

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/kjss>

## Factors predicting domestic violence among Thai Muslim married couples in Pattani province

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 21 April 2016

Received in revised form 12 October 2016

Accepted 31 October 2016

Available online xxxx

#### Keywords:

domestic violence,  
Pattani province,  
predicting factors,  
Thai Muslim married couples

### ABSTRACT

This study examined factors predicting domestic violence among Thai Muslim married couples in Pattani province and created a prediction equation for domestic violence. The data were collected from 1,536 subjects who were selected using multi stage sampling and data were analyzed using the R program to calculate Pearson's product moment correlation coefficients and multiple linear correlation coefficients. The results of the study revealed five predictors of domestic violence among Thai Muslim married couples in Pattani Province with predictability at a significance level of .001. Three predictors were found to have positive relationships with domestic violence: strict upbringing ( $X_1$ ), violent behavior in childhood ( $X_6$ ), and females' inferior status ( $X_7$ ) while severe punishment in childhood ( $X_4$ ) and the emphasis on male dominance ( $X_8$ ) had negative relationships with domestic violence and their prediction efficiency was 87.5 percent ( $R^2 = 0.875$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Females' inferior status ( $X_7$ ) had the highest level of relationship, and severe punishment in childhood ( $X_4$ ) was the lowest.

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### Introduction

The family is the smallest social institution that is directly associated with the way of life among humans. Its emphasis is on interrelationships between and among family members so that they have close relationships, help, care for, and are concerned for each other. The family institution is the foundation of the change and exchange of love, especially between husband and wife. If the exchange of love is satisfactory with proper proportions, smooth development that enhances trust, care, and readiness to sacrifice for each other, then the married life will be happy and they will have a warm family. On the contrary, if the exchange is not satisfactory with improper proportions, and unsmooth development, there can be conflict in the

married life with chaos and disorder that lead to suffering, frustration, bitter feeling, anger, and hatred that can become severe and affect mental health. This can eventually lead to quarrels, beating each other, using force and violence toward each other, and consequently, the couple can become estranged and some may decide to divorce, which may become a social problem (Boonleang, 2007; Kanjanakul, 1997; Laeheem & Boonprakarn, 2014; Promrak, 2007).

Domestic violence is a social phenomenon determined by social and cultural conditions, and has existed in married couple relationships as well as society for a long time, but most people in society do not give sufficient importance and realization to the problem. They usually think that domestic violence is a family matter in which other people from outside the family should not interfere. As a result, there are no preventive measures and no solutions to the problem of domestic violence as a type of crime (Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008; Pradabmuk, 2003). There are many phenomena of violence between husbands and wives

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Peer review under responsibility of Kasetsart University.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.kjss.2016.10.005>

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Please cite this article in press as: Laeheem, K., & Boonprakarn, K., Factors predicting domestic violence among Thai Muslim married couples in Pattani province, Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.kjss.2016.10.005>

that indicate that attacks against wives have become increasingly more severe while husbands who attack their wives come from every economic status, occupation, race, and religion, and they are people who witnessed or experienced violence before being married themselves. Such experiences can affect them physically and mentally, and may damage the happiness of their family (Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008). This violence is between married couples who intentionally use force and power to threaten or hurt each other more severely than usual and it originates from conflict and quarrels done physically, verbally, mentally, and sexually such as forcing, coercing, beating, kicking, threatening, and limiting freedom (Intarajit & Karinchai, 1999; Laeheem & Boonprakarn, 2014; Triemchaisri, 2001). Mostly, these are by husbands against wives and are meant to hurt physically, mentally, sexually, and to coerce the spouse to do or not to do something that the husband wants. The behavior is expressed toward each other out of anger, fright, feeling apprehensive, lack of restraint, and with obvious intention to harm so that the other party is in trouble and danger that can be life-threatening (Corsini, 1999; Hampton, Gullotta, & Ramos, 2006; Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008; Malley-Morrison, 2004; Walker, 2001). In particular, the victims are usually injured physically and mentally, and may decide to separate or divorce. In addition, young children who witness such violence regularly learn and absorb the violence, and as a result, they can have repressed emotions, become aggressive, and have violent behavior, and when they are grown up, they perpetuate the problem through violence against their family members (Klongpayabarn, 1999; Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008; Laeheem & Boonprakarn, 2014; Promrak, 2007; Siritwattana, 1995). The government sector needs to allocate large amounts of money for medical treatment for victims, implementing preventive measures, and for campaigning to stop the problem (Hemmanad, 1990; Kanjanakul, 1997; Puawongpaet, 1994).

