

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN TURKEY: AN EXAMPLE OF AĞRI PROVINCE

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Abstract

This study examines the profiles of the victims of domestic violence in Ađrı province in Turkey. In this regard, the study focuses on the ages of women victims, the number of years of their marriage, having a job or not, and having marriage contract or not. Looking at the stories of women victims during the filling a complaint against their abuser, what they did following the domestic violence, and if they demand for government protection, this study explores the issues on domestic violence.

Within the scope of the study, total of 62 files for domestic violence victims who made a complaint at a police station are examined. The profile of domestic violence victims are analyzed in a descriptive way. This study showed that women ages between 20-30 are the most common ages for being exposed to domestic violence, most of them who applied to the police station later got divorced, and lastly, most of these women don't know their rights and what to do.

Keywords: *Domestic Violence, Ađrı, Marriage, Women*

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TÜRKİYE'DE AİLE İÇİ ŞİDDET : AĞRI İLİ ÖRNEĞİ

Özet

Bu çalışma Ağrı ilinde aile içi şiddete maruz kalmış kadınların profilini incelemektedir. Bu bağlamda, kadınların yaşları, kaç yıllık evli oldukları, resmi nikahlarının bulunup bulunmadığı gibi değişkenler aracılığıyla şiddete maruz kalan kadınların öne çıkan özellikleri saptanmaya çalışılmaktadır. Şiddet mağdurlarının emniyete yaptıkları şikayet başvurusunda anlattıklarına, şiddete uğradıktan sonra ne yaptıklarına ve devletten koruma isteyip istemediklerine bakılarak kadınlara karşı şiddet olgusu betimsel olarak analiz edilmektedir.

Bu çalışma kapsamında, 2011-2012 yılları arasında aile içi şiddete uğramış ve emniyete şikayet başvurusunda bulunmuş 62 kadının dosyaları incelenmiştir. Şiddet gören kadınların profili betimsel yöntemle analiz edilmiştir. Bu çalışmada, 20-30 yaş arası kadınların daha çok şiddetle karşılaştıkları, aile içi şiddetten dolayı polise başvuran kadınların çoğunun daha sonra boşandıkları ve son olarak, çoğu kadının doğuştan sahip oldukları haklarının neler olduğunu ve şiddete maruz kaldıklarında ne yapmaları gerektiğini bilmedikleri görülmüştür.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Aile İçi Şiddet, Ağrı, Evlilik, Kadın

1. INTRODUCTION

Violence is a phenomenon that can be seen in all the fields of human life. “Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation” (World Health Organization, 2013).

Violence is defined by Elliot et al (1998) as the threat or use of physical force with the intention of causing physical injury, damage, or intimidation of another person. Elliot et al (1998) continues that violence includes shoving, punching, hitting, and throwing objects when the intent is to harm or intimidate another human being.

Belkin and Goodman (1980) also stated that domestic violence is defined as a family member's being exposed to physical violence by another family member. According to World Health Organization's 2002 report, it was identified as violence is mostly seen within family environment and toward women.

It is also a growing and serious social problem of the world. Recent statistics indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Worldwide, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner (Violence against Women, 2013).

Domestic violence is a serious problem for our society as well. Based on our socio-cultural instruction domestic violence is a phenomenon that nobody wants to inter-

vene and do something about it. It is like a double edged sword. Deciding to conceal or reveal the problem is very difficult because nobody knows which one is the best way to solve the problem and is sure about the possible results of the action.

During my stay in Ağrı and work at the university there, I happen to see the desperation of girls and women about their future and for the time they live. I realized that there is a vicious circle like a chicken and egg situation. Women receive death threat if they report on their victimization to the police and men take courage from the fear of women. Domestic violence as a vicious circle starts to turn around and you do not know why domestic violence happens either because women fear and do not seek their rights or men get angry since women protest against themselves. Nevertheless, the desperation of girls and women in Ağrı province motivates me to make this study and understand the features of women who have been exposed to domestic violence.

Eventually, this study aims to explore the profiles of women who have been exposed to domestic violence. First, this study focuses on types and reasons of domestic violence. Second, it explores the studies done on domestic violence around the world and in Turkey. It continues with the method section. In method section, rationale for the study, research questions, sample, data collection and analysis will be presented. Results of the study and discussion will be the last part of the study.

1.1 TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The most common type of violence is domestic violence. Violence toward women is a common phenomenon in the world and in every culture without looking at its education, development level and geographical position. Even though domestic violence is common and serious still it is not well identified due to its being a covert issue (Guler et al., 2005)

Some kinds of behaviors in any relationship which applied to gain or sustain power and control over an intimate partner can be defined as domestic violence. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions toward another person. Any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone are called as domestic abuse. Domestic violence can happen among couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Thus, domestic violence can be seen at all socioeconomic and educational levels (Prime Minister's Institution of Family Research, 1995).

Robert Audi concurs that violence, in addition to physical attack, can be 'highly vigorous psychological abuse of, or the sharp, caustic psychological attack upon, a person or animal...' (Audi, 1971, p.33). Psychological harm, in contrast to physical injury,

is usually much more difficult to diagnose; physical injury is more readily observable and measurable than psychological harm, which would differ personally with the individual. Moreover, criteria for physical harm are more generally agreed on by authorities than that referring to psychological harm.

