-control by the abuser. However, at the same time, they serve as a way to dominate the other person (the woman) and confirm the abuser's authority and control over her.

Then comes beating, which constitutes 65%, and is a form of physical violence. It involves the use of physical force against the woman in the form of slaps, kicks, violent grabbing, pushing, or beating with any object the abuser finds at hand, all aimed at harming her physical safety and causing bodily harm, with the goal of punishing her or correcting her behavior.

These manifestations, according to the opinions of the sample members, constitute a greater percentage (more than 50%) than other forms of violence. This is attributed to the respondents' perception, despite differences in their age, gender, educational levels, and social status, that the most important forms of violence against women in the family are: psychological violence in its various forms and physical violence, particularly beating, even though other forms of violence may exist in Algerian society that could be more dangerous. This may be due to the respondents projecting the image of violence against women in their social environment. This aligns with the findings of the study conducted by the National Center for Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology in Oran in 2006, which surveyed 2,043 Algerian women from various social groups and regions across 21 provinces. Among them, 54% were married, 33% were single, and 63% lived in urban areas. One of the key findings of the study was that violence against women is still prevalent in various forms, with verbal and psychological violence topping the list of violence against Algerian women, constituting 54%, followed by psychological violence at 22%, physical violence at 16%, and sexual harassment at 16%. This latter percentage appears to be lower compared to the actual occurrence of harassment in workplaces (www.middle-eastonline.com).

The current study's results also agree with those of the study conducted by the "Violence Against Women" Committee of the National Institute of Public Health in Algeria. This study indicates that violence against women in Algeria is increasing at an alarming rate, primarily within the family. More than 50% of the reported incidents of violence are committed by acquaintances or family members. The study, which included 9,033 women victims of

violence, found that despite the assumption that women at home should be safe, they are more vulnerable to violence. The study further revealed that most of these incidents are physical assaults, including beating and intentional injury. Psychological violence accounts for 1 in 20 of these cases. The low rate of psychological violence in this study may be attributed to the fact that respondents, as victims, sought medical consultation at health centers or filed complaints at police and justice centers after the assault.

Next, these types of violence collectively account for 40%, including threats, failure to provide support (maintenance), expulsion from the home, degrading the woman because of her gender, and deprivation of education at 38.33%. Seizing property, abandonment, and other forms of psychological violence are also included, each accounting for 35%. These manifestations may be experienced by the woman either collectively or individually, and may coincide with other forms of violence. These results were ranked by members of the sample, most of whom were unmarried and had a high educational level (university graduates), and they considered these manifestations present, but to a lesser extent than the previous ones.

These findings are consistent with the results of a study conducted by Maysoun bint Ali Al-Fayez in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The study included 14 institutions that shelter women who have suffered from physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. It found that 87% of the women had experienced both psychological and physical violence concurrently. The physical violence indicators included beating, kicking, and slapping on the face, which formed the highest percentage. As for the indicators of psychological violence, they included mistreatment at home, insults, and the use of degrading language to diminish the value of women.

Other indicators also emerged, such as the preference for males over females in the family, depriving girls of education, and denying them inheritance. According to the same study, women who experience violence belong to the younger age group, making up 79%, while married women represent 64.1%, and those who have never been married make up 15.5%.

In the United Nations report of 2006 on various forms of violence against women worldwide, it is stated that violence against women is gender-based violence, directed at women because of their gender. This type of violence unjustly affects women and includes all actions that cause physical, mental, or sexual harm to them, as well as threats of such actions, coercion to do things against their will, and all forms of deprivation of freedom. The report notes that

violence against women is not limited to a particular culture or country but exists almost everywhere. However, its intensity and acceptance vary from one society to another and from one social context to another (www.diwanalarab.com).

In the penultimate position came intentional injury, accounting for 23.33%, followed by murder in the final position with 18.33%. The sample members believe that these two forms of violence exist but to a lesser extent, and that those who practice this type of violence against women in their families are either mentally unstable or the woman has exhibited behavior that provokes such actions, such as honor crimes or infidelity. They considered that murder or causing severe injuries to a woman is a crime and should be reported.

This aligns with the statistics from the National Gendarmerie for the first half of 2005, as revealed by Lieutenant Colonel Ben Haj Jelloul Samira, which reported 45 cases of assault and intentional injury against mothers. Four women fell victim to murder. According to the same source, there was a slight decrease in the number of victims handled by the gendarmerie compared to previous years. In 2002, 46 women died, and in 2004, 35 women died as a result of assaults on them.

