

# The Knowledge of Social Work Students about Domestic Violence

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**Abstract**— Domestic violence can be defined as an abuse of power by spouse especially husband which is attempting to control or dominate his partner. The main purpose of this study is to identify the knowledge of social work students on domestic violence. A total of 300 students from 19 to 26 years old were selected as respondents. This study used descriptive analysis by reporting the results of the study in terms of frequency and percentage to determine the level of knowledge of social work students on domestic violence. The research instrument used was a questionnaire. The results showed that out of 300 undergraduates surveyed, the majority of social work students have knowledge of domestic violence by recording a high percentage of each question, which is 50% and above. From this studies, it was found that the student gained the knowledge regarding the domestic violence through mass media and attended the seminar organized by the local community. Therefore, these studies have demonstrated that the students gained the knowledge of domestic violence as well as information is needed to ensure social work students can work professionally with the victims that are facing domestic violence.

**Keywords**— Knowledge, Domestic Violence, Social Work, Online Survey, Student

## I. INTRODUCTION

Generally, legitimate families are formed on the basis of marriage and associated with family relationships or love married. Meanwhile, [1], defines the family as a whole family of husbands and wives alone or with children. According to [2] defines the family as a social unit consisting of father, mother, and child and most importantly is the existence of a particular relationship with the social group [3]. This institution is named as a household. Households are the first stage of community formation [4]. Households are formed through marriages that are subject to certain rules for every religion (Dugan, 2003). Marriage will form a small family institution consisting of spouses, parents, and children [4]. Families are often portrayed idealized as a source of happiness, safety, excitement, support, protection, strife and contradiction in daily life [5].

In addition, domestic violence is defined as a physical, mental, verbal, sexual, and physical abuse that results in physical effects, damage, and physical suffering [6]. Violence is also meant by acts of tyranny intended to hurt the victim and the abusive torture of the victim [7]. The study by [8] states that violence is a form of behavior, the abusive habits committed by a person beyond transcendent compassion with the intention of dominating, influencing, and forcing women

[9]. Domestic violence is also defined as sexual and physical abuse committed by the husband to their own wives and children [5]. Physical abuse involves kicking, slapping, igniting hot objects such as iron and cigarettes to the body and hitting them using hard objects such as belts and wood. It happens when both spouses cannot solve a problem by diplomacy [10]. The fate begins to cause the husband to take action to witch his wife. Torture victims, not only suffer from serious mental disorders such as feelings of pressure resulting from the act but also affect the health of the victims [11]. Among the effects received are body bumps, wounds, skin burns, and death-related cases.

According to [12], domestic violence means acts of violence against couples or former couples, as well as family members living with abusers. It comprises physical assaults and sexual harassment, speech violence (verbal and confrontational), intimidation, disorder or emotion, and financial neglect. Domestic violence that happens repeatedly makes the victim in a traumatic state even after divorce. In the context of this study, domestic violence involves the physical, mental, emotional, sexual and spiritual abuse of women or wives during the marriage period [13]. This is because young couples today lack knowledge in handling family systems and are not willing to live in pairs.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *A pattern of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence is a behavior that demonstrates the intent to exercise physical and mental power to threaten or harm others, or infringe personal rights physically, verbally, mentally or sexually by force, threaten, hit, kick, punch, and impede the right of liberty in public life or person. This can result in physical and mental suffering for the victims [14]. Domestic violence is an incident occurring between family members, couples inside and outside the home such as violence against children, wives and parents in order to physically, mentally, emotionally and emotionally damage their health, rights, and freedom [15].

### *Types of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence can be classified according to action into three types [16]. The first type is physical violence. Violence refers to the use of force or tools as a weapon to hurt the victims as rejects, slaps, strikes, punches, pubs, squeezes,

throws things, and injuries with weapons or sharp objects. The second type is a mental malignancy. Mental violence refers to an act or failure to act that causes verbal grief or loss of victim's rights or freedoms or through gestures and actions such as insulting, mocking, scolding, screaming, embarrassing, threatening and showing anger. The third type is sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to the occurrence of a husband abusing his wife, a father abusing his child. This action is usually a sexual assault or sex-related offense. For example, a husband uses physical energy to engage in sexual intercourse with his wife in a way he dislikes or the husband sells his wife in force [17].