According to Aksoy et al. (1999), in forensics course notes, domestic violence is generally examined within four subcategories such as; *Physical violence*: Type of violence that includes behaviors like beating, slapping, kicking and burning. In this type men mostly beat up women physically. *Sexual Violence*: A type of violence applied due to sexual motivation. This is having a sexual intercourse without women's desire. *Psychological Abuse*: A type of violence that includes behaviors such as not showing love, contempt, always criticizing, envy and refusal. This type is mostly seen with physical or sexual violence. It can also be seen alone. It can be seen as contempt, shouting, saying her being inadequate, and not being unequal to a task, not being able to raise her kids, envy at pathological level, threatening, not believing and researching what she is doing. *Economic Abuse*: It can be seen mostly on old people. Directing someone's money and not allowing one's earning money or belongings. As a domestic violence type it is disposing working women's money.

1.2. REASONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

People who apply violence to their partners and people who are under risk of being abused mostly have violence experiences in their previous lives. As Altınay and Arat (2007) found that the most important factor affected women's being victimized of domestic violence is her own mother's being beaten by her own father. These women are twice more under risk than other women. In short, being witnessed of violence during childhood affects the probability of men's using violence toward their wives and a woman's being abused. This finding of Altınay and Arat (2007), which is called as "violence cycle" in international literature, shows parallelism with studies done in other countries such as Tjaden & Thoennes (2000); UNICEF (2000); and Heise & Garcia-Moreno (2002).

Another reason of domestic violence is alcohol and drug addiction. People who are addicted to use alcohol and drugs are more prone to use violence toward people around them. These people mostly have personality disorders and psychiatric disease (Aksoy et al., 1999).

Factors related to environmental stress plays important role on domestic violence. These are economic stress, work stress, unemployment, social isolation and living in big families. Economic stress is one of the most defined reasons of domestic violence. If a family is having economic problems these people especially men will be under

stress of survival. As normal, this will lead depression and violence among family members. Another reason mostly repeated in previous studies is living in big families especially with mother in law (Aksoy et al., 1999).

Vahip and Doganavsargil (2006) compared women who are living with their mother in law to women who are living in nuclear family. They found that domestic violence among women living with their mother in law are more common than women living in nuclear family. Prime Ministry Turkish Institution of Family Research (1998) stated that violence increases when families grow especially problems within bride and mother in law create traditional bride and mother in law problems and this leads to conflict between spouses.

Contrast to male dominant marriages which are more open to domestic violence, domestic violence is less common in equality marriages. This means in male dominant cultures and societies domestic violence is more common and it is mostly seen as normal.

Women's earning more money than their husbands is another reason of domestic violence. Women's earning more money causes at least twice more risk for physical violence. As Aksoy et al (1999) stated every three out of ten women in this situation are exposed to physical violence. The situation physical violence is seen at minimum level is that both spouses have equal earning.

Studies done in other countries showed that women being isolated especially from their close environment and domestic violence had a close relationship. Physical and social isolation mostly accompany with physical violence (UNICEF 2000; Johnson 1998). In Turkey, in marriages occurred without families'approval, women usually leave alone and must live without family support. Thus, this situation makes women more prone to expose domestic violence.

1.3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AROUND THE WORLD AND IN TURKEY

Several studies on domestic violence have been done for the last 15-20 years around the world. According to World Health Organization report "in 48 population-based surveys from around the world, between 10% and 69% of women reported being physically assaulted by an intimate male" (Krug et al., 2002, p.90). A woman is beaten every 15 seconds (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1991). Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence (U.S. Department of Justice, December 2006).

Even though domestic violence is being common in Turkey and is a serious problem

of the world, there have been very few studies done on domestic violence in Turkey. It is also difficult to deal with the problem of domestic violence since most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police (Frieze & Browne, 1989).

In Turkey, especially after 1980s, campaigns on struggle with domestic violence have been started. The first campaign started 17 May 1987 on this issue was “No Beating” (Yildirim, 1998, p. 38-39). To protect women who face with domestic violence, in 1998 a law was made and this law no. 4320 “Law on Family Protection” which was reorganized in 2007 became a milestone for domestic violence struggle (National Action Plan on Fight against Domestic Violence toward Women, 2007-2010).

To annihilate domestic violence, in our country, Turkey, studies have been compounded in recent years. Prime Ministry circular (with publishing number of 2006/17), struggle with domestic violence became a government policy. With this circular, A National Action Plan was presented. The aim of this action plan was to annihilate all kinds of violence against women in our country, to put necessary precautions into practice with cooperation of all parties (National Action Plan on Fight Against Domestic Violence Toward Women, 2007-2010). Though many campaigns and programs were conducted domestic violence or violence against women is growing in Turkey.

PIAR-GALLUP Company’s study can be accepted as the first study done on domestic violence in Turkey in 1990. The name of the study was “Women’s Problems and Expectations”. The results of the study showed that %11 of married women argues with their husbands and %18 of these women were beaten by their husbands (Kocacik & Caglayandereli, 2009).

