

Prevalence of violence against women in Northern Jordan society: Irbid Governorate a case study

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Abstract:- This study aimed to report the Prevalence of violence against women in Irbid Governorate (north of Jordan) and outlines the nature of violence against women. It also discusses the demographic characteristics, prevalence, forms of violence against women. For the purpose of this study, (Babu&Kar, 2009) version of Domestic violence against women scales were used. A stratified random sampling was used to identify Potential participants. The sample consisted of (711) women and (563) men who were recruited using a stratified random sampling for homes and working places from the northern Jordanian city of Irbid. The findings show that both females and males reported some degree of violence against women in northern Jordan. The levels of sexual and psychological violence against women were high and the degree of physical violence against women was at medium level. The high rate of violence against women and its pervasive association with a wide range of physical, psychological health effects suggests that all efforts must be combined to educate people on the consequences of violence against women not only on women but on the family and the society.

Keywords; - *violence against women, Northern Jordanian society.*

Background: Violence against women is a widespread and important social problem that faces many societies. It does not only entail suffering and ill-health for those women who are involved; it also constitutes a public health problem and social problem that affect many women and their children (Envall& Eriksson, 2006). It is widely recognized as an important public health problem, owing to its substantial consequences for women's physical, mental and reproductive health (Garcia, etal, 2005; Maythew&Watts, 2002; Campbell, etal, 2002; Campbel, 2002; Garcia, 2005). Violence against women occurs in every country among all social, cultural, economic, and religious groups. At the societal level, violence against women is most common within cultures where gender roles are strictly defined and enforced; where masculinity is closely associated with toughness, male honor, or dominance; where punishment of women and children is accepted; and where violence is standard way to resolve conflicts (Jewkes, 2002).

In this world no country or society is free of violence and its related issues, so this problem has become an international one threatening the life of nations and people. Due to the extent of this widespread problem, people have started viewing it as a human reality that is inescapable and is impossible to threat. Additionally, violence is a very sensitive issue that many people find hard to face, especially since it touches upon issues related to their culture, ideas and predominant beliefs (NCFA, 2005).

Violence against women is a well recognized public health problem and human rights violation of worldwide significance(Krantz&Moreno, 2005; Oyediran&Isiugo, 2005;Krantz, 2002; UNICEF, 2000). It cuts across national borders, race, class, ethnic and religious lines and educational levels and globally affects the lives of millions of women on a daily basis(UNICEF,2000;Robinson,2003;Ellsberg,etal,1999;Watts&Zimmerman,2002).There are several forms of violence against women which one of the most common forms is perpetrated by a husband or other intimate malepartner(Krantz&Moreno,2005;UNICEF,2000;Robinson,2003;Watts&Zimmerman,2002;Karaoglu,etal.,2005;McFarlane,etal.,2005;Richardson,et al.,2002),including in Jordan(Al-matalka,2009).Intimate partner violence (often termed domestic violence) can be categorized as physical, sexual or psychological/emotional violence.Violence against women is considered one of the issues that interest and concern the Jordanian society in general, for the notable increase in the number of battered women, where studies have indicated that women are more vulnerable to violence in its various forms of physical, psychological, sexual, verbal, economic, and social abuse. Furthermore the Jordanian society in private is practicing honor crimes, early marriage, denial of inheritance (Haj yahia,1998,2002,ab;Albadayneh,2005a,2012;Patterson,2004;Chalk&King,1998).The Jordanian social culture accepts the use of violence with women as a kind of discipline, and this acceptance is supported by cultural and social norms. However, hurting the individual, or harming them is not accepted religiously (Al-badayneh, 2005 ab). Violence against women in Arab society, in general , can be seen as practicing the masculine power to achieve power and control over the wife or a method of family (wife) discipline (Al-

