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Research Article

A Predictive Model of Domestic Violence in Multicultural Families
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SUMMARY

Purpose: This study was conducted to assess predictor variables of husbands in multicultural families and examine the relationship among variables after setting up a hypothetical model including influencing factors, so as to provide a framework necessary for developing nursing interventions of domestic violence.

Methods: The participants were 260 husbands in multicultural families in four cities in Korea. Data were analyzed using SPSS 22.0 and AMOS 20.0.

Results: Self-control, social support, family of origin violence experience and stress on cultural adaptation directly affected to dysfunctional communication, and the explanatory power of the variables was 64.7%. Family of origin violence experience in domestic stress on cultural adaptation, and dysfunctional communication were directly related to domestic violence in multicultural families, and the explanatory power of the variables was 64.6%. We found out that all variables in the model had mediation effects to domestic violence through dysfunctional communication. In other words, self-control and social support had complete mediation effects, and family of origin violence experience in domestic violence and stress on cultural adaptation had partial mediation effects.

Conclusions: The variables explained in this study should be considered as predictive factors of domestic violence in multicultural families, and used to provide preventive nursing intervention. Our results can be taken into account for developing and implementing programs on alleviating dysfunctional communication in multicultural families in Korea.

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Introduction

A multicultural family refers to a family that consists of a married immigrant and a person who has acquired South Korean nationality. This term denotes a family established by a man and a woman whose nationality, race and culture are all different [1]. In South Korea, multicultural families have mostly been built by rural old bachelors, urban lower class men, and divorced men who had difficulties in finding spouses from among Korean women and have chosen women from underdeveloped countries as their spouses [2]. International marriages are increasingly prevalent due to the fast-changing global market economy and the spread of

globalization, and there is a rapid increase in multicultural families in our country as well [3]. The number of multicultural households was approximately 750,000 as of 2013, and this is expected to reach one million in 2020 [4]. The increase in the number of multicultural families is concurrent with various problems such as verbal and cultural differences, difficulties in communication, social prejudice, discrimination, lost economic expectations, problems with delivery and child raising, marital conflicts, domestic violence and a poor understanding of the Korean system and law [5]. Specifically, family violence could be viewed as the biggest problem. Domestic violence refers to bodily harm such as assault or beating that is caused by one of the family members to another member under the same roof, or to repeated physical, psychological or sexual abuse like restricting access to resources available or limiting personal freedom [6]. Thus, physical, psychological and sexual abuse against married immigrants in multicultural families exercise a serious influence on not only the immigrants but their children and families. It is quite important to understand how domestic violence

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occurs and to prevent it in advance. The first step to ensuring the successful prevention of such a violence is to understand the characteristics of the perpetrator.

As for the causes of domestic violence, dysfunctional communication might detract from the communicative competency and problem-solving skills of the perpetrator [7] and is consequently highly likely to lead to violence [8]. In particular, it is ascertained that the possibility of family violence caused by dysfunctional communication is stronger in multicultural families than in typical Korean families [2]. It has been found that acculturative stress triggered by cultural gaps and subsequent psychoemotional conflicts exerts a negative influence on the marital relationship of multicultural families and provokes domestic violence [9]. As for the characteristics of the perpetrator, it has been confirmed that domestic violence is affected by self-control, one of the personal characteristics [10], and that social support [11], violence experience from the family of origin and violence observation experience [3,12] also have a strong relationship with family violence. Thus, studies establish that the occurrence of domestic violence is under the influence of the perpetrator's self-control, social support and violence experience from their family of origin, and that dysfunctional communication and acculturative stress are major influential factors for violence in multicultural families. However, existing studies have only examined women's victimization experience and the state of victimization [13], support systems [14], reality [2] and men's victimization [15] in part. Few studies have ever attempted to have a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence in multicultural families. This study aimed to examine the characteristics of the perpetrator of family violence, namely the husband, among influential factors for domestic violence in multicultural families on the basis of findings from earlier studies, to set up a hypothetical model and to verify the validity of the model for the explanation and prediction of domestic violence in multicultural families in an effort to understand domestic violence in multicultural families and determine related influential risk factors.

The purpose of this study was to establish and verify a structural model for the comprehensive explanation and prediction of domestic violence in multicultural families. Specifically, the following efforts were made: (a) The goodness of fit of a hypothetical model for domestic violence in multicultural families was tested. (b) What factors affected domestic violence in multicultural families was analyzed, and the direct and indirect paths of the variables were investigated.

Hypothetical model

The literature concerned was analyzed to set up a conceptual framework, and a hypothetical model was set up. The factors that affected domestic violence in multicultural families were divided into personal and environmental ones, and then the two kinds of factors were analyzed. Self-control was selected as a personal factor which referred to the ability to change or regulate one's own behavior, thinking or emotion [10]. There are environmental factors that tangible and intangible resources provided by others like social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress. Further, self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress, which are exogenous variable found to be important for the explanation of domestic violence in multicultural families, have an impact on relieving or worsening domestic violence by interacting with dysfunctional communication, which is an endogenous variable [2,3,7–12]. Also dysfunctional communication seems to provoke family violence further as a mediating factor in situations where domestic violence may take place.

Accordingly, the hypothetical path model was set up on the assumption that self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin, acculturative stress and dysfunctional communication would exert direct and indirect influence on domestic violence (Figure 1).

Method

Study design

A cross-sectional research study was implemented to determine the factors related to domestic violence of multicultural families on the basis of earlier studies, to set up a hypothetical model for the causal relationship of the selected variables and to verify the goodness of fit of the model.

Setting and samples

Participants in this study were the selected husbands of married immigrant women who resided in the Republic of Korea and who were Vietnamese, Filipino, Chinese, Thai, Cambodian or Mongolian by nationality. As for the sampling method, they were selected by accidental sampling and snowball sampling, which were non-probability sampling methods. Data were gathered from 280 participants, and the answer sheets from 260 of them were analyzed as 20 respondents had inappropriate answers.

In general, the sample size has to be at least 200 or more to reduce sampling errors regardless of the number of the variables covered in a model, since the fit indices make it more possible to test the model accurately in that case. When structural equation modeling is done by maximum likelihood estimation the number of theoretical variables is 11 or less [16]. The sample size of this study met all the required standards.

Ethical considerations

Data were gathered with the approval of the Institutional Review Board of Kangwon National University to protect the participants (KWNUIRB-2014- 06-007-002).

Data collection

Data were collected from August 1st through October 2st, 2014, primarily in the province of K by five researcher E.Y.C, S.J.P, B.S.P, G.Y.G, M.G.B, visiting nurses from public health centers, the heads of the public health centers and social workers from multicultural centers. To ensure consistency, the five research assistants and the people who conducted the survey were educated about the necessity of this study and how to fill out the questionnaires. After the purpose and intent of this study were explained in multicultural family support centers, the municipal branches of the ministry of gender equality and families, general social welfare agencies, church multicultural classrooms and public health centers, surveys were conducted with the permission of these organizations at the dates and locations set by them.

In addition, researcher E.Y.C had opportunities to gather more data while acting as a multicultural education lecturer at a multicultural research center of a university, participating in the self-help gatherings of husbands or married couples from multicultural families and their athletic meetings and assisting their health checkup.

The selected husbands from multicultural families were explained about the purpose of the study, the term of participation, the process, method and expected effects of the study, possible risks and private information exposure, and they were assured that anonymity would be guaranteed and that they could stop

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