A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a woman's face. She has dark, smoky eye makeup and is looking directly at the viewer with a somber expression. Her hands are raised in front of her, with fingers spread, as if she is reaching out or being restrained. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights on her skin and hands.

Violence against women by addicted husbands in Iraq

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Objective

The violence against women is studied in the general population, but a violence against women with addicted husband was little highlighted especially in Iraq, and this study aimed to reveal the rate of violence and to clarify the different types of violence against women of addicted husbands.



- Violence against women is defined by the United Nations as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."



1 in 3
women globally

experience **physical**
and/or sexual
violence, mostly
at the hands of an
intimate partner



World health organization, analysis of the data from 2000 to 2018 across 161 countries and areas. Found that one third of the women, or nearly 30%, had been suffered from physical and/or sexual violence from their partner

- Addiction affects everyone who cares about the addict, whether they are a child, parent, or wife.
- Because of her role as a wife and mother, violence against women is particularly harmful
- . As a result, the violence against women might disturb the family rapport and also interfere with regular social interactions



- The violence against women can take many forms, including:
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Sexual
 - Financial
- Any behavior that causes injury to the body is considered as physical violence,
- the financial violence include behaviors that put people under financial duress, discrimination and harassment.



- In certain societies, such as Iraq, substance misuse is a big issue.
- Iraqi Mental Health Survey (IMHS) from 2006- 2007 revealed a relatively low frequency of alcohol and drug misuse among Iraqis.
- Anecdotal and clinical evidence has revealed that alcohol and drug consumption in Iraq has escalated since then.



Aims of the study

- To identify the prevalence rate of violence against women with addicted husbands
- Clarify the different types of violence in this subgroup
- To assess the risk of future violence against women with addicted husband



- The study included a total of 400 women aged from 18-60 years living in Baghdad, Iraq, attending as companions with the patients attending Ibn Rushud psychiatric teaching hospital (The only center for addiction treatment in Iraq) during the period extended from 10th April to 20th of December 2020.

