Approaches to the study of "domestic violence" in the works of Western and Arab researchers

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Abstract—Domestic violence is a global phenomenon, which spreads in all countries regardless of geographical location, religion or ethnicity. In most studies related to domestic violence, two aspects are considered when discussing domestic violence; violence against women and violence against children. Women and children are the most vulnerable groups to domestic violence in all societies. Arab and Western researchers agree that domestic violence is violence against women and children but they differ in the method of discussing the problem. Arab researchers talk about violence against women in general. While Western researchers, talk into violence against specific groups of women, for example, domestic violence against (pregnant women, women with mental and psychological disorders, women with physical disabilities). There are some studies in the works of Western researchers on assessment of the treatment programs for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence has been studied by Western researchers.

Keywords—domestic violence, behaviour, violence against Woman, violence against children.

I. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence exists in all societies, but at different levels; there are many forms of domestic violence (psychological, physical and sexual). However, discussion of the phenomenon of violence varies from one society to another. This is due to several reasons. The most important reasons are: the nature of society, customs and traditions, as well as the level of public awareness and other reasons. Many researchers in different states from different scientific fields studied the phenomenon of violence in different aspects.

The purpose of this paper is to review some studies on Domestic violence carried out by Arab and Western researchers. Next, to analyze these studies and the main aspects discussed. Finally, to compare these studies.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS (MODEL)

In this part we will review; first: studies carried out by Western researchers, second: studies carried out by Arab researchers.

First: Studies carried out by Western researchers. In these studies, the researchers discussed 1) studies related to the concept of domestic violence. 2) violence against women. 3) studies related to violence against children. 4) studies associated with violence against youth. Finally: studies associated with the assessment of treatment programs for perpetrators and victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence in general: Domestic violence is a global phenomenon and is widespread in all societies. Researchers in different fields, places and at different times have highlighted this problem from different aspects. Pankaj Chhikara, defined domestic violence as a pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is being used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. Despite efforts made by various sections of society and the government - law enforcement, social services, and health care - to curb the menace of domestic violence against women, there is a rise in domestic violence [1]. In order to contribute to solving this problem, Mary Barnish conducted a literary review on the extent and dynamics of domestic violence, explanatory theories, perpetrator types, and the links with child abuse [2]. Michelle Madden Dempsey also provided a philosophical analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence in order to clarify the conceptual and normative issues upon which these conflicts are based. This analysis will help to make the debate on this phenomenon more clearly [3]. Many institutions have a role in eradicating this phenomenon, including police but Poelman Jonas said that often the definition of domestic violence employed by the regional police Amsterdam-Amstel and in the Netherlands is not always as clear as it should be, making it hard to use it effectively for to help [4]. D. Anderberg, H.Rainer, J. Wadsworth and T. Wilson, said that an increased risk of male unemployment lowers the incidence of intimate partner violence, while an increased risk of female unemployment leads to a higher rate of domestic abuse [5]. P. Cardinali, L. Migliorini, F. Giribone, F. Bizzi, and D. Cavanna, presented the kinds of domestic violence which are characteristic or major in separated couples in the Italian
context, where, women narrate both physical and psychological violence, while men narrate only psychological abuse focused on limiting access to children [6]. Disclosure of victims of domestic violence in public health and mental health institutions helps to provide optimal care of vulnerable people [7] [8].

**Domestic violence against Woman:** Women all over the world are exposed to various forms of violence. According to Human Rights report(2014), one in three women suffer violence[9]. G. Mezey, L. Bacchus, S. Bewley and S. White, found a relationship between physical and sexual violence and lifetime trauma and depressive and posttraumatic stress symptoms in women receiving maternity care. Adulthood and childhood physical and sexual abuse histories were also associated with more severe depressive symptomatology [10]. R. A. Sansone, J. Chu, and M. W. Wiederman said that women with suicide attempts reported significantly greater levels of domestic violence in their histories than women without suicide [11]. D. L. Smith concluded that women with disabilities experienced almost twice the rate of all forms of abuse compared to the other populations [12]. K.D.T. Lucena, R.P.T. Vianna, J.A.D. Nascimento, confirmed the evidence of an association between domestic violence against women and quality of life [13]. K. Tsirigotis & J. Luczak, concluded that, resilience of women suffering domestic violence was lower than women who not suffer domestic violence [14]. Many studies have indicated that the ability of public health staff to diagnose cases of women who are victims of domestic violence helps to provide assistance to them and enhance uptake of domestic violence services [15] [16].