There are many causal factors of domestic violence, but an important one is the females' inferior status where male dominance is valued and it is believed that men must be the head of their family, own all the family assets, and control the behavior of their family members. Studies found that causes of domestic violence were wrong attitudes and values about the role of males and females, and authoritative power in the family, gender inequality, especially in the family where the husband has authority over his wife, and wants her to agree in all matters. Additionally, he makes her dependent on him so that she sees that a divorce will affect their children (divorced women are disliked by society) and she will have to live alone with no one caring for her (Puawongpaet, 1994; Straus, 2001). Furthermore, according to the concept of patriarchy, the inferior status of women and a belief that men have power, strength, and leadership over women, and are the head of the family, own the property, manage the family, and control the behavior of all family members. So, men using violence is considered normal because of male chauvinism, which is the cause of regular violence against and exploitation of their wives (Archawanitkul & Im-am, 2003; Moser & Winton, 2002; Punamsap, 2005; Siritwattana, 1995; Songsumpan, 2002).

Thus, the researcher was interested in exploring the factors predicting domestic violence among Thai Muslim married couples in Pattani province to determine such factors. The results of the study would be useful for related individuals and organizations in forming policy for preventing and solving the problem of domestic violence before it becomes more severe and become a social problem that is difficult to solve in the future, and in seeking ways to solve the problem in a timely manner.

## Literature Review

### *Means of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence is behavior showing intention to use force or physical power to threaten or to harm others or to violate personal rights physically, verbally, mentally, or sexually by forcing, threatening, hitting, kicking, punching, limiting, and obstructing rights, and freedoms in public or personal life. This can result in physical and mental suffering for the victim (Arpapirom, 2000; Berkowitz, 1989; Stuart, 1981). Domestic violence also refers to using force to harm family members physically, mentally, sexually, or to harm life, and to violate rights and freedoms in various ways, which are unfair actions in order to get power to control over them or to make them yield (Corsini, 1999; Pakjekwinyusakul, Jamsutee, & Nettayasupa, 2003; Pongwech & Wijitranon, 2000; Punamsap, 2005). Domestic violence is incidents taking place between members of the family, and between couples inside and outside the home such as violence against children, wives, and the elderly, with the purpose of hurting them physically, mentally, emotionally as well as harming their health, rights, and freedoms. This is done by misuse of force or power to make family members do or not do and accept the action (Laeheem, 2014a; Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 2007; Punamsap, 2005).

### *Types of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence can be classified according to the actions into three types. Type 1 is physical violence, which refers to the use of force or a tool as weapon to hurt the victim such as pushing, slapping, hitting, punching, beating, jerking, squeezing the neck, throwing something at, and injuring severely with a weapon or a sharp object. Type 2 is mental violence, which refers to any action or failure to act which causes the victim sorrow or losing rights or freedoms by either verbally or through gestures and action such as verbal despising, satirizing, scolding, bawling, yelling, embarrassing, being indifferent, threatening, showing anger. Type 3 is sexual violence, which refers to an incident when a husband abuses his wife, a father abuses his children, an elder relative such as a brother, an uncle, a grandfather abuses his younger relative. Such actions are usually sexual molestations or sex-related offenses. For example, the husband uses physical force to have sex with his wife in a way that she does not like, or want, or has sex with her without caring about her pleasure or the husband forces his wife to sell, or have, sex with other men or a man rapes his own child or niece

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