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The impact of the corona virus disease (COVID-19) on domestic violence in Jordanian society from the point of view of husbands

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to identify the impact of the corona pandemic on domestic violence in Jordanian society from the point of view of the husbands, the study relied on the descriptive analytical approach and a questionnaire was used to collect data and information, which included two dimensions, the first is the level of violence directed by the husband towards the wife, and the second dimension the level of violence directed by the wife towards the husband, in addition to the study of some social variables related to the study, the study sample consisted of (171) in Irbid Governorate in Jordan, The results of the study concluded that the relationship of domestic violence during the Corona pandemic to the wife by the husband was of an average degree, at a rate of 2.42 from the general average as a whole. While the general average of violence directed by the wife towards the husband was (2.25) with a low degree, the results indicated that there were no statistically significant differences at the significance level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) for the estimates of the study sample members for each of the sex, educational level, monthly income and family members.

KEY TERMS: corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19), pandemic, domestic violence, Jordan, husbands, family

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INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence changes in response to social, economic, political, cultural and psychological situations. In 2019, the corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) swept across the entire world and created many social, psychological, family, economic and health crises. Domestic violence was more affected by this pandemic, which led to a high rate of domestic violence in global societies, especially in Jordanian society. The phenomenon of domestic violence during the spread of the COVID-19 disease has affected societies because of the preventive and curative measures taken by governments in applying domestic isolation and closing institutions in all its forms, which created crises in all areas of life, such as the family, which was affected by psychological and social pressures and tensions and the loss of economic security. And that this study seeks to know the factors leading to domestic violence during the period of a comprehensive ban resulting from the Corona pandemic in Jordanian society by the spouses themselves.

BACKGROUND

Study problem

With regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence in the African continent, a study was conducted in 2020 on six African countries in the coast region, it was found that domestic violence, whether physical or verbal, increased by 40.6% before the crisis of COVID-19, to become 52.2% during the pandemic, while Chad recorded an increase of 30%, Senegal 14%, Mali 10%, while Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger recorded an increase of 10% (Justice and dignity for women in the coast region, 2020).

The pandemic has also led to sharp increases in Africa. Through gender data across Africa, it shows the worsening inequality between the two genders in light of COVID-19, which exposes women and girls to a greater risk of violence against women.

In a UN Women 2020 study on the risks of violence against women in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in cases of violence against women by 48% in East Africa (Violence against women and the COVID-19 pandemic in the East African Community, 2020).

Studies also showed that in Kenya, there was a rise in sexual assault cases in several parts of the country, where sexual assaults such as rape and indecent assault accounted for more than 35% of all reported cases, and among the problems that Kenyan society was affected by as a result of the pandemic, teenage pregnancy increased among the clients of the assistance team. In the International Rescue Committee, it almost tripled to reach 625 cases during the year 2020, compared to 226 cases in the same period in the year 2019, and in West Africa, Liberia recorded a 50% increase in violence against women during the year 2020, and there were more than 600 reported cases of rape. Nigeria also increased the rate of reported domestic violence by 56% compared to 2019 (UN Women, 2020).

There is a study conducted in Jordan in 2020 on the impact of the Corona pandemic, the application of home quarantine, and the closure of external activities, institutions, schools and universities, which led to an increase in domestic violence by 35% compared to 2019 (Hadadin, 2020).

However, Samih Al-Majali's 2018 study on violence against women in Jordanian society, and this study resulted in the fact that social violence ranked first with a high percentage, and sexual violence ranked last (Al-Majali, 2018). A study was conducted on identifying the forms of domestic violence against Syrian refugee women in Jordan from the point of view of the Syrian refugee. the study sample consisted of (350) Syrian refugee women in Jordan, and the results indicated that psychological violence came in the first status, then economic violence, while sexual violence came in the last status (Iman, 2020), and in another study by Al-Zaban 2019 on domestic violence and its effects in the Arab Gulf states, and its results are that social factors were more influential than economic factors (Al-Zaban, 2019).

