

## **Investigating the experience of domestic violence and evaluating the awareness and attitude of urban women towards domestic violence in Ardabil in 2021**

### **Abstract:**

**Background:** Domestic violence is the most common form of violence against women, which has a negative impact on other important health priorities such as maternal health, family planning, disease prevention, and mental health.

**Aim:** The present study was conducted with the aim of determining the prevalence of domestic violence among married women living in Ardabil and determining the level of awareness and attitude of volunteers towards domestic violence.

**Materials and methods:** The present study was a cross-sectional descriptive study in which 300 married women aged 15 to 65 who referred to the health network of Ardabil city were examined. The information required for the study was collected using checklists that examined the previous experience of domestic violence, the attitude and awareness of people towards domestic violence, and was subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS version 22 statistical software. .

**Results:** The average age of the participants was  $32.43 \pm 10.36$  years and the average length of marriage of the volunteers was  $11.8 \pm 9.49$  years. Most of the participants had university education (45.3%) and were generally housewives (75.3%). About two-thirds of all participants (70.7 percent) were married traditionally and without prior acquaintance. Volunteers who have experienced physical violence at least once varied from 2% (in relation to being wounded by a knife or gun) to 18.3% (in relation to being slapped by a spouse) in different items. The attitude and awareness of the candidates were analyzed by education level, type of marriage and employment status, and in both cases of awareness and attitude, there was a significant difference in the distribution of the opinions of the candidates. And the attitude of the volunteers towards domestic violence was considered effective.

**Conclusion:** Considering the results obtained, the prevalence of domestic violence (physical and non-physical) among married women living in Ardabil is significant, so it can be concluded that there is insufficient awareness and training related to how to deal with and prevent domestic violence. Therefore, it is recommended to organize planning at different management levels to eliminate this social anomaly.

**Key words:** domestic violence, attitude, awareness, Ardabil