

The Impact Of Female Violence On The Emotional Sphere Of Married And Unmarried Men

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Abstract

The article presents the results of an empirical study that made it possible to analyze the frequency of use by women of emotional and psychological violence against men, the intensity of its impact on the emotional sphere of men who are and are not legally married. The study involved 37 men aged 22 to 36 years old (23 of them were married – officially registered family relations, 14 were not officially married, but share residence) who turned for advice to “Sverkh Ya” psycho-logopedic center, the city of Tula. The study lasted for five years since 2016 to 2020. According to the analysis of the literature it is noted that the problem of violence against men in the family is insufficiently developed, and that the research in Russian psychological works is fragmented. It is highlighted that there is the need to study the influence of the frequency and intensity of the impact of violence on the emotional sphere of men, including the differences in such influence on men who are and are not in official (marital) relationships. A structured interview with men was conducted to study the forms of violence (emotional and / or psychological), their differentiation, to assess the intensity and the degree of negative impact on the emotional sphere of men. During the interview the respondents were asked to describe in writing the forms of emotional and psychological abuse the victims of which they are, providing a differentiated assessment in points. The content analysis of the respondents’ text responses made it possible to single out 9 phrases which are the statements of manifestations of emotional violence and 8 statements related to psychological violence.

The use of the methods of mathematical statistics - Spearman correlation analysis and the Mann-Whitney criterion made it possible to identify the prevailing forms of violence, assess their intensity and the degree of impact on the emotional sphere of men who are and are not in official (marital) relationships.

Keywords violence, psychological violence, emotional violence, the impact of violence on men

Introduction

The problem, the so-called variant of “female” violence when the victims of violence are men, became a subject to the open discussion not so long ago and is rather one-sided.

Until recently, in Russian psychology, as well as in the world practice, the problem of domestic violence was presented exclusively as a problem of male violence against women.

A. Khasina¹, I. D. Gorshkov and I.I. Shurygina² and others conducted a number of studies to investigate the impact of violence on women, the consequences of experienced acts of abuse.

There are several researches that should be highlighted as independent direction in Russian science, focused on the analysis and study of the functioning, the specifics of activities, the assessment of the effectiveness of various crisis centres, women's support centres, services for victims of domestic violence (B.Yu. Shapiro³, Z.Kh. Saralieva⁴, etc.).

The work of A.V. Lysova deserves attention in the analysis of the problem of female spousal abuse. In her research, the author emphasized the problems of violence that occurred during premarital relationships (dating and cohabitation) and demonstrated that acts of violence against women that took place in premarital relationships persist even after entering an official marriage⁵.

Thanks to the works of such researchers as T.M. Chapurko⁶ and D.A. Shestakov⁷ the problem of domestic violence has been studied in sufficient detail from the perspective of effective use of criminal law and criminological measures against violent crimes in the domestic setting.

In modern science the problem of female violence against men is presented in a very fragmentary manner, much more limited than aspects of the men's tyranny against wives.

Currently there is a tendency to assess female violence mainly as defense and self-protection measures. There is practically no "mass" practice of assisting to male victims when it comes to choosing a preventive measure against women aggressors (we are talking about committed crimes), the choice of non-stringent measures is noted, while an application made by a man against a female person is likely to be simply ignored.

¹ Khasina A.M. V tsentre vnimaniya zhenshchina, postradavshaya ot domashnego nasiliya [Spotlight on a woman who has suffered from domestic violence]. *Semeinaya psikhologiya i semeinaya terapiya* [Family Psychology and Family Therapy], 2001, no. 2, pp. 75 – 91.

² Gorshkova I.D., Shurygina I.I. Metodologiya vyyavleniya masshtabov supruzheskogo nasiliya pri provedenii konkretnogo sotsiologicheskogo issledovaniya [Methodology for identifying the scale of spousal abuse when conducting a specific sociological study]. In Pozdnyakova M.E. (eds.) *Deviantnoe povedenie: metodologiya i metodika issledovaniya* [Deviant behavior: methodology and research tactic]. Moscow: Reglant, 2004, pp. 171–185.

³ Shapiro B.Yu. Sotsial'nye rabotniki za bezopasnost' v sem'e [Social workers are for family safety]. In Liborakinoi M.I. (ed.) *Sotsial'nye rabotniki za bezopasnost' v sem'e* [Social workers are for family safety]. Moscow: ZAO 'Redaktsionno-izdatel'skii kompleks Rusanova', 1999, pp. 19–21.

