Behavior Violence of Educated Women towards Their Children and the Stressful Family Factors

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the violent behavior of educated women towards their children. Specifically, the study aimed to explore the most important family and non-familial factors behind the use of violent behavior by educated women towards their children. This study employed a qualitative research method. A purposeful sample of mothers who used violence with their children and obtained an academic degree in the field of education and social service was selected to participate in the study. Data were collected through the semi-structured interview with 12 mothers who used violence with their children, using open-ended questions.

The results showed that mothers used various forms of violence with their children, including verbal violence (such as screaming and verbal abuse), physical violence (such as beating with hand or other tools), and psychological violence (such as neglect and lack of child's needs). The results also show that the frequency of use of violence during the day may reach more than six times. Also, the study indicated that many factors have had a greater role than educational level in influencing how mothers deal with their children and resorting to violence. Findings revealed that the time factor has a clear effect, as there are different periods during the day when the mother is more angry and violent towards her children. These periods
are morning, evening, and sometimes other periods, depending on the size of the tasks and responsibilities that the mother has to accomplish in the time available in these periods. Moreover, results reported that that the child's gender and behavior have an impact on mothers' use of violence with their children; mothers are more violence with males, and when children’s behavior are provocative to the mother, such as the crying of children, the constant quarrel between kids, the child's lack of interest in study, and the repetition of wrong behavior more than once.

Furthermore, the study showed that family pressures related to the social, economic, vocational, health, and educational aspects played a major role in pushing mother to use violence with their children. Another important finding of this study is that mothers 'vulnerability to violence in their childhood has an impact on mothers' use of violence with their children. Also, the findings revealed that mothers used different ways to reduce anger and violence towards their children, such as doing favorite activities, getting closer to God, or sometimes being isolated.

These findings highlighted several recommendations that would help mothers change their violent behavior and replace it with other pedagogical behavior. These recommendations including the need to develop awareness programs and courses to teach mothers how to practice educational methods in dealing with the child at all stages, helping mother to acquire the necessary skills to deal positively with life pressures, raising awareness of the dangers of using violence with children, conducting remedial programs for children who have been subjected to violence and conducting evaluation studies to examine the effectiveness of awareness programs and treatment programs in addressing this phenomenon.