Official statistics published in 2005 indicate that 13 women died as a result of being beaten by their relatives. However, these figures do not reflect the actual reality, as many female victims of spousal or family violence refuse to file complaints against their abusers (www.middle-Diwanalarab.com).

Other forms of violence emerged through the open-ended question: "What other forms of violence did you identify?" These included:

- Deprivation of a mother's custody of her children after divorce.
- Not allowing her to marry the person she chooses.
- Denying her the right to express her opinion on matters concerning her.
- Different treatment between her and her male siblings.
- Denial of inheritance.
- Forcing her to make decisions against her will.
- Forcing her into marriage.
- Constantly speaking ill of her family, particularly for married women.

In general, the ranking of these manifestations of violence against women in Algerian families reflects the opinions of the study sample. This ranking aligns with most of the findings from the studies we presented.

4.2. Presentation and comparison of responses from the sample members regarding the second question:

What are the underlying causes of domestic violence against women within the family?

The responses of the sample members to this question were as follows:

Personal factors related to the man's character:

- The man expresses his masculinity through violence.
- The man's use of drugs or alcohol.
- The harshness of the father or husband.
- The husband's jealousy of his wife or the brother's jealousy of his sister when she is better than him.
- The brother intervenes in his sister's affairs and tries to prevent her from studying or working.
- The ignorance of some fathers and husbands about the rights of women within their families.
- The man's contempt for women.
- The lack of religious and moral conscience in the man who practices violence.
- Abuse of the woman without any reason.
- Failure to provide for his family.
- The man suffering from a mental illness or disorder.

Personal factors related to the woman:

- The woman plays a role in creating problems within the family by neglecting her duties towards her family and husband.
- The wife disobeys the husband's orders.
- The woman's stubbornness and confrontation with the man, standing against him.
- The woman's attempt to prove her existence by going out to study or work.
- Leaving the house without justification.
- The woman's violation of the husband's orders and social norms.
- Demanding her rights and burdening the husband beyond his capacity.
- The woman's failure to meet the husband's desires.
- Just because she is a woman and cannot defend herself.
- Responding to the brother or husband with words they do not accept.

- Mistakes made by some women, which they believe deserve punishment.

Cultural and social factors:

- The society's culture that entrenches the man's right to punish members of his family, including his wife and children.
- The low cultural level and differences among family members.
- A misinterpretation of religion.
- The lack of family balance between the husband and wife.
- The lack of communication between family members.
- Conflict among siblings.
- Poor treatment between the husband and wife.
- A lack of trust and understanding between the husband and wife, with each party misunderstanding the other.
- The exposure of the husband and wife to psychological and social pressures.

Economic factors:

- Love of materialism and the resulting financial problems for the family.
- Low economic level of the family.
- The family suffering from economic and social problems such as the husband's unemployment.

Through a careful reading of the factors causing violence against women within the family, based on the responses of the sample members, it becomes clear that there are multiple factors related to both the victim (the woman) and the person who practices violence against her, as well as the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the family. These factors are also linked to the overall situation of society. These factors interweave between personal factors and external factors, shaping the characteristics of Algerian families suffering from violence behind closed doors.

These results align with the findings of Farida Boulssanan in her study: Social perceptions of the contributing factors to the emergence of marital violence in Algerian society. She found that personal factors ranked first, with 82% according to the study participants' perceptions of the causes of marital violence, with the lack of trust between spouses being at the top. Then came the absence of communication between spouses. Socio-cultural factors ranked second, followed by financial and economic problems within the family, which ranked third (Boulesnan, 2006-2007, p. 113).

These factors are similar to the causes of domestic violence according to a study by Moroccan researcher Jaziah El Hemami titled Domestic Violence in the Maghreb Countries. She found that

in the family environment, family disputes were a contributing factor to male violence, accounting for 23.2% according to a Tunisian study and 40.5% according to a Moroccan report from Anaroz. In the marital relationship, material factors related to money and monthly salaries accounted for 30.5%, while alcohol and drug consumption, as well as unwanted or deviant sexual relations, were the main causes of marital violence, with 24.6% in Tunisia and 91% in Morocco. Violence without an apparent reason was reported in 14.1% of cases according to Anaroz (Al-Hemami, 2008, p. 07).

These findings are also consistent with the results of Naima Mohamed Yahya's study published in Modah Magazine (UAE), where she identified the following reasons for the husband's resort to violence:

Intense jealousy, leading him to resort to beating and suppression, believing it solves the problem, as well as feelings of inferiority or a desire to demonstrate personal strength.

Quick temper and lack of emotional control when angry, leading to violence such as beating, breaking things, and shouting over minor mistakes, especially when he is suffering from financial and psychological pressures.

