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Factors affecting domestic violence risk behaviors among Thai Muslim married couples in Satun province

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate factors affecting domestic violence risk behaviors among Thai Muslim married couples in Satun Province. The data were collected from 1,920 wives as representatives of families, and analyzed using the R program to find out frequencies, percentages, chi-square test, odds ratios, and logistic coefficients. The results revealed that 34.3 percent of Thai Muslim married couples in Satun Province had domestic violence risk behaviors, and the factors affecting domestic risk behaviors with statistical significance consisted of six variables, namely jealous wives, suspicious wives, drinking husbands, drug abusive husbands, being not ready to have one's own family, and lack of time for discussions. Married couples who had high domestic violence risk behaviors were those with wives who were regularly jealous, and those with wives who were occasionally jealous were 3.70 times, and 3.43 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those with wives who were never jealous; those with wives who were regularly suspicious, and those with wives who were occasionally suspicious were 3.19 times, and 1.76 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those with wives who were never suspicious; those with husbands who regularly drank, and those with husbands who occasionally drank were 2.14 times, and 1.41 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those with husbands who never drank alcohol; those with husbands who regularly used drugs, and those with husbands who occasionally used drugs were 1.86 times, and 1.39 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those with husbands who never used drugs; married couples who were not ready, and those who were moderately ready to have their own families were 1.79 times, and 1.44 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those who were very ready to have a family, and married couples who did not have time for discussions, and those who moderately had time for discussions were 1.72 times, and 1.47 times more likely to have risk behaviors than those who had a lot of time for discussions. Copyright © 2016, Kasetsart University. Production and hosting by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Introduction

Domestic violence is a hidden problem prevalent in society all over the country. It is a complicated problem that is increasingly severe and difficult to prevent and solve even though it is a problem known among family members,

neighbors, and social members. It is a worrying problem that directly and indirectly affects quality of life, mental condition, emotion, and physical condition of victims and their family members. The victims are usually injured physically and mentally. They suffer, worry, feel frightened and stressed, and the incidents can become mental scars that always remain in their memory. For family members who witness the incidents, they might imitate such violent behavior because they think that problems can be solved

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with violence (Laeheem, 2014c). Nevertheless, Thai society does not give much importance or pay much attention to the problem of domestic violence but looks at it as normal or personal matter for family members only, and other people should not interfere. This has made the problem difficult to prevent and to solve (Kanjanakul, 1997; Promrak, 2007).

Domestic violence is an intention to use force or power to threaten or hurt family members more severely than normal. It develops from conflicts and quarrels, and results in physical and mental injuries and losses of some rights. Domestic violence can be committed physically, verbally, and sexually such as forcing, threatening, beating, kicking, limiting, and obstructing the other party's rights and freedom (Intarajit & Karinchai, 1999; Laeheem, 2014c; Triemchaisri, 2001). It focuses on physical, sexual, mental abuses towards family members, especially between husbands and wives (Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008; Malley-Morrison, 2004). It is expressions related to conflicts and ill treatment more severe than usual between family members including expressions because of anger, fright, being apprehensive or lack of restraint that are expressed with a clear purpose to trouble and harm the victim that sometimes can cause death (Berkowitz, 1989; Corsini, 1999; Stuart, 1981). Most of the incidents are committed by husbands who want to display power and control their wives by injuring them physically, mentally and sexually, and to force and threaten their wives to do something for them (Hampton, Gullotta, & Ramos, 2006; Walker, 2001). Domestic violence affects families and society. For example, children whose parents use violence against each other might learn and absorb violence they have witnessed (Hemmanad, 1990; Puawongpaet, 1994). Another effect is on the government having to spend a large amount of budget on treatment of victims, providing advice to victims, implementing preventive measures and campaigning to terminate problems related to domestic violence (Kanjanakul, 1997; Puawongpaet, 1994). The victims are injured physically and mentally while their young children are affected mentally, have negative feeling towards family relationship, feel pressure from the situation, become aggressive, escape from home, and are not attentive in their studies. For parents, they may decide to separate and divorce (Laeheem, 2014c; Promrak, 2007; Siritwattana, 1995). Sometimes children are beaten and they see and remember the violence and think that all problems can be solved with violence. Children may be abusive towards their peers and their own pets, and when they grow up, they may become violent towards their own family (Klongpayabarn, 1999; Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008).

There are many factors or causes of domestic violence but some important ones include wives' being jealous and suspicious of their husbands' fidelity, husbands' alcohol and drug abuses, being unready in terms of maturity and finance for having a family, not having time to discuss and do family activities, and valuing male dominance and believing that males must be family leaders and have rights to own properties and to control behaviors of family members. Some studies found that jealousy and suspicions are the most important risk factors that cause domestic violence (Parimutto, 2011; Straus, 2001; Ua-amnoey, 2002). Drinking alcohol or drug abuse are other factors causing domestic violence. Husbands who drink alcohol and use drugs are very likely to commit violence against their wives

(Arpapirom, 2000; Banditwong, 2001; Klongpayabarn, 1999). Domestic violence is caused by the fact that husbands and wives are not ready physically, mentally, and not mature as well as not prepared to have a family which result in their being unable to adapt to each other. They have differences in their characters, attitudes, personality, finance, and their negligence of their role and responsibility (Khopolklang, Polnigongit, & Chamnongsri, 2014; Kongsakon & Pojam, 2008; Parimutto, 2011; Pongwech & Wjitranon, 2000). Additionally, other causes of domestic violence include husbands and wives' differences in their interest in doing family activities and having no time to care for each other. These cause uneasiness when being together, reduce closeness in family relationship, and as a result, they do not understand each other, and lack love and care for each other (Pradabmuk, 2003; Puawongpaet, 1994; Straus, 2001). Furthermore, husbands' belief in male dominance in the family, especially in their ownerships over the family's properties, their rights to manage the family in all aspects, and to control behavior of family members which may be shown in the form of domestic violence (Archawanitkul & Im-am, 2003; Punamsap, 2005; Songsumpan, 2002).

Therefore, it is essential to study factors affecting domestic violence risk behaviors among Thai Muslim married couples in Satun Province in order to investigate 11 interesting factors to see whether or not, and how these factors affect the use of domestic violence in Thai Muslim families in Satun Province. The study would be useful for all parties concerned so that they could apply the study results to prevent and provide help for married couples who have behaviors in using domestic violence. In addition, it would be useful for problem management domestic violence of behavior in other provinces or other parts of the country before the problem becomes more violent and becomes a social problem, in addition to help finding solutions to the problem in time.

Literature Review

Meanings of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is behavior showing an 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; Supanichwatana & Laeheem, 2014). 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 & Wjitranon, 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, etc. with a purpose to hurt them physically, mentally, emotionally as well as to harm

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