badayneh , 2012). In Jordan the concept of violence is mixed up with many other concepts of similar indications and meanings like abuse, injury, and harm, with doing harm being the closest to violence. There is no specific visualization of violence in Jordan, despite the consensus that violence is present and is very prominent. Although, according to many, it is not yet considered a “phenomenon”. The reason is that there are not enough studies which have been conducted on this subject, as many researchers say, although some studies (NCFA, 2005, 2008; AL-Ratrout & Atter, (2002); AL Awawdeh, (1998), Shakhathreh, et al, (2005), Nasser, 1998) that could give us a clear picture on the status of violence in Jordan have been conducted (NCFA, 2005) . Internationally, violence has been recognized as a significant contribution to ill-health (WHO, 2002). In Jordan, this recognition has been accompanied by significant policy attention. Jordan has ratified the CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1992 and maintains reservations to article 9 (2) (equal rights with regard to nationality of children), to article 16 paragraph 1 (c) (same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution), (d) (same rights and responsibilities as parents) and (g) (same personal rights, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation). Jordan maintains its reservations to article 16 (1) (c) and (d) because these are not compatible with Shari'a provisions. According to Jordan's combined third and fourth CEDAW report: “Under Jordanian law, marriage is not based on equality of rights and duties for husband and wife, but on reciprocity, i.e. rights for the wife with corresponding duties for the husband, and rights for the husband with corresponding duties for the wife. It follows that the concept of equality between spouses cannot be made to fit into the existing legal system”. The CEDAW Committee has indicated that: “reservations to article 16, whether lodged for national, traditional, religious or cultural reasons, are incompatible with the Convention and therefore impermissible (UNCEF, 2011). Social, psychological and health studies define violence against women as the use of force by a man in order to control and marginalize a woman. Research on violence against women in Jordan has taken on many forms and dimensions, which have created differences and discrepancies in the definition. Thus, it has become necessary to arrive at general consensus on what exactly is violence against women and to base the resulting definition on Arab cultural values and Islamic legislation that advance the status of women. Scholars familiar with research on violence against women in Jordan will deduce three types of studies: The first type of studies is a surveys that show the numbers of abused women, forms of violence to which they are subjected, and characteristics of the perpetrators (An-Nasser, et al, 1998; Awawdeh, 1998; Family Guidance and Awareness Center, 2000; Darwish, 2001; Ratrout and Al Itir, 2002; Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development, 2002; Shakhathreh, et al, 2005; Clark, 2005; Al Hourani, 2007; Al-matalaka, 2009, 2012). Most of these surveys rely on a procedural definition of violence, depicted in the direct question: “Have you ever been subjected to physical, verbal, or other forms of violence; how frequently, and who is the offender? (NCFA, 2008).

The second type of studies focuses on the opinions and attitudes of society members vis-à-vis violence in order to find out whether members of the Jordanian society have a culture of violence and, consequently, to plan prevention and protection programs targeting groups that embrace concepts and beliefs that enhance the culture of violence. Most notable of these studies is Family Violence in Jordan: Knowledge, Attitudes and Status (NCFA, 2005; Al -Matalaka & Hussainat, 2013), which covers various social groups of different ages. The procedural definition of this research is based on questions that reflect the respondents' opinions vis-à-vis such behavioral patterns as whether they approve beating a wife or sister, the reasons for violence as they see it, and their ability to differentiate good parenting and beating as a method for disciplining (NCFA, 2008).

The third type of studies analyze violence cases reported by the National Center for Forensic Medicine (-Hadidi and Jahshan, 2001; Family Protection Department, 2005). These studies show the number of cases that reach the phase in which violence is defined as a crime and as a human rights issue, where women are referred to the judiciary. These cases include rape and crimes of honor. In a recent study, violence is defined from a procedural viewpoint as the abuse of authority in an unjust way and the use of force that results in harm, injury or suffering, measured by the points that an abused individual receives on the “measure of violence” used for the purposes of this study (NCFA, 2008).

Studies on violence against women in the Jordanian society pointed out that violence against women is considered to be a familial matter rather than a social or legal issue, speaking about violence within the family particularly violence against women to others than the family members is considered to be shame , stigmatizes the family and damages family dignity , unity and reputation (Haj- yahia, 1998, 2002b, a+ 2005 Btoush and Haj- Yahia, 2008 : Al – badayneh , 2005a, 2012: Araji & Carlson , 2001: Matalaka, 2012) .

Violence against women studies show that, not only men but also women justify and accept violence against women. They also see that using physical abuse against women and wives in particular was not a problem (Matalaka, 2009; Haj-Yahia, 2005, Araji & Carlson, 2001; Khawaja, et al. 2008; Khawaja, 2004). Recent studies in the region on Arab women showed that one out of three women is beaten by her husband (Clark et al. 2009; Douki et al. 2003). Babu & Kar, (2009) study on Domestic violence against women in eastern India indicated that the overall prevalence of physical, psychological, sexual and any form of violence among women of Eastern India were 16%, 52%, 25% and 56% respectively. These rates reported by men were 22%, 59%, 17% and