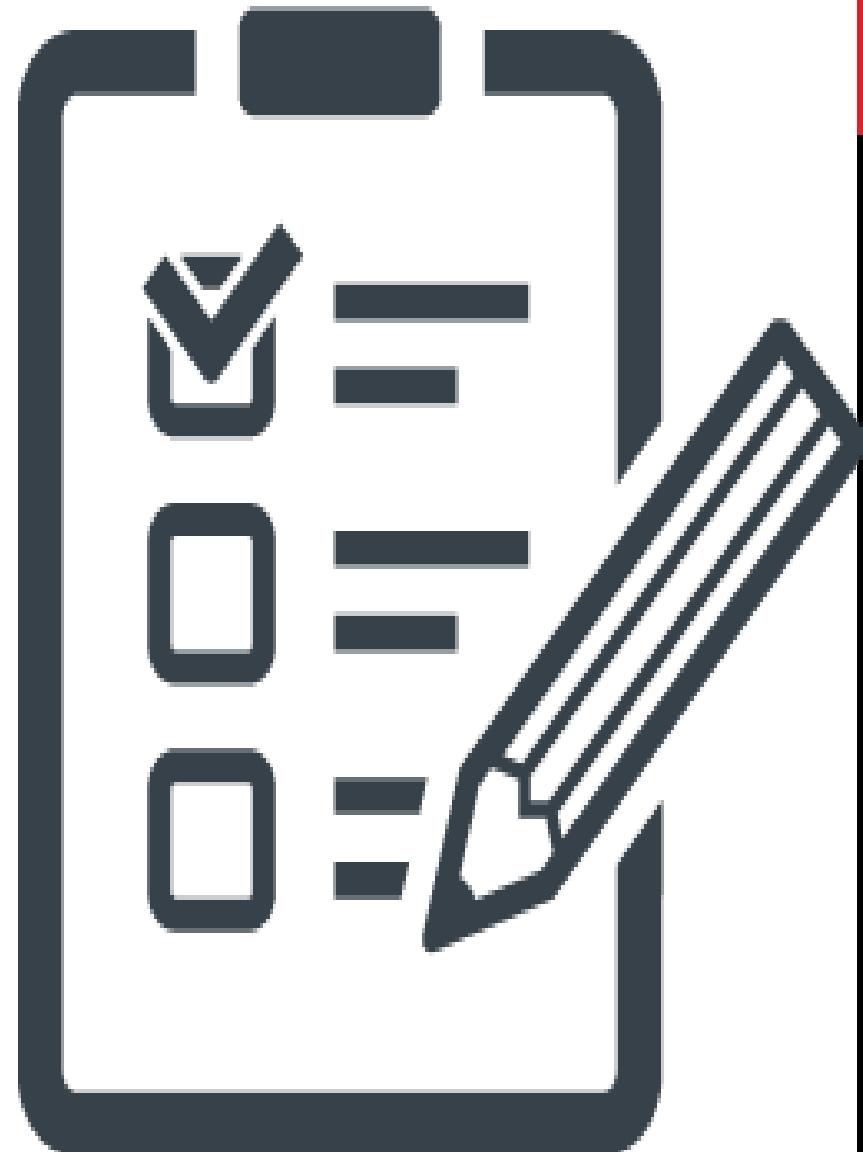


- Two hundred women of them with addicted husbands who were admitted to the hospital to receive treatment for addiction,
- and 200 were women with non-addicted husbands who visited child psychiatric unit in the same hospital.



**questionnaire contained
32 questions**

- **concerning the psychological violence**
- **physical violence**
- **sexual violence**
- **financial violence.**



The physical division of this questionnaire includes” slapping, kicking, b0xing, pulling the hair, pinching the ear, biting, stretching on the floor, tying hands and feet, throwing a sharp object to the b0dy, throwing a non-sharp object to the body, pushing, trying to strangle, burning the organ “.



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- The psychological domain includes," lying, shouting, huffing, threatening to beat, rejecting, having a ban on watching television or internet, preventing from visiting family, deprivation of wearing the favorite clothes, deprivation of affection and attention, threatening to kill, threatening to imprison at home ,vilification, m0cking and derision".

- For the assessing of the incidence of violence in the future, women of both groups were assessed by questioning them about their expectation of future violence from their husbands. All explanations were done for all participants on how to answer the questionnaire

Results

Sociodemografic Characteristics		F	%
Age	18 – 24 year	42	21
	25 – 34 year	85	42.5
	35 – 44 year	51	25.5
	45 – 54 year	12	6
	55 – 60 year	10	5
	Total	200	100
Mean ± SD= 33.04 ± 10.46			
Level of education	Illiterate	12	6
	Primary school	95	47.5
	Intermediate school	64	32
	Secondary school	23	11.5
	College	6	3
	Total	200	100
Job	Governmental employee	35	17.5
	Private employee	20	10
	Retired	5	2.5
	Students	8	4
	House keeper	95	47.5
	Unstable job	37	18.5
	Total	200	100
Duration of marriage	< 1 year	10	5
	1 – 3 year	18	9
	4 – 5 year	37	18.5
	6 – 10 year	66	33
	≥ 11 year	69	34.5
	Total	200	100
Presence of children	No	19	9.5
	Yes	181	90.5
Number of children	Less than 3	109	54.5
	More or equal 3	72	36

Table 2.The number and percentage of the husband educational level in women with addicted husbands

Educational level	Women with addicted husband Number (%)
Illiterate	67 (33.5)
Primary	54 (27)
Intermediate school	41 (20.5)
Secondary	26 (13)
College	12 (6)

Table 3. The mean score and SD (standard deviation) of the violence against women in relation to the type of abused substances.