⁴ Saralieva Z.Kh. Sem'ya – klient sotsial'noi raboty: ucheb. posobie dlya vuzov [Family as a client of social work: a study guide for universities]. In Saralieva Z. Kh. (ed.). Nizhnii Novgorod: Publ. Nizhegorodskogo gos. un-ta im. N.I. Lobachevskogo, 2003. p. 286.

⁵ Lysova A.V. Fizicheskoe nasilie nad zhenami v rossiiskikh sem'yakh [Physical abuse of wives in Russian families]. *Sotsiologicheskie issledovaniya* [Sociological research], 2008, no. 9, pp. 121–128.

⁶ Chapurko T.M., Lavrinenko A.A. Prestupnost' i osobennosti uchastiya v nei zhenshchin [Crime and peculiarities of women's participation in it]. *Nauchnyi zhurnal KubGAU* [Scientific journal of KubSAU], 2006, no. 24 (8), pp. 328–333.

⁷ Shestakov D.A. Kriminologiya na rubezhe dvukh tysyacheletii [Criminology at the turn of the millennium]. *Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta MVD Rossii* [Bulletin of the St. Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia], 1999, no. 2, pp. 73–77.

In the works of A.N. Ilyashenko there was an increase of the male victimization noticed – men as victims of female violent actions⁸, D.V. Sinkov⁹ provides an analysis of female violent crimes against men considering the negative influence of the social environment – family, study group, labor collective as the main reason.

Research by M. Fibert conducted in 2011-2012, involving an analysis of more than 500 works devoted to female violence against men, suggests that women are not less aggressive and men become victims not less often than women¹⁰.

N. Feather, working with a sample of 220 people (109 men and 111 women), conducted an experiment to evaluate a hypothetical scenario when a husband or wife committed violence against a partner. Participants gave significantly more negative ratings to the husbands, reported more sympathy for their wife, and considered the husband deserved more severe punishment for his actions¹¹.

The problem of violence against men is reflected in the works of L. Dowd¹². He is an author of a review article considering female aggression in relationships with men where the methods, approaches, technologies for solving the indicated problem are emphasized.

Dutton, D. G. & Nicholls, T. L. made an analysis that explored various aspects of the male victimization as men being victims of female violence. The logical conclusion of this analysis was the criticism of the feminist approach which, according to the authors, minimizes the facts of female violence and trivializes male trauma.

Later, D. Dutton¹³ cited the results of another survey study proving that female violence in relationships is not less serious problem than male violence and has the same serious consequences as male violence. It is emphasized that law enforcement and guardianship authorities initially by mistake believe that men are more likely to commit violent acts in relationships and suffer less when violence is committed against them.

Works of Ehrensaft, MK, Cohen, P., Brown, J., Smailes, E., Chen, H., & Johnson, JG present the results of a study of a sample of 541 people (243 men and 298 women) from New York State during 20 years. In general, approximately the same number of men and women reported committing acts of violence (21% and 22%), however, women more often admitted that they committed violence in the

⁸ Il'yashenko A.N. Viktimologicheskie problemy nasil'stvennoi prestupnosti v sem'e [Victimological problems of violent domestic crime in the family]. A.N. Il'yashenko Pravo i politika [Law and Politics], 2003. no. 4, pp. 85–91.

⁹ Sin'kov D.V. Kharakteristika poterpevshikh ot zhenskoj prestupnosti i rol' zhertv v determinatsii prestupnogo povedeniya zhenshchin (po materialam Vostochno-Sibirskogo regiona) [Characteristics of victims of female crime and the role of victims in the determination of women's criminal behavior (based on materials from the East Siberian region)] Pravo: teoriya i praktika [Law: Theory and Practice]. Moscow: Tezarus, 2003, no. 3, pp. 56–60.

¹⁰ Fiebert M.S., Gonzalez, D.M. Women who initiate assaults: The reasons offered for such behavior. Psychological Reports, 1997, no. 80, pp. 583–590.

¹¹ Feather, N. T. Domestic violence, gender and perceptions of justice. *Sex Roles*, no. 35, pp. 507–519.

