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Marital violence among university teachers

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Abstract

The goal of the current research is to identify marital violence among university teachers, and to achieve the research objectives, the researchers built a scale (marital violence) according to the theory and definition of (Bowen, 2007). The apparent validity and construct validity were verified, and reliability was verified by the retest method, as the reliability rate reached (0.98). While the reliability rate of the Cronbach method reached (0.89), after which the scale was applied to the basic research sample consisting of (400) male and female teachers from the University of Diyala, the research sample was chosen by a random stratified method with a proportional distribution. To treat the study data statistically, the researchers used the statistical program (SPSS). The results revealed that the members of the research sample had low marital violence due to them being an aware and cultured class and usually enjoying a high level of education. Likewise, there were no statistically significant differences. In marital violence according to the variable (males, females), and in light of the results, the current research came out with a number of recommendations and proposals.

Keywords: Marital Violence, University teachers, SPSS program

Introductions

Research Problem

The problem of marital violence arose in a hereditary way a long time ago, and it is not a product of the moment. The problem of violence has developed out of a clash of opinions and moral judgments, which is the process of making a decision related to the existing behavior between spouses in family situations, which thus formed a relationship with the style of governance and social living life within the family, the street, and even University institutions (Yaqeen, 2003: 3) ^[28]. The family framework in society in general and Iraqi society in particular still represents a fortress within which various forms of violent behavior take place. Cases of violence between spouses have increased, whether the violence is directed from the husband towards the wife, which is the most widespread in societies, or directed from the wife towards marriage (Obaid Al-Rahim, 2016: 262) ^[21]. Bandura (1969) ^[12] pointed out that many patterns of behavior are acquired through learning by watching and observing, and that what the observing individual acquires and what he learns is stored in memory in order to be used as a guide or guide for behavior in the future (Bandura, 1969: 149) ^[12].

The phenomenon of divorce is witnessing a continuous increase among university teachers, as (Hewstone, *et al*, 1996) ^[19] indicates that despite the significant damage, problems, and emotional disturbances that divorce causes, it is on the increase among university teachers due to the pressures of university life, and the matter may be attributed to the failure of the two parties to listen to each other, which It makes the marital relationship tense between them, as well as because the spouses are busy with routine work and do not entertain themselves, which led to violent repression, which in turn led to divorce, which is a painful experience and a stressful event, especially for women, as it generates pain, psychological burnout, and emotional shock in them, as the connection with the other partner does not emerge urgently until after separation. When both parties realize that they have not made enough efforts to maintain their marital relationship (Hewstone, *et al*, 1996: 233) ^[19]. Based on the above, the researchers felt that the problem lies in its seriousness from some indicators that indicate the existence of this phenomenon, including the high divorce rates among teachers in Iraqi universities, the increase in cases of violence among them, and the lack of family harmony, which led to a routine life and continuity for the sake of the children. Therefore, this research came to answer the questions The following question:

- Does my university teacher suffer from marital violence?

Research Significance

The importance of this research is linked to the importance of the family because of its effective role in marital life and in the life and upbringing of the individual, especially in the upbringing and formation of his personality and the extent to which the personality of the children is reformed and the extent to which it bears and how well it carries out the burdens imposed on it to reform his personality and complete his development. When this role is disturbed, his personality may be disturbed, as are these effects. Educational impact is not limited to childhood, but rather its effects extend to all stages of the individual's future life. This study may highlight the seriousness of the problem of marital violence, as it is an indicator of the occurrence of many divisions, contradictions, and tensions within the family, and in view of the devastating effects that this phenomenon has on family members, especially the wife, children, and even the husband. However, marital violence behaviors are among the behaviors that are ignored because they are considered... Of the family's privacy that no one has the right to know and its impact on the family and society entity, this is what leads to obtaining inaccurate results when studying this problem, and this is what applies to our study as it concerns an educated group, some matters may be undeclared and it is difficult to obtain accurate information (Abu Shama, 65:2005) ^[2]. Yahya (2000) ^[27] indicated in his study that the concept of marital violence in general is human behavior or a pattern of this behavior, which is abnormal and deviant behavior (Yahya, 2000: 185) ^[27]. On the other hand, violent behavior refers to a wide range of behavior that expresses an emotional state that ends with harm and damage to others (Helmy, 1999: 25) ^[18]. A harmonious family is a family that enjoys communication, integration and harmony that leads to the establishment of rules and traditions that enhance a cohesive and connected identity and healthy growth for its members. However, when the shared life path between spouses becomes complicated to the point of difficulty continuing it and all available means of understanding and reconciliation between them fail, separation occurs, the marriage ends and divorce is announced. As a final solution (Turner, *et al*, 1987:272) ^[26].