59.5% respectively. In their study on Violence during pregnancy in Jordan (Clark et al. 2009 found that nearly 1 out of 3 women were subjected to violence during their marital life. Khawaja and Barazi (2005) on their study Prevalence of wife beating in Jordanian refugee camps indicated that (44.7%) were subjected to violence during their lifetime. Al-Nsour, et al, (2009) study on domestic violence against women in Jordan revealed that the vast majority (87%) of women reported different types of IPV against them. And the most common types of reported violence were emotional abuse (47.5%), followed by wife beating (19.6%). Another study carried out by (Oweis, et al, 2010) indicated that the prevalence of physical, emotional, verbal and sexual violence by husbands during pregnancy was 10.4%, 23.4%, 23.7%, and 5.7%, respectively. Prevalence of physical, emotional and verbal violence by a family member other than the husband was 1.9%, 11.1% and 13.9%, respectively. Other studies conducted in Arab countries showed (26% to 87%) of the Arab women experienced physical violence. (Matalka , 2009 , 2012 ; Al – Badayneh , 2004 , 2005 b , 2012 ; Haj- Yahia , 1998 b , 2012 ab ; Maziak&Asfar , 2003) . Studies which conducted in the Jordanian society revealed that (25 % to 75 %) of the Jordanian women's have been a victim of physical violence at one stage of their lives. It also showed that more than 65% of the cases experience violence were the husband was the main perpetrator of violence (Matalka , 2009,2012 ; Al – Badayneh& Al – Shgour , 2009; Okour&Hijazy , 2009 ; Awawdeh , 1998 ; Darweesh , 2001 ; Hadidi&Jahshan , 2001 ; Queen Zain Institute , 2002 ; NCFI , 2005). Another study carried out by (Haddad et al, 2011) revealed that in terms of the prevalence of lifetime abuse, 39% of women reported emotional abuse, 30% physical abuse, and 6% sexual abuse. The present study hypothesize that domestic violence is widespread phenomenon and variation in its prevalence occur across the northern Jordan .It is also hypothesize that there are different types of violence against women in the northern Jordan. Also, it is hypothesized that differences occur within the population based on some socio-economic characteristics such as: age, residence (rural, urban, badia, refugee's camp), level of education, occupation and income. The purpose of the present study is to report the prevalence of various forms of domestic violence against women and to examine various related issues from northern Jordan. The term domestic violence is defined in the national literature as: "Various behavioral patterns from member, which directly or indirectly inflict psychological, physical, verbal, or sexual harm". However, the term limits action of violence against women to those occurring within the private sphere and does not address violence against women within the public sphere (Darawzeh, 2008). However, this paper deals with the violence faced by women, perpetrated by their husbands and other family members within their conjugal homes.

Problem of the study: The recent years have witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of cases of violence against women in the Jordanian society. This study is trying to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the most prevalence and types of violence against women in northern Jordanian society?
- 2- What are the northern Jordanian women's experiences with abuse by their husbands?
- 3- What are the northern Jordanian men's experiences with abuse against their wives?
- 4- Is there any significant association between socio-economic characteristics of women with the occurrence of domestic violence?
- 5- Is there any significant association between socio-economic characteristics of men with the occurrence of domestic violence against their wives?

I. METHODOLOGY

Design: This Descriptive qualitative approach was conducted in northern Jordan city of Irbid, to explore northern Jordanian women's experience with abuse by their husbands and northern Jordanian men's experience with abuse against their wives. A stratified random sampling was used to identify Potential participants. The sample consisted of (711) women and (563) men who were recruited using a stratified random sampling for homes and working places from the northern Jordanian city of Irbid. Data were collected by twenty-five trained interviewers at the respondent's homes and working places using structured interviews. Information collected was related to demographic data, and questions posed to women to consider physical, psychological and sexual violence against women and questions posed to men to consider physical, psychological and sexual violence against their wives. The interview design permitted women and men to describe their experience, reflect on the essence of their journey with spousal abuse, and unveil their suffering.

Instruments: For the purpose of this study, (Babu&Kar, 2009) version of Domestic violence against women scales were used. Slight modification has been done on the questionnaire so that to be applicable to this study. The tool is consisted of two parts: The first part included the following variables: Age group, residence, level of education, occupation and family income per month. The second part included (18) questions posed to women to consider physical, psychological and sexual violence against women, and (18) questions posed to men to consider physical, psychological and sexual violence against their wives. Translation to Arabic and back translation to English were carried out by the researcher himself, and a pilot testing of the instrument was carried out to check for an understanding and clarity of the questionnaires.