¹² Dowd, L. Female Perpetrators of Partner Aggression: Relevant Issue and Treatment. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 2001, no. 5 (2), pp. 73–104.

¹³ Dutton, D. G. Female intimate partner violence and developmental trajectories of abusive families. *International Journal of Men's Health*, 2007, no. 6, pp. 54–71.

form of blows (9% versus 5% for men), as well as in the form of blows using of improvised means (7% versus 2% for men)¹⁴.

Felson, R. B., & Pare, based on the results of the Violence Against Women Survey, found that male victims are particularly reluctant to report female violence to the police. Reasons include fear of retaliation, thoughts that the police will not help in any way and will not take the application with confidence and complete seriousness¹⁵.

As we have already noted in our research, men who are victims of domestic female violence have largely become hostages of social roles and stereotypes which we have already talked about in our research, raising the issues of school bullying from a gender perspective¹⁶.

Materials and Methods

To analyze the aspect of emotional and psychological violence used by women against men, to assess the intensity of its impact on the emotional sphere of married and unmarried men, we conducted a structured conversation with men who turned for psychological help to “Sverkh Ya” psycho-logopedic center, the city of Tula. The study lasted for five years since 2016 to 2020¹⁷.

The study sample involved 37 men aged 22 to 36 years old. The average age of the respondents is 27.6 years old. 23 of them are married – officially registered family relations, 14 are not officially married, but share residence. All men who took part in the research are successful in their professional and entrepreneurial activities, they have higher or secondary vocational education (ratio 29: 8, respectively). The average age of married men is $M = 29.0435$, $\sigma = 3.43085$; the average age of unmarried men is $M = 25.3571$, $\sigma = 3.34220$. At the same time, there are statistically significant differences according to Mann-Whitney U test: $U = 70,000$ $p = 0.004$.

During the interview the men were asked to describe in writing the forms of emotional and psychological abuse the victims of which they are, giving them a differentiated assessment in points according to the frequency of use and manifestations where 1 point means rarely used, 2 points mean often use, 3 points mean very often use. The intensity of negative impact (consequences) on their

¹⁴ Ehrensaft, M. K., Cohen, P., Brown, J., Smailes, E., Chen, H., & Johnson, J. G. Intergenerational transmission of partner violence: A 20-year prospective study. *Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology*, 2003, no. 71, pp. 741–753.

¹⁵ Felson, R. B., & Pare, P. The reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault by non-strangers to the police. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2005, no. 67, pp. 597–610. Available at: ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/209039.pdf (Accessed: 18.02.2021).

¹⁶ Shalaginova K.S., Kulikova T.I., Stepanova N.A., Malii D.V. Uchet genderno-vozrastnogo aspekta v rabote psikhologa po predotvrashcheniyu situatsii travli v uchenicheskoi srede [Calculation of the gender-age aspect in the work of a psychologist to prevent bullying situations in a student environment]. *Voprosy psikhologii* [Psychology questions], 2019, no. 4, pp. 68–77.

¹⁷ Khaidov S.K. Emotsional'noe i psikhologicheskoe nasilie v sem'e nad muzhchinami [Elektronnyi resurs] [Emotional and psychological domestic violence against men] *Mir nauki. Pedagogika i psikhologiya* [World of Science. Educational Science and Psychology], 2020, no. 6. Available at: <https://mir-nauki.com/PDF/78PSMN620.pdf> (Accessed: 18.02.2021).

emotional state also was estimated and gave us the following results: 1 point means weak impact, 2 points mean average impact, 3 points mean strong negative impact.

Then we carried out a content analysis of the text responses given by the respondents. This content analysis allowed us to single out 9 phrases which are the statements of manifestation of emotional violence and 8 statements related to psychological violence.

As applied to emotional abuse we are talking about such manifestations as Negative personal assessments, Negative criticism of business qualities, Personal insult, Refusal of communication, Unwillingness to discuss problems, Continuous demand for concessions, Blackmailing, Depreciation of masculinity, Abusive language. The respondents considered the following statements as manifestations of psychological violence: Frequent conflicts without reason, Imposing responsibility for all domestic problems, Constant demand for an apology regardless of guilt, Unpredictability of behavior in various situations, Depreciation of merits, achievements and assistance, Respect only for one's own opinion, Demonstrative behavior, Threats of leaving family.