Dupre and others (Dupre *et al*, 2007) ^[17] concluded that divorce, as a painful event, constitutes a stressful period for the individual, manifested in instability, isolation, and sensitivity, and that the psychological effects of divorce remain with the individual for a long time (Dupre, *et al*, 2007: 623) ^[17].

In order for the marital relationship to succeed in performing its mission, its income must be sufficient to satisfy the needs of both parties, and the necessary services must be available, and this relationship must be strong and built on the basis of mutual respect, not on the basis of dictatorship and violence. Marital violence has received attention and study because the family is the pillar of society and the most important structure. In it, the Islamic religion was not limited to explaining the provisions of family and marital life and women's rights and duties, but it was also concerned with the etiquette of marital life (Al-Shammari, 2001: 78) ^[11].

Research Objectives

The research aims to identify:

1. Marital violence among university teachers.
2. The significance of statistical differences in marital violence according to the gender variable (males, females).

Research Limits

The research is limited to male and female teachers at the University of Diyala for the academic year (2023-2024).

Definition of terms:

Marital Violence

Arfa Bowen

It is an act or threat of physical harm between two emotionally connected people who have an ongoing relationship. This physical harm ranges from beating or threatening to hit and neglect, as well as cursing, cursing, rape, and threats of future harm (Titelman, 2007:339) ^[24].

Theoretical definition: The researcher adopted Bowen's (2007) ^[29] definition of marital violence because she adopted his theory, in light of which she built the scale.

The operational definition of marital violence: It is the total score that the respondent obtains when answering the items of the scale prepared by the researcher for the marital violence scale.

Chapter Two: A Theoretical Framework

Marital Violence

Bowen Family Systems Theory

Emotional System Theory

Emotion, according to this theory, is the force behind individuals' response to the social and natural environment, and the emotional reaction is essentially based on the actions and internal and external states of the body's emotions. All of the above is affected by the person's emotional reaction. (Titelman, 2007: 20) ^[24]. When the emotional system controls an individual's responses and reactions, the person's ability to direct his life is in danger because he does not use thinking when responding to situations that occur, but rather relies on the emotional reactions he learned from the family, such as (anger, for example). It is triggered by emotion instead of using responses. Objectivity, which is based on thinking, the individual resorts to automatic emotional responses learned from the family to confront anger, and here the factors of omission bias come into play if the person is mentally mature enough to not allow him to control his behavior, identifies the causes of his anger and takes steps to address the problem, and the basic role that the individual plays is either bias and a tendency toward anger or they neglected. Here, the event is like nothingness because the individual is more in control of his emotions by responding to anger. When individuals work calmly and in a thoughtful manner, they are more in tune with their feelings and have the ability and freedom to distinguish between negative omission bias and positive omission bias without allowing the negatives to overwhelm their behavior. Bowen assumes the existence of two basic forces. In this theory, through which the performance of human behavior is inferred, they are:

1. Individuality force or differentiation

It is the force that leads the individual and moves his abilities to direct his life in a mature way and to form a separate, independent and distinct entity, and that the biological and psychological systems have developed in him, and that he is able to continue his private life and go out on his own as a person who represents himself and sets an end in his relationship with members of his family without being biased towards anything (Titelman, 1998: 207) ^[23].