Data Collection Procedure: Data from both men and women working in government, private sectors, university employee, agriculture sector, and industrial sector had been collected between sept.2015 to Jan 2016. The interviews had been carried out by twenty two researchers and three field supervisor (both female & male) who were trained well for the purpose of collecting data. The interviewers and supervisors who interviewed women were female due to the difficulties of obtaining information by male interviewers, and this encouraged the female respondents to participate actively in this study and provide the data required without hesitations. The overall response was high due to face-to-face interviews with the survey samples. The interviews were conducted in Arabic.

Statistical treatment: Data was sorted, coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 17). In order to process the data, the following methods and procedures were used:

1. Descriptive statistics including Frequency and percentage were used in order to describe the personal variables of the study sample.
2. In order to answer the study questions Arithmetic mean, standard deviations, rank, and degree were calculated.
- 3- Analysis of variance (ANOVA), were used to explore the significant differences between demographic variables.

Scale correction: The final questionnaire consisted of 18 paragraphs, the researcher used the quintet gradient Likert scale in order to measure the respondents' answers to the study items as follows: Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Neutral (3), Strongly Disagree (2), Disagree (1), and by setting a signal (√) in front of the answer, which reflects the degree of consent. It was also relying on the following classification of judgment on the arithmetic mean averages as follows: (Less than 1.99 Low, From 2.00 to 3.32 Medium, and More than the 3.33 High).

II. RESULTS

Sample characteristics: Table (1) presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents (gender, age group, residence, level of education, occupation and family income per month). The result shows that 55.8% were females and 44.0% were males. The result also shows that majority 48.85% of the males and 43.04% of the females were in the age group 30-40 years old. As the residence is concerned, it was found that majority 41.74% of the males and 42.76% of the females were from urban. The findings of the present study revealed that most of the males 62.34% and 56.54% of their females had education up to college education and above. In view of the occupation of the males and females, most of the males 50.62% and 39.52% of females working on the basis of salaried jobs. The majority of the males 40.32% and 45.85% of females family income per month ranging between 401-600 Jordanian Dinars, (1JD=71 US dollar).

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents- Total no. (1274)

Variable	Categories	Males		Females	
		No. 563	%	No. 711	%
Age group	< 20 years	12	2.13	49	6.89
	20-29 years	169	30.02	198	27.85
	30-40 years	275	48.85	306	43.04
	41 years and above	107	19.01	15	22.22
	Total	563	100	711	100
Residence	Rural	195	34.64	228	32.07
	Urban	235	41.74	304	42.76
	Refugees camp	133	23.62	179	25.18
	Total	563	100	711	100
Level of education	Illiterate	63	11.19	67	9.42
	School education	149	26.47	242	34.04
	College education and above	351	62.34	402	56.54
	Total	563	100	711	100
Occupation	Salaried jobs	285	50.62	281	39.52
	Farming	87	15.45	48	6.75
	small business	139	24.69	90	12.66
	Laborer	52	9.24	36	5.06
	Housewife	-	-	256	36.01
	Total	563	100	711	100
Family income per month	less than JD 200	5	0.89	29	4.08
	201-400 JD	211	37.48	277	38.96
	401 - 600 JD	227	40.32	326	45.85

	601- 800 JD	102	18.12	64	9.00
	JD 801 and above	18	3.20	15	2.11
	Total	563	100	711	100

Violence against women in northern Jordanian society.

This part of the study presents the findings of the study which aimed to know the prevalence of violence against women in northern Jordancy of Irbid. Also, it includes descriptive statistics for participants' answering on questionnaire items.

Prevalence of violence against women in northern Jordan city of Irbid

The First Question: What are the most prevalence forms of violence against women in northern Jordancy of Irbid? To answer this question a descriptive statistic of means and standard deviations for the most prevalence forms of violence against women in the northern Jordanian society were calculated (table 2). The results revealed that the most prevalence form of violence against women in the northern Jordanian society is "Sexual violence", with an arithmetic mean, (3.70), followed by Psychological violence with an arithmetic mean (3.43), and last come the physical violence with an arithmetic mean (3.02).