**Domestic violence against children:** Children are also exposed to domestic violence. E. A. Greenfield and N. F. Marks said that frequent experiences of psychological violence from parents—even in the absence of physical violence and regardless of whether such violence is from mothers or fathers—can place individuals’ long-term mental health at risk [17]. M. Dargis and M. Koenigs concluded that witnessing domestic violence during childhood was significantly associated with the overall level of psychopathy, with a particularly strong relationship to the interpersonal/affective features of psychopathy [18]. J. Devaney said that professionals working in criminal justice organisations can and should intervene whenever they suspect that a child is being exposed to domestic violence. This should involve a range of measures including; child protection and the provision of therapeutic support services to the child and adult victim [19].

**Domestic violence against young people:** Youth is an important stage in everyone’s life. Many young people get involved in various acts of violence, and there are many external influences that stimulate the practice of violence. L. Dorfman, K. Woodruff and V. Chavez, concluded that there is a link between how to formulate news about young people violence in different media and levels of violence among them. Therefore, these media can be used to reduce violence among young people [20]. N. L. Carnagey, C. A. Anderson, B.J. Bushman, said that individuals who play violent video games habituate or “get used to” all the violence and eventually become physiologically numb to it. less physiologically aroused by real-life violence than were nonviolent game players [21]. Also, S. J. Plumridge and W. J. Fielding concluded that there is a relation between some undesirable behaviour and domestic violence with young people [22]. A. L. Tetens, B. Ball, L. A. Vallance and B. Rosenbluth, provided an overview of the deviant behaviour like prevalence of heterosexual teen dating violence. [23]. Since violence exists in all communities, this requires to formulate programs to deal with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Y. M. Lee, A. Uken and J. Sebold, said that the program, which is based on self-determined goals has a positive impact in reducing recidivism among domestic violence offenders [24]. M. Liebmann and L. Wootton said that it also seems clear that restorative justice does seem to have something unique and valuable to offer in this area. The research evidence indicates that women’s and children’s safety is improved by these interventions and some perpetrators benefit and change their behaviour [25]. J. Mackowicz and Majerek said that a Polish system for combating domestic violence, as a model for systemic solutions with regard to domestic violence are going in the right direction [26].

**Second:** Studies carried out by Arab researchers. In these studies, the researchers discussed 1) studies related to domestic violence in general. 2) studies related to violence against women. 3) studies related to violence against young people 4) studies related to violence against children. 5) consequences of violence against children:

**Studies related to domestic violence in general:** As all societies, Arab societies suffer from domestic violence, Mustafa Omar al-Tair, said that the most affected group of violence are in this order; wives, sons, and daughters. Violence against children is often aimed at discipline [27]. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) most women suffered violence from their husbands. The results also showed that children suffered violence from their parents. There are also some wives who practice violence against their husbands [28] [29]. The two researchers Abbas Abushamah Abdul-Mahmoud and Mohammed Al-Amin Al-Bishri conducted a study to identify the extent of the phenomenon of violence in Arab societies as well its causes. The study included (Egypt, Lebanon, Oman, Jordan, Yemen, Syria and Kuwait). The results showed that violence against women and children is the most prevalent in Arab societies [30]. Mohammed bin Hussein Al-Saghir said that the most violent form of domestic violence in Saudi society are verbal and physical violence. The most violent groups are in this order; daughters, sons and wives [31].

**Studies related to violence against women:** Manal Al Said Farouk said that the wife is exposed to violence regardless of age, economic level or social status [32]. According to Nutrition and Rural Development Center (NARD), the most important causes of violence against women: Alcoholism, bad economic situation and the nature of the man's personality [33]. Mahmoud Okasha and Abdelhadi Abu Saada said that the husband is the main source of violence against women; psychological, physical and sexual violence are the most common practice against women in Palestinian society [34]. As emphasizes Sarah Bent Fawwa Al Harbi, said that husband is the primary cause of violence against women in Saudi society [35]. Also, Inas Ahmad Al-Fardan said that the husband is the most violent person against women in the Kingdom of Bahrain [36].
Studies related to violence against young people: Amani Hassan said that there is a relationship between domestic violence and the level of extremism (intellectual and religious) among university's students, males tendency towards extremism is higher than females [37].

Studies related to violence against children: Saad Alddin Boutal and Abd Alhafiz Maousheen defined violence against children as "the use of all forms of violence against children, physical, psychological or verbal punishment by parents, one of them or a member of their relatives, in addition to lacking health and economic care. In addition to exploiting them in works that are not commensurate with their cognitive and physical abilities [38], Huda Youssef and Randa Mahmoud Youssef assert that the majority of children are subjected to violence by their parents, physical punishment was more prevalent in big families in Egyptian society [39]. Anas Ghazwan said that the most violent form practised against children is verbal and physical violence in Iraqi society [40], Marwa Al Khatib said that verbal and physical violence is the most common practice against children, boys are more exposed to violence than girls in Syrian society [41]. But Ali Ismail Abdel Rahman said that depending on the sex variable, there was no difference between the level of violence practising against children in Egyptian society [42]. Perhaps the reason is the difference between Arab societies from each other. Ehab Nashed said that practising all forms of violence against children in families with low socioeconomic status is higher than in families with high socioeconomic status [43].