2. Togetherness force or fusion

It is emotional unity or emotional attachment and togetherness among family members. Each person is emotionally driven to cooperate with the family and is ready to break through values for the approval and acceptance of others and is ready to adopt the unclear directives of others and trust them. The individual is strongly influenced by the group's relationship systems. The family in which he grew up (Titelman, 1998: 268) ^[23]. Much of human behavior is dictated to him by the powerful grouping force that arises in the most established social families, which is the family of a strongly inherited nature. This force, which is the opposite of the individual force, automatically and instinctively attracts us towards each other, which absorbs part of ourselves and demands that we be with the group. For their sake, all that remains for the individual and what remains for the self is the part that has not been integrated into the group, and this remaining part is what prompts the individual to ignore certain behaviors and is what distinguishes each one as an isolated individual self. This quantity will vary in different families and even among members of the same family. The more acquiescent the individual's response to the events occurring, the person may be less biased or normal, which is called oblivious. However, those who have a higher level of bias, i.e. less integration, have a greater response to problems and are less likely to develop violent pathological symptoms in a place fraught with disturbances (Lanham, 2004: 407) ^[20].

Bowen's family systems theory was based on a set of basic concepts identified as follows:

1. The nuclear family is an emotional unit. Nuclear Family Emotional System
2. The Differentiation of Self Scale
3. Triangles
4. Emotional cutoff
5. Family Projection Process
6. Multigenerational Transmission Process
7. Birth order Sibling position.
8. Emotional Process in Society.

1. The nuclear family is an emotional unit. Nuclear Family Emotional System

This means:-

1. Anything that affects any member of the family affects the rest of the members, meaning that anxiety is easily transmitted from one person to another in the family.
2. Family members sacrifice themselves for the benefit of the family through family integration.

In marriage, each party commits to the other party the rights and duties towards each other, so the two merge into a new emotional unity and there becomes between them what is called emotional fusion, which becomes somewhat of a way

of life for them that helps resolve many of the problems that they will face in the future.

2. Differentiation of self

It is the ability to separate thinking from response-directed emotional reaction (Titelman, 2012:35) ^[25].

Bowen divides the self into four sections:

1. Basic Self.
2. The false self.
3. Boundaries around each
4. Guiding principles for each (not usually (diagrammed but important).

Bowen says, "The mature person is an emotional unit that has self-control and is able to maintain ego boundaries in a state of tension without getting involved in emotional integration with others" (Lanham, 2004: 106) ^[20].

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

In order to achieve the objectives of the research, the researchers adopted the descriptive research approach, and it was not limited to studying the phenomenon and clarifying its size and characteristics only, but also included collecting and analyzing information, drawing conclusions, comparing and evaluating, and arriving at generalizations, in order to be the basis for its interpretation.

First. The research community

The research community is determined by Diyala University teachers of both genders (males and females), for the academic year (2022-2023 AD), as their number reached (1365), with (887) males and (478) females.

Second. Research Sample

The research sample was selected using a stratified random method with a proportional distribution. The research sample amounted to (400) male and female teachers from the University of Diyala.

Third. Search Method

Marital Violence Scale: After reviewing the previous literature, the researchers did not find, within the limits of the previous literature available to them, an appropriate tool for measuring marital violence, which prompted the researchers to build a marital violence scale based on Bowen's theory and definition (2007) ^[29].

Formulating the scale items

The researchers drafted the scale's (28) items, taking into account that the item carries only one meaning.

Setting up scale instructions

The researchers developed explanatory instructions for the scale to make it easier for the respondent to know the correct way to answer the items.

Sample clarity instructions

The researchers applied the scale to a random sample of (60) male and female teaching staff members at the University of Diyala. It was found that the scale's items, instructions, and answer method were clear and understandable.