Type of substance	Violence (mean \pm SD)	*P
Alcohol	63.41 \pm 11.79	0.028*
Opium	58.53 \pm 13.71	
Synthetic substances	61.85 \pm 15.59	
More than one substance	77.48 \pm 12.41	

Table4. The subtype of violence and its frequency in women with and with no addicted husband

Type of violence	Women with addicted husband Mean score	Women with no addicted husband Mean score	
Emotional (16 items)	40.01± 5.03	23.40±4.26	P< 0.001*
Physical (11 items)	23.71± 6.24	15.50±3.76	
Sexual (3 items)	4.65±2.11	1.92±0.25	
Financial (2 items)	2.10±0.94	1.19±0.23	

Table 5: The Risk for Future Violence

Expected violence from a husband	Women with addicted husband		Women without addicted husband		*P
	N	%	N	%	
Yes	173	86	43	21.5	0.02*
No	27	14	157	78.5	

Discussion

- The present study revealed that about half of women suffered from their husband's violence aged between 25-34 years, this result is supported by a qualitative study conducted in Pakistan
- which means that young age women suffer from violence more than other age category. This result is similar to many previous studies
- and this may be related to a decreased level of social experiences and unawareness of their rights by that young age group.

- The level of education had a significant influence on the prevalence of violence against women
- The majority of women (79.5%) who have suffered from violence had primary or intermediate school education level. This result is same with another study conducted on 550 women in Karachi- Pakistan which concludes that education has a significant role in changing the attitudes of the persons and societies against violence by intimate partner

- A low level of education not only interfere women from recognition of their rights but, in lieu stigmatizes their thinking about their gender role and makes them more satisfied with the act of violence to oblige these roles. Furthermore other studies which found that a low educational level was associated with women's acceptance and tolerance towards husbands' mistreatment and of wife beating or even battering, whereas higher level of education was significantly associated with intolerance and refusal of wife- assaulting [28,29].

- The finding showed that two-thirds of women (66%) who suffer from violence by their husband work as housekeeper or have an unstable job compared with just 10% of women who have a private job, thus assure that the participation of women in work and other life domains decreases the percent of violence against them. This result is consistent with many studies, which demonstrated that worker women are less likely to encounter violence
- This may be related to the independence of women on her husband economically and feel of freedom financially, which forces self-esteem and refuses to be abused by her husband. in the same context, the result is reflected by other studies [33,34], which elicited that when women are restricted to just working at home through their role as housekeeper, they lack connections to co-workers and social relationships, and result in acceptance of violence.

- This study demonstrates that the majority of abused women have one child or more.
- This result goes with results of other similar studies
- this result may reveal that women tolerate violence, because many reasons; one of them is the cultural norms of our society which tends to make women role-specific to childbearing and this responsibility is specific for women or wives alone, and this explains that violence against women tends to be culturally ingrained or derived from culturally-based gender roles,
- many women were tolerant of the abuse they suffer to maintain a family, they think that their children's health depends on keeping their family together. in addition to the sacred of marital bonds and loyalty may lead them towards acceptance to tolerate abuse.

- this increased violence rate in this group may be due to the direct effect of the neuroactive substances on the brain and their effect on the addicted aggressive behavior, on the other hand, the financial matters concerned with the use of substances and low economic status and unemployment of husband, all of these might be considered as the causes of this increased rate of violence

Conclusion

this study revealed that:

- there is an increase in the rate of violence among women with addicted husband compared to women with a no-addicted husband
- the mean scores of emotional, physical, sexual and financial violence were significantly high in women with addicted husbands compared with that in women with non-addicted husbands
- It seems that women with addicted husband are especially at high risk for domestic violence rather than women with no addicted husband.

Recommendations:

- To overcome such big problem in society , the authorities should pay more attention to the programs for treatment of addiction which should be strengthened and approached in the public to find and to treat the addicted persons.
- More attention must be paid to families with an addicted spouse, also we need to establish more supportive agencies
- implementation of specific training programs to support and train families with addicted husband for how to manage the aftermaths of addiction.
- Further studies with larger sample size are needed for further enlighten this vital issue