A misunderstanding of the principle of guardianship, believing it can only be realized through control and violence.

Reasons related to the wife herself, including sharpness of speech, the use of foul language, disrespecting the husband and his family, and misusing the husband's money. Additionally, deliberately provoking the husband by disobeying his orders and encouraging the children against him.

The results also align with the reasons for marital violence as listed in Bishri Electronic Magazine, issue 77, where the main cause is the woman herself, especially when she tolerates and remains silent about the violence, allowing the other party to escalate. The second most common cause is cultural factors, such as ignorance and lack of knowledge on how to deal with others, which applies to both parties. The low cultural level of families and individuals, as well as significant cultural differences between spouses, especially if the wife is at a higher level, creates tension and imbalance in the husband, who tries to compensate for his inferiority through insults, humiliation, or even violence.

From these results, we can conclude that the factors leading to a woman experiencing violence within her family include personal factors related to the woman's own character and other factors related to the character of the person who is inflicting violence (the man). These factors also overlap with social, cultural,

religious, and economic factors, and their impact varies in terms of the type, intensity, recurrence, and consequences of the violence from one individual to another, from one family to another, and from one society to another.

4.3. Presentation and Discussion of Sample Responses to the Third Question:

Has a woman in your family ever been subjected to violence?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what type of violence was it?

Physical ☐ Psychological ☐

The responses from the sample participants to this question were as follows:

Table (3): Frequency and Percentage Representation of the Spread and Type of Violence within the Families of the Sample Members / N = 60

	F	n%	Physical Violence		Emotional Violence	
			F	n%	F	n%
Yes	24	%40	8	%13.33	23	%38.33
No	35	%58.3	-	-	-	-

From reading the results of the table, we find that the majority of sample members (58.33%) responded with "No," indicating that more than half of the participants denied the existence of such a phenomenon in their families. This may be attributed to the belief that this is a private matter that concerns the family and should not be disclosed, possibly due to the influence of the prevailing culture in society.

On the other hand, 40% of the participants responded with "Yes," indicating that the phenomenon of domestic violence against women is prevalent in the families of the sample members. This is a relatively high percentage, considering that violence, in general, and domestic violence in particular, are seen as psychological and social issues.

As for the nature of the violence, the results were as follows:

Physical violence: 13.33%

Psychological violence: 38.33%

It can be observed that the violence practiced within the family or in the social environment of the respondents is primarily psychological (38.33%) followed by physical violence (13.33%). This is also considered a high percentage, as the phenomenon is pathological.

4.4. Presentation and Discussion of Sample Responses to the Fourth Question:

Who is responsible for inflicting violence on women in your family?
The responses from the sample participants to this question were as follows:

Table No. (4): Frequency and Percentage Representation of Individuals Who Practiced Violence Against Women in the Families of the Sample Members:

Frequency	Individuals
22	Husband
15	Brother
6	Father
4	Son
2	Grandfather
1	Husband's Mother
1	Mother

From the table, we observe that the husband occupies the first rank in practicing violence against women in the families of the sample members. This is followed by the brother in second place, the father in third, the son in fourth, and the grandfather in fifth. This indicates that women are more likely to be victims of male violence, both before and after marriage. Women are rarely subjected to violence by other women, such as their mothers or mothers-in-law, and when such violence does occur, it is mostly verbal. This can be attributed to the cultural context in which men hold authority within the family, thus being entrusted with the responsibility of punishing or correcting the behavior of women, especially in cases of physical violence.

We also notice that the results from the sample responses to this question are nearly consistent with the findings of Samir Ben Haddad's study in Jordan, where it was found that the most common perpetrators of violence within the family were husbands (43.5%), followed by fathers (31.4%), and mothers (8.6%).

CONCLUSION

violence is widespread in Algerian society, as it is in other Arab societies. We observe that patriarchal culture and male dominance in managing family affairs are prevalent, according to the opinions of both male and female members of the sample.

When a man practices violence against his wife, daughters, or sisters, he is expressing his masculinity and asserting his authority over the women in his family. This aligns with the model presented by the prevailing socialization in Algerian society and other Arab societies. On the other hand, the role of the woman as a victim aligns with the role of the wife, daughter, or sister who is unable to defend herself or file a complaint against her abuser. Ultimately, she must maintain the image of the family, which is expected to appear as one in which its members live in love and security. At the very least, they should not harm each other, and there should be no external interference in their internal affairs.

It is also evident from this study that women are exposed to various forms of violence, with emotional violence being the most prevalent at 38.33%, followed by physical violence at 13.33%. The causes of this violence and its prevalence and severity vary from one family to another

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