6- Statistical analysis of the items in the scale (marital violence)

A. The Method of the Two Extreme Groups

The researchers applied the scale to a sample of (400) male and female faculty members at the University of Diyala, and after correcting the answers, the discriminatory power of all items of the scale was extracted. The scores were arranged descending from the highest score to the lowest score, then they identified the two extreme groups in the score by (27%) of the questionnaires, as it reached (108) individuals from the upper groups and (108) individuals from the lower group; That is, a total of (216) individuals. Then I used the

T-test for two independent samples. In order to test the statistical significance of the difference between the means of the upper and lower groups for each of the scale's (28) items (Firkson, 1991: 458). Then compare the calculated T-test value with the tabular value. It turned out that all the items were distinct (significant). Because the calculated T-value is smaller than the tabulated value of (1.96) at a significance level of (0.05) and a degree of freedom (216), and Table (1) shows this.

Table 1: Discrimination coefficients of items in the marital violence scale

T- Calculated Value	Low Group		High Group	
	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean
4,387	0,699	1,19	0,758	1,62
6,237	0,506	1,38	0,738	1,92
5,936	0,456	1,25	0,728	1,74
5,942	0,599	1,43	0,637	1,93
8,657	0,586	1,45	0,639	2,18
8,795	0,653	1,39	0,707	2,20
8,177	0,670	1,41	0,758	2,20
7,884	0,451	1,24	0,825	1,95
5,871	0,510	1,40	0,743	1,91
8,810	0,755	1,52	0,680	2,38
9,253	1,026	1,94	1,148	3,31
9,294	0,961	1,81	1,246	3,21
8,661	0,754	1,46	1,258	2,69
10,368	1,005	1,67	1,156	3,19
7,499	1,219	1,99	1,101	3,18
9,477	1,022	1,72	1,366	3,28
8,108	1,279	2,36	1,116	3,69
7,272	1,028	2,09	1,140	3,17
4,768	1,192	3,33	1,148	4,09
3,549	1,238	3,79	1,096	4,35
2,740	1,388	3,41	1,187	3,89
9,669	1,406	2,28	1,188	3,99
14,583	1,177	2,13	1,020	4,31
11,569	1,245	2,24	1,261	4,21
11,302	1,366	2,18	1,180	4,14
8,650	1,411	2,49	1,226	4,05
11,666	1,222	1,96	1,239	3,92
11,824	1,277	2,06	1,231	4,08

(*) The tabular value was (1.96) at a significance level of (0.05) and a degree of freedom (216)

B. The relationship of the item grade to the overall grade:

The researchers applied the Pearson correlation coefficient to find the relationship of each item score of the scale to the total score of the scale. It turns out that all items are

statistically significant. Because the value of the correlation coefficient is greater than the critical value of (0.098) at a significance level of (0.05) and a degree of freedom (398) Table (2).

Table 2: The correlation coefficient between the item score and the total score of the marital violence scale

The correlation coefficient of the item with the total score	Item No.	The correlation coefficient of the item with the total score	Item No.	The correlation coefficient of the item with the total score	Item No.	The correlation coefficient of the item with the total score	Item No.
0,574	22	0,441	15	0,406	8	0,264	1
0,604	23	0,492	16	0,335	9	0,362	2
0,559	24	0,434	17	0,380	10	0,298	3
0,609	25	0,369	18	0,473	11	0,325	4
0,516	26	0,227	19	0,468	12	0,454	5
0,608	27	0,108	20	0,436	13	0,408	6
0,594	28	0,122	21	0,446	14	0,382	7

Psychometric properties of the marital violence scale

A: Apparent honesty

The researchers verified this type of honesty by presenting its paragraphs in their initial form to a group of specialists and arbitrators in the field of educational and psychological sciences, measurement and evaluation, and all of the paragraphs obtained an agreement rate of more than (80%).