Significance

The research sought to know the impact of the corona COVID-19 pandemic and the preventive and curative measures taken by the governments of the countries of the world in implementing the comprehensive ban, especially in Jordanian society, which resulted in an increase in forms of domestic violence, whether verbal, physical, psychological or sexual, by spouses, studies have proven that the year 2020 witnessed an increase in domestic violence, and this was confirmed by the United Nations Women's Authority by studying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality in the Arab region. In practice, the results of this study may contribute

to planning for the development of preventive, curative and guidance programs that benefit the family in order to reduce the negative effects on the family and society as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

In Cameroon, the rapid spread of the Corona COVID-19 pandemic has become an additional challenge for a country where violence prevails and it faces major humanitarian challenges, especially since most people in Cameroon do not believe in it. The conflicts and wars with neighboring countries make Cameroon one of the main sources of the spread of COVID-19 in West and Central Africa. Where humanitarian organizations and the World Health Organization provided health care by increasing the capacity of hospitals to manage patients infected with the virus and provide care for them, including preventive measures against the virus and the establishment of isolation places, and this led to an increase in domestic violence by 36% and psychological violence by 16.4% (FDA United Nations, 2020).

In South Sudan, national assistance was launched during the Corona COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of UN Women, to reduce the increase in violence against women by linking families with family protection centers and institutions related to violence against women (United Nations Women, 2020)

Al-Mosaed's study (2019) was conducted on violence against girls in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it was concluded that the majority of the sample confirmed the presence of domestic violence in Saudi society at a rate of 33.77%.

Al-Amrawi (2020) study on social distancing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in Algerian society shows a significant increase in aggressive behaviors within the family.

In the Al-Harbi study 2020, it was found that home quarantine and social distancing contribute to increasing feelings of tension and a sense of anxiety and high rates of domestic violence behavior around the world.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CORONA PANDEMIC TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The social, economic, family, cultural, and other areas of social change contributed to the rejection of domestic violence, and the community considered it social behaviors undesirable in society, such as the behavior of insults, beatings, threats, frustration, rape and others (Abuhamari, 2018).

And due to the increase in the rates of violence against the family in recent years, whether globally or in Jordanian society, as the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic was a global epidemic phenomenon that contributed to the increase in violence and aggressive practices, domestic violence is defined as: "Any physical, psychological, or sexual assault or abuse by a family member, relatives, or workers within its scope, towards another individual, such as the wife, children, the elderly, and servants in particular, this includes a threat to their life, their physical, mental, psychological and social health, their money and their honor" (Al-Yousef, 2005).

And that the form of domestic violence at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 appeared in a new way as a result of the emergence of the Covid-2019 virus, which spread throughout the world and across continents, and it quickly spread to the World Health Organization declaring it a pandemic that must be addressed, and this resulted in a comprehensive ban represented in the closure of shops, government and private institutions, schools and universities, banning gathering, resulting in economic, social and psychological disturbances and pressures; Because of the disruption of all aspects of life in all countries of the world and the emergence of feelings of frustration and increased tension due to the circumstances experienced by the family, as the presence of family members inside the home for long periods may strain family relationships and increase psychological pressure between them, and this may turn into violence and psychological and social pressures between them for fear of infection or because of unfamiliar lifestyles caused by the Covid-2019 virus (Bradbury & Isham, 2020).

Despite the lack of studies that dealt with the relationship of disasters, crises and diseases to domestic violence, there are some researchers, such as (Wagers, 2020), he emphasized that the psychological structures of individuals are affected by times of crises and disasters, and remain firmly in their minds for a long time, causing them a state of confusion and trauma. the results of some research and studies related to risks, disasters and the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic have also been reached on the existence of a relationship between exposure to natural disasters, increasing rates of interpersonal violence, suicide, anger, cruelty, and aggressive practices within the family (Sehumaher, 2020), such as Alex and Jordan (Aix & Jordan, 2020) study of natural disasters and their relationship to domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JORDAN DURING THE CORONA PANDEMIC

The spread of COVID-19 in Jordanian society gave rise to a policy of physical distancing and a comprehensive ban on the crime of domestic violence affecting women, children and the entire family, as the Family Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan announced that the rate of domestic violence reached