### *The Impact of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence poses a huge economic burden to society in the expenditure for medical care and social welfare[26]. The quarrels between husbands and wives can affect children mentally and emotionally and influence their learning [18]. Domestic violence has had many negative effects on various parties. These cases will result in the breakdown of families and children [19]. Usually, these children will lose affection from their parents causing the children to be depressed, lacking self-confidence, and will take an easy way to solve such suicidal problems[27]. In addition, they also have the possibility of expressing their feelings by bullying people, beating people, drug abuse and gambling [20][28]. The study also found that children from families with problems of domestic violence are more courageous, involved in drug addiction, steal and act injuring others [21][29].

## III. METHODOLOGY

### *Instrument*

This study is a quantitative research. Therefore, the researcher uses a questionnaire as a survey method. The questionnaire was aimed at identifying the level of knowledge of UniSZA social worker students on domestic violence.

The questionnaire used in this study was a question of Likert scale and contained 11 items using 4 sets of responses. This set of responses to see how far the level of knowledge of respondents is about domestic violence. Therefore, the set of responses is from very disagree = 1 to very agree = 4 as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Reaction Set

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree Strongly	Agree
1	2	3	4

In addition, the questionnaires comprising 11 items are as follows:

1. A husband who forces a wife to have sex is a crime according to law.
2. Domestic violence is an issue related to mental health.

3. The social work knowledge and skills learned at UniSZA is enough for me to work with clients involved in the issue of domestic violence.
4. I need more social work knowledge and skills to work with clients involved in domestic violence issues.
5. Clients experiencing domestic violence need a trained and professional social worker.
6. Clients who have problems with domestic violence DO NOT require social workers or individuals who are knowledgeable and highly skilled and specifically to assist them (Anyone can solve their problems).
7. I have a source of help and protection to help clients involved in the problem of domestic violence in my placement area.
8. I know the party that needs to be referred to if the client involved in the problem of domestic violence wants help or assistance.
9. I will use written protocols or procedures to work with clients involved in the issue of domestic violence.
10. I learned how to provide safety planning for clients involved in domestic violence.
11. I have learned how to assess potential risks/dangers to victims of domestic violence.

### *Data Analysis*

Researchers have analyzed data using descriptive analysis by reporting frequencies and percentages to get the overall outcome of respondents' knowledge of domestic violence.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The number of respondents was 300, where respondents were female (83%), while men (17%) (Figure 1). Respondents were aged between 19 years to 26 years old. At the age of 21, most respondents were surveyed at a percentage rate of 28% (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Gender

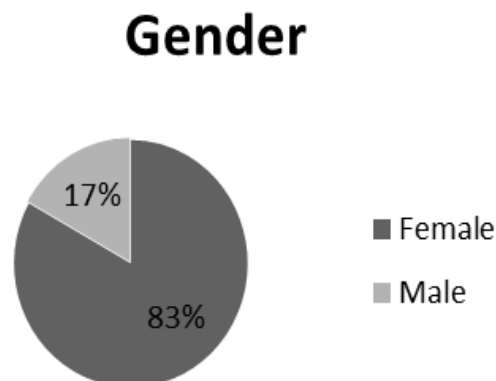
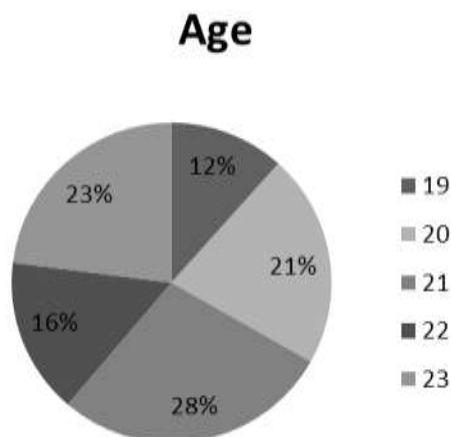