B: Construct validity

This validity was verified by extracting the discriminatory power of the items using the method of the two extreme groups, as shown in Table (1), and the relationship of the item score to the overall score of the scale, as shown in Table (2).

Second: Stability of the scale

The stability of marital violence was found in several ways, as follows:

A. Testing and retesting

The researchers applied the scale to a sample of (60) male and female teachers from the College of Science and the College of Education for Humanities. After fourteen days had passed, the scale was re-applied to the same sample. After the application was completed, their answers were corrected using the Pearson correlation coefficient between the scores of the two applications. The correlation coefficient reached (0.98), which is a good reliability indicator for. Internal consistency method using Cronbach's alpha coefficient method:

The researchers applied the Cronbach equation to calculate the reliability coefficient in this way on the members of the statistical analysis sample, which numbered (400) male and female teachers, as the reliability coefficient reached (0.89), which is a reliability coefficient that can be relied upon for the purposes of the current research.

Marital violence scale in final form

The research scale in its final form consisted of (28) items, and (5) alternatives were developed for the scale, which are (always, often, sometimes, rarely, never), and their correction degrees were (5, 4, 3, 2, 1), and the highest score was obtained by the respondent. It is (140) and the lowest score he obtained is (28).

Chapter Four: Presentation, Interpretation and Results Discussion

The first goal: to identify marital violence among university teachers

To achieve this goal, the marital violence scale was applied to the research sample of (400) male and female teachers. They obtained an arithmetic average of (71.060) degrees and a standard deviation of (13.339), while the hypothetical average reached (81) degrees, and to know the significance of the statistical differences. Between the arithmetic mean and the hypothesized mean, a one-sample T-test was used. The results of the T-test showed that the calculated T-value was (-19.401), which is smaller than the tabulated T-value of (1.96) at a significance level of (0.05) and a degree of freedom (399). Table (16) shows this:

Table 3: Results of a one-sample t-test for the marital violence scale.

Significance Level 0,05	T-Tabulated Value	Calculated Value	Hypothetical Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Sample	Variable
Significant	1,96	-19.401	84	13.339	71.060	400	Martial Violone

This result indicates that there is a significant difference in favor of the hypothesized mean, meaning that the sample has low marital violence. The researcher interprets this result in light of what was stated in Bowen's theory (2007) [29] that university teachers usually have a high educational level and an advanced academic culture. The second objective: the significance of statistical differences in marital violence according to the gender variable (males, females).

To achieve this goal, the researchers used the t-test for two independent samples to determine the significance of the

statistical differences according to the gender variable. The arithmetic mean for males reached (71.72) with a standard deviation of (13.659), while the arithmetic mean for females reached (80.86) with a standard deviation of (11.574), as it was found that there was no statistical significance. Depending on the gender variable, because the calculated T-value is (1.610), which is smaller than the tabulated value (1.96) at a significance level of (0.05), which means that the statistical differences are not affected by gender (males - females), and Table (4) shows this:

Table 4: Statistical differences in marital violence according to the gender variable (males, females).

Significance	T-Value		Std. Dev.	Mean	No.	Gender	Total No.
	Tabulated	Calculated					
Not Significant	1,96	1,610	13,659	71,72	260	Males	400
			11,574	80,86	140	Females	

Conclusions

1. University teachers have low marital violence because they are a conscious class and usually enjoy a high level of education and an advanced academic culture.
2. There are no statistically significant differences in marital violence according to the gender variable (males - females).

Recommendations

Universities and higher education institutions must provide awareness programs for university teachers on the

mechanism of dealing with sources of marital violence so that they have the ability to confront these sources with more realistic methods.

Suggestions

1. Conducting other studies dealing with marital violence and its relationship with other psychological variables, such as: (the wife's mental health, achieving harmony between spouses, life satisfaction)

2. Building a psychological and counseling program to identify the harms of marital violence among university teachers.

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