33% during the Corona Covid-16 pandemic. And many countries of the world announced an increase in cases of domestic violence in light of this pandemic, especially the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, for example, in Kenya, cases of sexual assault and sexual crimes increased by more than 35% (United Nations Women, April, 2020). In Algeria, the incidence of female murder increased with a murder every 3-4 days (Bin Said, 2018). Jordanian society is indivisible from the countries of the world, as it considered that health and the citizen are above all considerations, especially on the economic situation by following the policy of physical distancing. comprehensive and home ban procedures, closing borders, land and air crossings, airports, and closing industrial activities (Economic and Social Council, 2020), And the economic effects on working men and women, especially those with low wages and small businesses due to their layoffs from projects with high vulnerability, and the social effects that caused the interruption of assistance about some families who received aid from relatives and friends humanitarian and charitable associations (Al Harbi, 2020).

Types of domestic violence

Violence may occur from the husband or one of the parents against the children, or vice versa, and it may be physical or moral violence, or both mean and there are forms of violence Such as verbal, moral, physical, sexual, and economic violence (Bin Said, 2018). and practices of forms of violence within the family may result in a number of effects, the most important of which are (Al-Saghir, 2012) the occurrence of divorce, family disintegration and deviations in the behavior of children, Lack of feelings of security and psychological and social security within family members, juvenile delinquency, social isolation, bullying, homelessness, and disintegration in social relationships, the homelessness of children and their indulging in aggressive behaviors that violate the law and social values, such as drugs, drinking alcohol, theft, and others.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Study Mesmar (2021) aimed to know the role of the Corona pandemic in perpetrating crimes of domestic violence in Jordanian society, and to explain the reasons behind its perpetration, the researcher used the descriptive analytical method, and the questionnaire as a tool for collecting information, and the study sample consisted of (500) respondents, the results of the study concluded that the dimension of social effects ranked first, and the dimension of economic effects ranked second.

Study Xue et al (2020). Aimed to provide a broad analysis on domestic violence and the Covid 19 epidemic. The study used the analytical method in collecting and analyzing study data, where the data available on the social networking program Twitter was used, and more than one million tweets related to domestic violence and Covid 19 were analyzed, from April 12 to July 16, 2020. a machine learning approach was used, and prominent topics and tweets related to these topics were identified. The results of the study showed: an increase in the number of domestic violence cases and in the reception of emergency calls during the Covid 19 pandemic, It was found that the most common types of domestic violence during the pandemic were child abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse. amber study (2020) aimed to know the reality of violence against women and children, and the impact of the social and economic situation on the increase in cases of violence, the results of the study showed that among the most important causes of domestic violence are: economic insecurity and pressures related to poverty, quarantine and social isolation, reduced availability of health services.

Study of the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development of the African Union Commission, (2020) This study aimed to identify the phenomenon of violence against women in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, the study, which was conducted in six countries in the Sahel region, showed that domestic violence, whether physical or spatial, increased by 40.6 before the COVID-19 crisis, reaching 52.2 percent during the pandemic, with an increase rate of 40.6 percent, 12%, where Chad, Senegal and Mali each registered increases of 30%, 14% and 10%, respectively, while Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger recorded 10% (Bisha, 2020)

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

Study questions

What is the level of domestic violence from the husband's point of view towards his wife during the COVID-19?
What is the level of domestic violence from the wife's point of view towards her husband during the COVID-19?

Study methodology

The researcher followed the descriptive analytical method, and this method was used to study the relationship of the Corona pandemic with domestic violence in Jordanian society during the period of the comprehensive ban. due to its suitability for such type of studies.

Study community

The study population consisted of the residents of Irbid Governorate, which numbered (2003,800) for the year 2021, for the purposes of this study, the available sample was selected due to the conditions of the Corona pandemic and in compliance with the defense laws applied by the Jordanian government, and for this reason, technological techniques were used on the Internet, especially e-mail and social networking sites (WhatsApp, Facebook) and electronically packaged. The study sample consisted of (171) individuals from the Irbid governorate.