Further statistical mathematical processing was carried out. The results of the study are presented in Tables 1–2. For better representation of the results, we prepared two tables – for men who are and are not legally married.

Results

Table 1 – Correlation links between the frequency of use of emotional and psychological violence and the intensity of negative impact on the personality of men who are officially married (author's table)

Characteristics	Frequency of emotional violence									Frequency of psychological violence							
	NP A	NCB Q	O L	Ro C	UD P	CD C	B	Do M	A L	FCw R	IRD P	CDAR G	UB VS	D M	RO O	D B	TL F
Emotional violence																	
Negative personal assessments (NPA)	1	+						+	+	+	+						+
Negative criticism of business qualities (NCBQ)		1			-	+				+	+			-	+		
Personal insult (PI)			1				-				-	-/+	-			-	

Refusal of communication (RoC)				1									+				
Unwillingness to discuss problems (UDP)					1									+			-
Continuous demand for concessions (CDC)			-		1					+					+		
Blackmailing (B)						1					-					+	
Depreciation of masculinity (DoM)		-					1	+		+	-	+		+			+
Abusive language (AL)		-					1		-	-	-		+			+	
Psychological violence																	
Frequent conflicts without reason (FCwR)								1	+								+
Imposing responsibility for all domestic problems (IRDP)										1			-	+			
Constant demand for an apology										-	1	-				-	

regardless of guilt (CDARG)																
Unpredictability of behavior in various situations (UBVS)												1				
Depreciation of merits, achievements and assistance (DM)													1			I -
Respect only for one's own opinion (ROO)				I -										1		
Demonstrative behavior (DB)															1	
Threats of leaving family (TLF)		I -							I +	I -	I -	I -				1

Annotation to the Table 1:

"+" - positive correlations;

"-" - negative correlations

"I" – the intensity of the negative impact on the emotional sphere

"I + / +" coherence of frequency of use between emotional and psychological abuse and the intensity of negative impact

Table 2 – Correlation links between the frequency of the use of emotional and psychological violence and the intensity of negative impact on the personality of men who are not in official marital relations (author's table)

Characteristics	Frequency of emotional violence										Frequency of psychological violence							
	NP A	NCB Q	O L	Ro C	UD P	CD C	B	Do M	A L	FCw R	IRD P	CDAR G	UBV S	D M	RO O	D B	TL F	
Emotional violence																		
Negative personal assessments (NPA)	1	+	+							+	+	l+/+		l+				
Negative criticism of business qualities (NCBQ)		1						-	-	l +/+	+		l+			l +	+	
Personal insult (PI)	l+		1							+		+				-		
Refusal of communication (RoC)	l+			1									+					
Unwillingness to discuss problems (UDP)					1									+				
Continuous demand for concessions (CDC)						1		-	-						+		-	
Blackmailing (B)							1									+		
Depreciation of masculinity								1	+						-		+	

(DoM)																		
Abusive language (AL)									1		-						-	+
Psychological violence																		
Frequent conflicts without reason (FCwR)										1	+	I+ / +					I+	
Imposing responsibility for all domestic problems (IRDP)										I+	1						I+	-
Constant demand for an apology regardless of guilt (CDARG)	I+										I-	1	I-					
Unpredictability of behavior in various situations (UBVS)	I+												1					
Depreciation of merits, achievements and assistance (DM)														1				
Respect only																	1	-

for one's own opinion (ROO)																	
Demonstrative behavior (DB)																	1
Threats of leaving family (TFA)																	1

Annotation to the Table 2:

"+" - positive correlations;

"-" - negative correlations

"|" – the intensity of the negative impact on the emotional sphere

"| + / +" coherence of frequency of use between emotional and psychological abuse and the intensity of negative impact.

Discussion

As it is shown in Tables 1-2 the most significant connections in terms of the frequency of the use of emotional and psychological violence as for married and unmarried men have negative personal assessments (n = 6) and negative criticism of business qualities (n = 5). At the same time unmarried men, by contrast with married men, have the significant number of connections in case of a constant demand for an apology (n = 4) and depreciation of masculinity (n = 4).

The smallest number of connections as for married and unmarried men has blackmail (n = 1). At another point, there are differences between them, since married men still have the least number of connections in the constant demand for an apology (n = 1), and as for unmarried men there is imposing responsibility for all domestic problems and respect only for one's opinion (n = 1, respectively).