Table (2): Means and standard deviation for "prevalence of violence against women in the northern Jordanian city of Irbid" (n= 1274)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	Psychological violence	3.43	1.30	2	High
2	Physical violence	3.02	1.08	3	Medium
3	Sexual violence	3.70	1.14	1	High
	Total Means	3.43	1.20	-	High

Women's experiences with abuse by their husbands

The Second Question: What are the Jordanian women in northern Jordanexperiences with abuse by their husbands?To answer this question a descriptive statistic by means and standard deviations for prevalence of violence against women in the northern Jordanian society were calculated for Female (table 3). The results revealed that mean ranges between (2.99– 3.69). The higher mean was scored for Sexual violence (3.69) followed by Psychological violence (3.45) and the lowest mean was for Physical violence (2.99).

Table (3): Means and standard deviation for "prevalence of violence against women in the northern Jordanian city of Irbid"for Females (n= 711)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	Psychological violence	3.45	1.32	2	High
2	Physical violence	2.99	1.10	3	Medium
3	Sexual violence	3.69	1.17	1	High
	Total Means	3.44	1.22	-	High

The First Domain: Psychological violence- As shown in(Table 4),the results revealed that mean ranges between (2.71– 3.85). The higher mean was scored for Paragraph no (6):"My husband has ever frightened me like looking angrily at me" with an arithmetic mean(3.85) followed byfor Paragraph no (11):"I Have ever been denied of basic personal needs" with an arithmetic mean(3.81) and the lowest mean was for Paragraph no (7):"My husband has often suspicious that I am unfaithful" with an arithmetic mean(2.71).

Table (4): Means and standard deviation for "Psychological violence" dimension items for Females(n= 711)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	My husband has ever insulted me by using abusive language.	3.41	1.47	9	High

2	My husband has ever threatened me with objects like stick, belt, knife, etc.?	3.37	1.42	10	High
3	My husband has ever threatened me to send me to my parents' house?	3.46	1.49	7	High
4	My husband has ever sent me to my parents' house	3.06	1.38	11	Medium
5	My husband has ever created financial hardships to me, by not making money available to me	2.97	1.25	12	Medium
6	My husband has ever frightened me like looking angrily at me	3.85	1.54	1	High
7	My husband has often suspicious that I am unfaithful	2.71	1.24	13	Medium
8	My husband has ever ignored me and showed indifference to me	3.72	1.56	4	High
9	My husband has ever made me deprived of my privileges in the family?	3.43	1.49	8	High
10	My husband & or other family members has ever neglected me	3.74	1.55	3	High
11	I Have ever been denied of basic personal needs	3.81	5.30	2	High
12	I Have ever felt that I am not being involved in decision makings in the family	3.57	1.53	6	High
13	My husband has restricted me of going to my parents' home& or other places like friends'/relatives' houses, etc	3.70	1.59	5	High
Total Means		3.45	1.32	-	High

The Second Domain: Physical violence- Table (5) presents the women's experiences about physical violence. The results revealed that mean ranges between (2.65– 3.34). The higher mean was scored for Paragraph no (1): " My husband has ever assaulted me physically (like slapped, thrown something, pushed, pulled my hair, shoved, hit with fist or something else, kicked, dragged or beaten me up, choked with an arithmetic mean(3.34) and the Paragraph no (2): " My husband has ever scalded or burnt me on purpose", scored the lowest arithmetic mean (2.65).

Table (5): Means and standard deviation for "Physical violence" dimension items for Females(n= 711) for

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	My husband has ever assaulted me physically (like slapped , thrown something, pushed, pulled my hair, shoved, hit with fist or something else, kicked, dragged or beaten me up, choked)	3.34	1.34	1	High
2	My husband has ever scalded or burnt me on purpose?	2.65	0.99	2	Medium
Total Means		2.99	1.10	-	Medium

The Third Domain: Sexual violence- As shown in table (6), the results revealed that mean ranges between (3.25– 4.30). The higher mean was scored for: "My husband has ever physically force me to have sexual intercourse when I did not want to",with an arithmetic mean(4.30), followed by: "My husband has ever willfully denied or avoid me to have sex",with an arithmetic mean(3.51) and the lowest mean was for: "My husband has ever hurt or cause injury to my private parts",with an arithmetic mean(3.25).