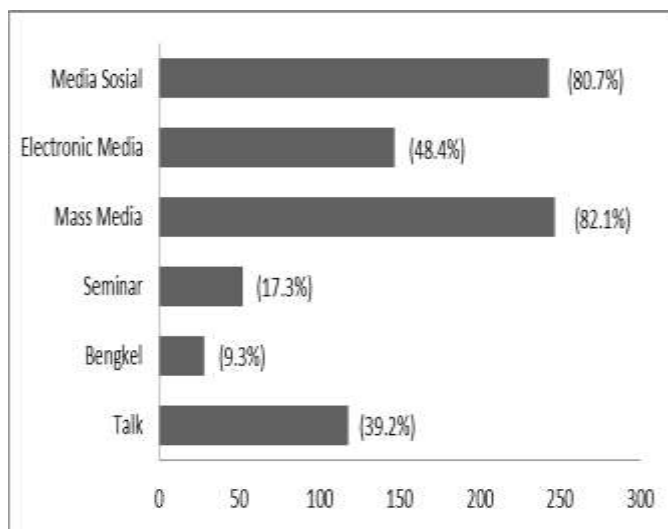
Figure 2: Age



#### A. Obtain information/knowledge on issues of domestic violence from outside sources

Figure 3 displays the highest percentage, 82.1% states that respondents get information or knowledge about domestic violence from Mass Media sources. In addition, the second highest percentage was 80.7% of Social Media. The third highest percentage is 48.8% of the Electronic Media source. This shows that the respondents who are able to answer this questionnaire to know the information and they have a good knowledge of domestic violence from various sources and forms.

Figure 3: Obtain information/knowledge on issues of domestic violence from outside sources



#### B. Respondents' Knowledge of Domestic Violence

Table 2 shows the knowledge of respondents regarding domestic violence. The results showed that majority respondents had knowledge about the issue of domestic violence. This is because the results of the study have a high

percentage of each question, which is 50% and above. Most of the respondents think that victims who suffer from domestic violence need a professional social worker (98.7%). The second highest percentage was that respondents needed more knowledge and social work skills to work with victims involved in domestic violence (97.3%). Respondents also considered domestic violence as an issue related to mental health (92.7%). The findings of this study are in line with a study at Louisiana State University on the knowledge of the readiness of social work students to help victims experiencing domestic violence problems [22]. The study says that some social work students have knowledge of the type of domestic violence, according to criminal law [22]. The results of the study show that social work students have knowledge of the issue of domestic violence [22].

In addition, this study is in conflict with the study conducted by [23] titled "Social Work Response to Domestic Violence: Encouraging News from New Look". The findings show that respondents are less knowledgeable about the issue of domestic violence because they do not know the best way to help survivors who suffer from malignancies [23].

Table 2: Respondents' Knowledge of Domestic Violence

No.	Items	F	%
1.	Husbands who force the wife to have sex is a crime according to law.	185	61.7
2.	Domestic violence is an issue related to mental health.	278	92.7
3.	The social work knowledge and skills learned at UniSZA is enough for me to work with clients involved in domestic violence issues.	164	54.7
4.	I need more knowledge and social work skills to work with Victims involved in domestic violence issues.	292	97.3
5.	Victims who experience domestic violence need a trained and professional social worker.	296	98.7
6.	Victims who are experiencing domestic violence problems DO NOT require social workers or individuals who are knowledgeable and highly skilled and dedicated to assisting them (Anyone can solve their problems).	53	17.7
7.	I have a source of help and protection to help victims involved in the problem of domestic violence in my placement area.	154	51.3
8.	I know the party that needs to be referred to if the victim involved in the problem of domestic violence wants help or help.	249	83.0
9.	I will use written protocols or procedures to work with victims involved in domestic violence issues.	275	91.7
10.	I learned how to provide security planning for victims involved in domestic violence.	250	83.3
11.	I have learned how to assess potential risks/dangers to victims of domestic violence.	256	85.3

#### V. CONCLUSION

Domestic violence is an issue that needs to be addressed to every society, especially social worker. In this issue, social work students need to have more knowledge by reading issues related to domestic violence to help victims who are

experiencing the problem. The act relating to domestic violence need to be tightened so that the issue can be reduced.

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