Consequences of violence against children: Mohammed bin Musfer al-Qarni said that girls students who exposed to domestic violence whether directly or indirectly suffer from psychological and behavioural disorders [44]. Muhammad Ezzat Arabi Katbi said that there is a correlation among the levels of domestic violence directed to children and the degrees of the feeling of loneliness [45]. Aisha Fares said that Also there was a relationship between juvenile delinquency and domestic violence [46]. Also, Noor Jabbar Ali said that there is a strong relationship between domestic violence and aggressive behaviour among high school girls students [47]. About the most violent practice against children, most Arabic studies showed that the father is the most violent person against the children [27] [41] [45] [39]. But Noura Nasser Al Muraikhi and Sara Ibrahim Al Muraikhi said that in Qatar the main source of violence is in this order: mother; big brother and father [48]. Perhaps the reason is the difference between Arab societies from each other.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparison between studies related to domestic violence of the Arab and Western researchers:

A. Studies related to domestic violence in general:

Arab and Western researchers agree that domestic violence is violence against women and children. However, there was a difference in how to deal with domestic violence. Most Arab studies used quantitative analysis to identify the extent of the problem, the most affected groups of domestic violence and the main causes of domestic violence. Just the (PCBS) studied the phenomenon of violence against the husband.

In the work of Western researchers, we have found a variety of studies, we found studies that analyzed the concept of domestic violence, also a philosophical analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence. Such studies help to understand the problem and its explanatory theories well. Also, some studies that use quantitative analysis have been found.

B. Studies related to violence against women:

Arab researchers often try to find out: 1) what are the existent forms of violence against women in society? 2) what are the personal characteristics of women who are exposed to violence (education, work, number of children, age, etc.). As a result, most studies indicate that the most common form of violence against women in Arab societies are psychological and physical, sexual violence is the least. The most important factors affecting the phenomenon of violence against women are educational level for both husband and wife, economic and social status of the family, place of residence (city, village) and wife and husband work.

There have been many outstanding studies about violence against women from the perspective of Western researchers, which were not mentioned by Arab researchers. As non-Arab researchers presented specific topics related to violence against women, for example, the impact of domestic violence on pregnant women, the impact of domestic violence against women with mental and psychological disorders, the impact of domestic violence against women with physical disabilities. Studies also have been conducted on the relationship between domestic violence and the quality of women's life. In addition to studying the effects of domestic violence on women's resilience and their ability to start again.

We note that there is a difference in the method of discussing violence against women in perspective of Arab and Western researchers. Arab scholars and researchers talked into violence against women in general while Western researchers talked into violence against specific groups of women. These are important topics and reflect an advanced level in exploring the problem of violence against women.

C. Studies related to violence against children:

There is an agreement between Arab and Western researchers in the studies related to violence against children, as most studies aimed to study the relationship between violence against children –directly or indirectly- and the psychological and behavioural problems faced by children in their later life. Relationships always existed, but there was a difference between Arab studies on who was the most vulnerable to violence, girls or boys. This difference is a result of the different nature of Arab societies. This subject has not been discussed in Western studies.

D. Studies related to violence against young people:

We note that there is a study conducted by one of the Arab researchers using the method of quantitative analysis aimed to study the relationship between domestic violence
and intellectual and religious extremism, results have shown that the relationship exists. But Western researchers conducted various studies to discuss the impact of what is being reported through the media, and the impact of violent video games on the levels of violence among young people. Through these studies, it has been proofed that these media have an important and prominent role in increasing levels of violence among young people. The qualitative analysis has been used in these studies. Another study used quantitative analysis to study the relationship between domestic violence and delinquent behaviour among young people. These studies (which used quantitative analysis) are an extension of the studies aimed at studying the relationship between domestic violence and children’s deviant behaviour. All the studies conducted by Arab and Western researchers in the field of young people are distinctive.

E. Studies related to assessment of the treatment programs for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

There are no studies in this field in the work of Arab researchers but there are a lot of studies in the work of Western researchers, including assessing the correctional programs for domestic violence perpetrators in specific countries. There are studies about the assessment of the treatment programs in many countries, the evaluation study of the Polish program as a model for integrated solutions was highlighted. All these programs have shown good results in decreasing the phenomenon of domestic violence. Other studies based on identifying victims of domestic violence in public or mental health facilities and what do help to provide services to these victims.

All researches in this field are unique and reflect an advanced level of combating domestic violence.

IV. CONCLUSION

Arab and Western researchers agree that domestic violence is violence against women and children but they differ in the method of discussing the problem. Reflecting the difference in cultures and the level of awareness of this problem. But despite this difference and diversity, there is a fact that domestic violence is a problem of all countries without exception, but at different levels. This requires a greater role in confronting this problem and studying the problem in all its aspects.

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