Table (6): Means and standard deviation for "Sexual violence" dimension items for Females(n= 711)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	My husband has ever physically force me to have sexual intercourse when i did not want to	4.30	1.29	1	High
2	My husband has ever willfully deny or avoid me to have sex	3.51	1.42	2	High
3	My husband has ever hurt or cause injury to my private parts?	3.25	1.34	3	Medium
Total Means		3.69	1.17	-	High

Men’s experiences with abuse against their wives

The Third Question: What are thenorthern Jordanian men’s experiences with abuse against their wives?To answer this question descriptive statistic by means and standard deviations for prevalence of violence against women in the northernJordanian society were calculated for Male (table 7). The results revealed that mean ranges between (3.05– 3.72). The higher mean was scored for Sexual violence with an arithmetic mean(3.72) followed by Psychological violence with an arithmetic mean(3.42) and the lowest mean was for Physical violence with an arithmetic mean(3.05).

Table (7): Means and standard deviation for "prevalence of violence against women in the Jordanian society" for Males(n= 563)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	Psychological violence	3.42	1.28	2	High
2	Physical violence	3.05	1.05	3	Medium
3	Sexual violence	3.72	1.11	1	High
Total Means		3.43	1.17	-	High

The First Domain: Psychological violence-As shown in table (8), the results revealed that mean for Psychological violence ranges between (2.77– 3.93). The higher mean was scored forParagraph no (13):"I Have ever restricted my wife to go to her parents’ home &or other places like friends’/relatives’ houses, etc..",with an arithmetic mean(3.93) followed byParagraph no (6): "I Have ever frightened my wife like: looking angry at her",with an arithmetic mean(3.82) and the lowest mean was for Paragraph no (7):"I Have ever expressed suspicion to my wife that she is unfaithful to me",with an arithmetic mean(2.77).

Table (8): Means and standard deviation for "Psychological violence dimension items for Male (n= 563)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	I Have ever insulted my wife by using abusive language.	3.36	1.41	7	High
2	I Have ever threatened my wife with objects like stick, belt, knife, etc..	3.33	1.34	8	High
3	I Have ever threatened my wife to send her to her parents’ house.	3.52	1.44	6	High
4	I Have ever sent my wife to her parents’ house.	3.32	1.45	9	Medium
5	I Have ever created financial hardships to my wife, by not making money available to her.	3.07	1.25	12	Medium

6	I Have ever frightened my wife like : looking angry at her	3.82	1.50	2	High
7	I Have ever expressed suspicion to my wife that she is unfaithful to me	2.77	1.14	13	Medium
8	I Have ever ignored my wife or shown indifference to her.	3.67	1.51	3	High
9	I Have ever made my wife deprived of her privileges in the family.	3.31	1.42	10	Medium
10	I Have ever neglected my wife.	3.56	1.39	4	High
11	I Have ever denied the basic personal needs of my wife.	3.23	1.36	11	Medium
12	I Have ever willfully not involved my wife in decision making in the family.	3.56	1.40	4	High
13	I Have ever restricted my wife to go to her parents' home &or other places like friends'/relatives' houses, etc..	3.93	1.44	1	High
Total Means		3.42	1.28	-	High

The Second Domain: Physical violence- Table (9) shows theMen’s Physical violence experiences against their wives. The results revealed that mean ranges between (2.73– 3.36). The higher mean was scored for: " I Have ever assaulted my wife physically (like slapped or thrown something, pushed, pulled her hair, shoved, hit her with fist or something else, kicked, dragged or beaten her up, choked)",with an arithmetic mean(3.36) and the lowest arithmetic mean was for: " I Have ever scalded or burnt my wife, purposefully",with an arithmetic mean(2.73).

Table (9): Means and standard deviation for "Physical violence" dimension items for Male (n= 563)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	I Have ever assaulted my wife physically (like slapped or thrown something, pushed, pulled her hair, shoved, hit her with fist or something else, kicked, dragged or beaten her up, choked)	3.36	1.25	1	High
2	I Have ever scalded or burnt my wife, purposefully	2.73	0.94	2	Medium
Total Means		3.05	1.05	-	Medium

The Third Domain: Sexual violence- As shown in table(10) ,the results revealed that the arithmetic mean forMen’s Sexual violence experiences against their wives ranges between (3.39– 4.18). The higher mean was scored forParagraph no (1):“I have ever physically force my wife to have sex when she did not want”,with an arithmetic mean(4.18) followed byParagraph no (3): "I have ever willfully deny &or avoid sex with my wife",with an arithmetic mean(3.61) and the lowest mean was for Paragraph no (2):" I have ever hurt &or cause injury on private parts of my wife",with an arithmetic mean(3.39).