Study tool

The researcher used the questionnaire as a tool for collecting information and data related to this study; It fits with the nature of the study in terms of its objectives, methodology, and its ability to collect data, information and facts. The questionnaire in its final form included (30) paragraphs, divided into two dimensions (the first dimension: husbands practice domestic violence against their wives by (15) paragraphs, the second dimension: wives practice domestic violence against their husbands by (15) paragraphs. the scale was designed with a five-step gradation (to a very large degree, to a large degree, to a medium degree, to a weak degree, to a very weak degree) and numerical scores were given, respectively: (5, 4, 3, 2, 1).

Instrument scale validity

To verify the validity of the study tool, the Face Validity method was adopted, and the tool was presented in its initial form to (12) specialized arbitrators in Jordanian universities, and their observations and opinions were taken about the validity of the paragraphs. It was also applied to an exploratory sample of (25) individuals from the study population.

Tool stability

To ensure the stability of the study tool, the equation of stability of the tool Cronbach Alpha was applied on all axes of the study tool and the tool as a whole. and the values of the internal consistency coefficients according to Cronbach's alpha equation for the tool as a whole amounted to (0.935), for the first dimension it amounted to (0.901), and for the second dimension it amounted to (0.936), and these values indicate the validity of the tool and its suitability for this study.

Statistical processing

The researcher used a set of statistical treatments that fit with the objectives of the study, where he used the Pearson correlation coefficient and Cronbach's α equation to verify its stability, and the frequencies and percentages were used to distribute the study sample according to its variables. Arithmetic means and standard deviations were calculated for the responses of the sample members studying.

RESULTS

The social and demographic data of the study sample members

Table 1: Distribution of study sample members according to demographic variables

Variable	Classification	Iteration	Percentage%
Sex	Male	44	25.7
	Female	127	74.3
	Total	171	100.0
Educational level	High school.	18	10.5
	Diploma	14	8.2
	Bachelor	69	40.4
	Graduate	70	40.9
	Total	171	100%
Monthly income	Less than 500 dinars	59	34.5
	501-1000 dinars	64	37.4
	1001-1500 DINARS	18	10.5
	1501-2000 DINARS	11	6.4
	More than 2000 dinars	19	11.1
	Total	171	100.0

Table 1 shows that the majority of the study sample members are females, with a percentage of (74.3%), while the percentage of males was (25.7%). It also shows the percentage of the study sample according to the educational level variable for the category (postgraduate studies) with a percentage of (40.9%), while the lowest percentage (8.2%) for the age group (diploma), while the percentage of the study sample according to the income variable for the category (600-600) 1000 dinars) was a percentage of (34.5%), while the lowest percentage (6.4%) was for the category of monthly income level (1501-2000 dinars).

Second: The level of domestic violence from the husband's point of view towards the wife during the Corona pandemic

Table 2: Arithmetic averages of the level of domestic violence from the point of view of the husband towards the wife

Paragraph No.	Paragraphs	Arithmetic medium	Standard deviation	Rank	Degree of strength
1	Increased nervousness.	2.93	1.47	1	Medium
2	Increased tension.	2.88	1.47	2	
3	Increased verbal altercations.	2.78	1.48	3	
4	Increased quarrels for reasons that are not important.	2.71	1.50	4	
5	Increased anger and blame for bouts of violence.	2.68	1.52	5	
9	Increase mockery and use obscene words.	2.33	1.45	9	Low
10	Increased threat of divorce.	2.22	1.50	10	
11	Increased threat of physical harm.	2.15	1.43	11	
12	Increase the prevention of communication with those close to even over the phone.	2.15	1.44	11	
Total dimension		2.42	1.31	-	Medium

It appears from Table 2 that the general arithmetic average as a whole was (2.42), with a medium degree. Also, the arithmetic averages of paragraphs after violence directed by husbands towards their wives during the period

of the comprehensive ban during the Corona pandemic ranged between (2.15 - 2.93) and came to a medium degree, except for (7) paragraphs that came at a low degree.