All this testifies to the fact that women use same types of emotional abuse against their men in terms of emotional violence, and different types of abuse in terms of psychological violence. However, unmarried women use the types of psychological violence more flexibly.

There are also differences in the intensity of the negative impact of the frequency of use of emotional and psychological violence.

As for married men, an increase of the negative impact intensity on their personality in case of frequency increase of using an emotional and psychological impact in most cases leads to a decrease in the negative intensity of their types (n = 18) and only in rare cases it leads to the increase (n = 7). On the contrary, it increases (n = 11) and decreases (n = 2) as for unmarried men.

Therefore, men who are not in official relations with their women are more susceptible to the intensity of the negative impact of the frequency of the use of emotional and psychological violence.

As for married men, the amount of intensity of negative impact on their personality, depending on the frequency of use of emotional and psychological violence, is more significant (n = 26) than it is for unmarried men (n = 15). This fact makes us suggest that unmarried men are less susceptible to the frequency of use of emotional and psychological violence by women.

At the same time, unmarried men are more susceptible to such types of violence as negative personal assessment (the amount of negative impact intensity is n = 6), constant demands for apologies (n = 6), and they are less susceptible to refusal of communication n = 1. At another point, married men are more susceptible to depreciation of masculinity (n = 6) and abusive language (n = 6). They are less susceptible to unwillingness to discuss problems, continuous demand for concessions, depreciation of merits, achievements and assistance, respecting only one's own opinion (n = 1 by each position).

At the same time, there is lack of the intensity of negative influence in 3 types of frequency of emotional and psychological violence for married men, and as for unmarried men there is a lack of the intensity in 8 types.

This testifies that there are differences in value orientations in relationships with beloved women. Due to their greater number family values are more clearly expressed by married men.

Along with this, a constant demand for apologies (n = 3) performs the driving force for the development of the intensity of the negative impact on the personality of unmarried men, due to its antagonistic influence. And as for married men these are abusive language (n = 4), the threat of leaving family (n = 4), constant demands for apologies (n = 3), personal insult (n = 2), depreciation of masculinity (n = 2), unwillingness to discuss problems (n = 1), constant demand for concessions (n = 1), depreciation of merits, achievements and assistance (n = 1), respect for only one's own opinion (n = 1).

This allows us to conclude that married men are more vulnerable, and therefore they are more susceptible to psychological trauma caused by emotional and psychological violence used by their beloved women.

Conclusion

This research allows us to come to several conclusions about the prevailing forms of violence used by women against men, the specifics of its impact on the emotional sphere of men both legally married and unmarried.

Married men have 28 connections with the frequency of using emotional and psychological violence, 7 of which are related to emotional violence, and 31 and 6 for unmarried men, respectively. This indicates that the latter are more susceptible to the interrelated negative impact of emotional and psychological violence used by their beloved women.

As for married men, there were 28 connections identified between the frequency of emotional and psychological violence and their intensity of negative impact on the emotional sphere of men, while this indicator is 16 as for unmarried men. Therefore, unmarried men are less susceptible to the frequency and intensity of the negative impact of these forms of violence on their emotional sphere.

Negative personal assessments have the largest number of connections (6) in terms of the frequency of the use of emotional and psychological violence as for both married and unmarried men, respectively, i.e. they take it negatively, they react equally to these forms of violence.

Refusal of communication presents the smallest number of connections in terms of the frequency of using emotional and psychological violence as for married men. And as for unmarried men this indicator refers to the following: personal insult, refusal of communication, a constant demand for an apology regardless of guilt, unpredictability of behavior in various situations. Consequently, the latter are less responsive to these forms of violence.

The greatest number of connections in terms of the intensity of the negative impact on the emotional sphere of married men is caused by the frequency of use of depreciation of masculinity, and among unmarried men it is negative criticism of business qualities. In this regard, married men are more dependent on the assessment of masculinity. Unmarried men are more dependent on the assessment of business qualities by their beloved women.

As for married men, the smallest number of connections was revealed in relation to the use of abusive language and threats of leaving family. At the same time the same indicator was revealed in relation to a constant demand for an apology, regardless of guilt as for unmarried men. All this let us suggest that relationships with their beloved women are more important for married men than for unmarried ones.

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