Table (10): Means and standard deviation for "Sexual violence" dimension items for Males (n= 563)

No	domains	Mean	Standard. Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
1	I Have ever physically force my wife to have sex when she did not want	4.18	1.26	1	High
2	I Have ever hurt &or cause injury on private parts of my wife?	3.39	1.26	3	High
3	I Have ever willfully deny &or avoid sex with my wife?	3.61	1.21	2	High

Total Means	3.72	1.11	-	High
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Association between socio-economic characteristics with the occurrence of domestic violence

The Fourth Question: Is there any significant association between socio-economic characteristics of women with the occurrence of domestic violence? To answer this question, analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to explore the significant differences between demographic variables for female respondents and domestic violence (tables 11-12).

Table (11): arithmetic mean and standard deviation for female’s demographic variable (n=711)

Variable	Categories	Means	Standard. Deviation
Age group	< 20 years	3.63	0.79
	20–29 years	3.31	1.19
	30 -40 years	3.25	1.29
	41 years and above	3.90	1.10
Residence	Rural	3.20	1.11
	Urban	3.39	1.27
	Refugees camp	3.80	1.19
Level of education	Illiterate	4.00	1.19
	School education	3.30	1.23
	College education and above	3.42	1.20
Occupation	Salaried jobs	3.50	1.19
	Farming	4.25	0.47
	small business	3.54	1.04
	Laborer	3.87	1.57
	Housewife	3.11	1.25
Family income per month	less than JD 200	4.84	0.22
	201-400 JD	3.33	1.32
	401 – 600 JD	3.51	1.10
	601- 800 JD	3.30	1.10
	JD 801 and above	1.73	0.49

The results of the present study showed significant differences between the female respondents due to the following demographic variables : Age group (F =16.073, P = 0.000), Residence (F = 16.431, P = 0.000), Occupation (F = 12.678, P = 0.000), Family income per month (F = 13.887, P = 0.000)), and the results also revealed that there are no statistically significant between the female respondents due to the demographic variable (Level of education) at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$), (table 13).

Table (12): Results of (ANOVA) to explore the difference between the female respondents due to demographic variables (Female) (n=711)

Variable	Sum of square	Df	M.S	"f" value	Sig
Age group	56.447	3	18.816	16.073	0.000
Residence	38.470	2	19.235	16.431	0.000
Level of education	5.484	2	2.742	2.342	0.097
Occupation	59.369	4	14.842	12.678	0.000
Family income per month	65.029	4	16.257	13.887	0.000
Error	813.613	695	1.171		
Corrected total	1057.616	710			

The Fifth Question: Is there any significant association between socio-economic characteristics of men with the occurrence of domestic violence against their wives?. To answer this question, analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to explore the significant differences between demographic variables for male’s respondents and domestic violence against their wives (tables 13-14).

Table (13): arithmetic mean and standard deviation for male’s demographicvariable (n=563)

Variable	Categories	Means	Standard. Deviation
Age group	< 20 years	4.03	0.03
	20–29 years	3.22	1.30
	30 -40 years	3.54	1.09
	41 years and above	3.41	1.18
Residence	Rural	3.43	1.11
	Urban	3.40	1.17
	Refugees camp	3.48	1.25
Level of education	Illiterate	3.43	1.38
	School education	3.35	1.04
	College education and above	3.46	1.18
Occupation	Salaried jobs	3.58	1.18
	Farming	3.08	1.26
	small business	3.35	0.96
	Laborer	3.40	1.36
Family income per month	less than JD 200	5.00	0.00
	201-400 JD	3.52	1.21
	401 – 600 JD	3.50	1.13
	601- 800 JD	3.11	1.12
	JD 801 and above	2.81	0.90

The resultsshow significant differences between the male’s respondent’sdomestic violence against their wives due to the following demographic variables:age group (F =5.445, P = 0.001), occupation (F = 7.400, P = 0.000), family income per month (F = 7.615, P = 0.000)),and there are no statistically significantdifferencesbetween the male domestic violence against their wives dueto the demographic variables: Residenceand Level of education) at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$), (table 15).