Third: The level of domestic violence from the wife's point of view towards her husband during the Corona pandemic

Table No. (3): Arithmetic averages of the level of domestic violence from the point of view of the wife towards the husband

Paragraph No.	Paragraphs	Arithmetic medium	Standard deviation	Rank	Level
1	Increased tension.	2.64	1.49	1	Medium
2	Increased verbal altercations.	2.54	1.50	2	
3	Increased quarrels.	2.46	1.47	3	
4	Increasing the cyclostic and imposing opinion.	2.43	1.48	4	
5	increase indifference to the feelings of the other party.	2.43	1.49	5	
8	Increase insult and mockery of your appearance, intelligence, or interests.	2.29	1.46	8	Low
9	Increase the divorce application.	2.24	1.53	9	
10	More than you call the other party's people bad.	2.22	1.45	10	
11	Increase the threat of harm with a sharp object.	2.20	1.39	11	
12	Increase the use of insults.	2.14	1.44	12	
Total dimension		2.25	1.29	-	Medium

Show from the table Number (3) The general arithmetic average as a whole was (2.25) and at a low degree. Also, the arithmetic averages of the items after wives towards their husbands during the period of the comprehensive ban during the Corona pandemic ranged between (2.14-2.64) came to a medium degree, except for (5) items that came at a low degree.

DISCUSSION

The results showed that the arithmetic average of the level of violence directed by the husband towards his wife during the corona pandemic amounted to (2.40) at a medium degree, where the items represented by nervousness, tension, verbal altercations, quarrels, anger, control and threat formed at a rate ranging (2.93-2.36).

This confirms that the husband is the owner of authority and decision within the family, and that the Corona pandemic has played an important role in psychological pressures, quarrels, tension and nervousness among family members as a result of frustration and psychological pressures, not adapting to the comprehensive ban of the Corona pandemic.

As for the level of violence directed by the wife towards the husband, it reached a mean (2.25) with a low degree. As for the social variables, the study showed that the sex variable as a whole amounted to (1.686) and with a statistical significance (0.093), which is a non-statistically significant value at the significance level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$), which indicates that there are no differences in the arithmetic averages of the estimates of the sample members, and this explains that the relationship of the Corona pandemic to domestic violence generally affected everyone without regard to gender.

As for the educational level as a whole, it amounted to (2.251) and with a statistical significance (0.082), which is a non-statistically significant value at the significance level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$). this indicates that there are no differences in the arithmetic averages of the estimates of the sample members. this result is attributed to the fact that the educational level of either the husband or the wife plays an important role in how to deal with social problems and domestic violence, as the low level of education may lead the husband and wife to lose the method of dialogue and discussion with each other, while the higher the educational level, the more it contributes to reducing domestic violence and the problems faced by the family.

As for the level of monthly income as a whole, it amounted to (4,362) and with a statistical significance (0.002), which is a statistically significant value at the significance level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$). this indicates that there are statistically significant differences and the presence of differences in the arithmetic averages of the estimates of the sample members, and the differences were in favor of less than (500) dinars, with an arithmetic mean of (2.79). this is due to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, which economically affected families with limited income, which led to an increase in domestic violence within the family due to the increase in the financial pressures that they are going through.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhancing the role of families to reduce conflicts and domestic violence through meaningful dialogue between the family and the children of the family.
2. Activating the role of religious institutions such as mosques, churches, associations and religious centers to raise awareness in reducing the phenomenon of domestic violence.
3. Activating the role of community institutions and civil organizations to spread awareness and the culture of family dialogue between spouses, such as various media outlets and social, cultural and educational institutions to reduce the risks of domestic violence because of its positive effects on community cohesion and cohesion.
4. Work to find purposeful educational and community institutions and associations that support families in terms of economic, psychological and social aspects, which in turn work on the cohesion of the family and society and reduce crimes of domestic and community violence.

CONCLUSION

In the conclusion of this research, in which we dealt with an important issue of knowing the effects of the Corona COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence from the point of view of spouses, where we concluded that the pandemic played a major role in increasing rates of violence and family crimes, through the study that relied on the descriptive analytical approach to collect data and information accordingly, we may recommend awareness and guidance spouses have to be patient and bear the problems they face during the crises that the family is going through as a result of political, economic and social changes, And others. We also emphasize to researchers the possibility of writing research related to the topic from different aspects.

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