Table (14): Results of (ANOVA) to explore the difference between the female respondents due to demographic variables (n=563)

Variable	Sum of square	Df	M.S	"f" value	Sig
Age group	20.306	3	6.769	5.445	0.001
Residence	1.340	2	0.670	0.539	0.584
Level of education	1.148	2	0.574	0.462	0.630
Occupation	27.597	3	9.199	7.400	0.000
Family income per month	37.865	4	9.466	7.615	0.000
Error	681.241	548	1.243		
Corrected total	767.724	562			

III. DISCUSSION

This is the first study to report the prevalence of various forms of domestic violence against women from northern Jordanto the knowledge of the researcher. In the present study both females and males reported high degree of some formof violence against women in northern Jordan. The levels of sexual and psychological violence against women were high and the degree of physical violence against women was at medium level. The results of the present study and other local studies along with regional as well as international study confirmed that violence against women is existing and form a social problem in all societies (Envall& Eriksson, 2006; Garcia, 2005;Krantz&Moreno, 2005;Btoush and Haj- Yahia, 2008; Al – badayneh , 2005a,2012; Arajil& Carlson , 2001: Matalka, 2012) The findings show that there is considerably significant existing of various form of violence against women. This give us clear picture that violence against women is increasing and regarded as a dominant culture in the northern Jordanian society. Both males and females admitted that the most prevalent form of violence is sexual violence , this is a unique finding of this study to show that males and females spoke about the prevalence of this type of violence , because sexual relation is considered to be the most restricted act to be spoke about in the Jordanian culture , or the culture forbids one to exchange his or her sexual matter with other because it is considered to be an internal matter that can be spoken with in the family only(Al-Matalka,2012;Awawdeh,1998;shakhatreh, etal,2005).The most notable form of sexual violence that women faced as well as men committed against their wives

is having sexual intercourse when the don't want it and men deny or a void to have sex with their wives. This is an indication that men may consider any sexual act with their wives as a normal one and it is their right to practice it when they want. These data should be understood carefully as some sexual behavior such as husband-wife intercourse may not be perceived by either partners or people as a wrongful behavior (Heise, et al, 1995; Babu&Kar, 2009). However, it is worth to note that forced sex within the marriage is not considered as a rape or sexual violence in the Jordanian law. Whereas in many other countries like in some state in the United States and India is considered to be rape or sexual harassment and assault (Babu&kar, 2009). As far as psychological violence is concerned, the data shows that female had suffer emotional violence and also males spoke about their experience with psychological violence against their wives, such as (insulting, threatening them, frightened them, ignoring them, depriving them of privilege, neglect, denied of basic needs and restricted their movements. The finding of the present study is found to be similar to those results of other studies carried out by different scholars and organization (NCFA, 2008; Oweis, et al, 2010; Al-Nsour, et al, 2009; Al-matalaka&Hussainat, 2013). The results also show that women were subjected to different types of physical violence (like slapped them, thrown something on them, pushed them, pulled my hair, shoved, hit them with fist or something else, kicked them, dragged or beaten them, choked them. The findings report the existence of physical abuse at medium level comparing to those sexual and psychological violence but is both female and male reported that it is existing in the northern Jordanian society which is agrees with other literature (Haj-yahhia, 1998, 2002; Al-badayneh, 2005a, 2012; Patterson, 2004; Chalk&KING, 1998).

The results of the present study showed that in northern Jordan, the domestic violence exists considerably in all socio-economic strata. It was found that some characteristics of women such as, age group, residence, occupation and family income per month have influence on females being subjects and on the prevalence of domestic violence. It was also found that revealed that there are no statistically significant between the female respondents due to the demographic variable Level of education. The results show significant differences between the male respondents' domestic violence against their wives due to the following demographic variables: age group, occupation, family income per month, and there are no statistically significant differences between the male domestic violence against their wives due to the demographic variables: residence and level of education. However, no studies were found from this part of the country to compare these findings. Some nation-wide studies found to have similar results to this study (An-Nasser, et al, 1998; Awawdeh, 1998; Family Guidance and Awareness Center, 2000; Darwish, 2001; Ratrout and Al Itir, 2002; Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development, 2002; Shakhathreh, et al, 2005; Clark, 2005; Al Hourani, 2007; Al-matalaka, 2009, 2012).

Limitations: The subject were mainly recruited from on metropolitan city in northern Jordan, thus the results of the present study cannot be generalized to the entire country population. However, most of the Jordanian share the same socio-cultural setup and economic circumstances and it may be possible that the situation may be similar in other parts of the country.

Recommendations: Violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights abuses and public health problem not only in northern Jordan and Jordan as a whole, but in the whole world. Therefore, we suggest that there is a need for a comprehensive response in order to educate people on the impact of violence against women northern Jordan and Jordan as a whole. The researcher suggests the following measures so it may help in educating and curbing the increasing number of violence against women northern Jordan and Jordan as a whole:

- 1-The impact of violence against women must be taught at the university.
- 2- Researching the impact of violence against women on family members.

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