In 1990, Sahika Yuksel did a study with 140 women who consulted Istanbul University Health Center for psychological consultation. According to the results of this study, %57 of these women was beaten by their husbands (Yuksel, 1993, p. 43). This study was the first study on psychological effects of violence done in Turkey. Another study called “Violence against Women in a Family and Women Delinquency” showed that %21,2 women stated that they were beaten by their husbands (Icli, 1995).

Pınar Ilkcaracan and Leyla Gulcur conducted a study both in Berlin and Ankara called “Violence against Women in a Family”. In Ankara, the most common violence was psychological violence and second one was physical violence with the rate of %39 (Ilkcaracan & Gulcur, 1996). Another database was gathered from MORCATI Women Shelter and Solidarity Foundation. According to these, %87,6 of 550 women, who applied to them for the last three years, faced with physical violence. %30,8 of them faced with emotional violence while %16,6 faced with sexual violence (1996).

In a case study done in Turkey in 1997, 10% women (3,5% often and 6,5% sometimes)

stated that they have been beaten by their husbands, it has been determined that 2,1% men often and 1,2% men sometimes have been exposed to physical violence by their wives. Gulcur (1999) identified that women's 89% were exposed to psychological violence, among these women 39% were exposed to physical violence, 15,7% were forced sex and 5,2% were threatened with economic constrictions.

A study done with married women who applied to Sivas Cumhuriyet University Medical Faculty Psychiatry Clinic exposed the existence of domestic violence in Turkey and this was hidden by women. A study with 300 women, applied to the clinic, done a study on domestic violence. Study showed that these women, ages between 16-59, were exposed to violence as follows; %57 physical, %36 emotional, %32 economic, %30,7 sexual and %29,3 verbal (Akyuz et.al, 2002,p. 43-46).

The above studies were small scale studies done in Turkey. There were two nationwide studies in Turkey. These were Prime Ministry Institution of Family Research (1998) and Altınay and Arat (2007) studies. In a study done by Prime Ministry Institution of Family Research showed that 34% physical violence and 53% verbal violence occurred within families (Prime Minister's Institution of Family Research, 1998). The other study showed that one out of every two women who have been victims of domestic violence (in eastern part two out of every three women) is trying to deal with violence alone they are faced with. Also, they cannot share this with anybody (Altınay & Arat, 2007). In the same study, the rates of women who were exposed to domestic violence once in her lifetime were %35 in Turkey and %40 in East part of Turkey. Studies show that domestic violence is more common in Eastern parts of Turkey.

This study was conducted in Ağrı province of Turkey. Ağrı is a province in eastern Turkey, bordering Iran to the east. There were 8 districts, 12 municipals and 568 villages in Ağrı province. According to the 2012 address-based population registration system, population of Ağrı is 552 404. People's living is based on agriculture and husbandry. %80 of area is not suitable for planting, thus people mostly earn money from husbandry in Ağrı. Based on 2011-2012 net migration flow, Ağrı is the most emigrant city in Turkey with the rate of thousandth (-27,02). 2012-2013 academic year schooling rates for primary school children were at %99,31 level, however, for secondary school children schooling rates were at %35,46 level under Turkey averages (TUIK, 2012). Especially girls don't go to school after primary school. According to Ucecam Karagel (2009), in Hakkari, Sırnak, Van, and Ağrı province 6 years and over women population's literacy rates are the lowest. Dogutas (2011) argues that ten provinces (Ağrı, Batman, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Hakkari, Mus, Siirt, Sanliurfa, Sırnak, and Van) were targeted by the campaign "Off to School Girls" since these provinces'school enrollment of girls'ratio at compulsory education level was the lowest.

2. METHOD

In a descriptive manner, this study aims to determine the profiles of domestic violence victims through their complaints filled at the police station. Univariate analysis techniques are used to see the age range of women victims, the number of years of their marriage, and whether they have marriage contract or not. This study also looked at and analyzed the women victims' perception about the reasons of domestic violence, what they did following exposure to the violence, if they demand for government protection.

2.1. Rationale for the Study

Nowadays, "a woman is murdered by her husband" is started to be usual daily news for Turkey. Even if government is developing new campaigns or programs to stop violence against women, studies showed that it continuous as it was (Prime Minister's Institution of Family Research, 1998; Altınay & Arat, 2007). Thus, this study aimed to examine the victims of domestic violence and identify their profiles and behavior following the exposure to violence.

The study was conducted in Ağrı, an eastern province of Turkey. Why Ağrı? Previous studies showed that domestic violence is persistent in Turkey and the rates are higher in the eastern part of Turkey (Altınay & Arat, 2007). Also, according to Turkish Statistical Institute's statistics (TUIK), rates of domestic violence in the eastern part of Turkey are higher than other parts with the rate of %48,5 (see Table 1). In addition, another statistics of TUIK also shows that Ağrı, accepted as one of the Northeast Anatolia cities by TUIK, is one of the cities that domestic violence is the highest (see Table 2). In this respect, Ağrı was chosen as an example of women who are under deep pressure of their husbands and who don't have any economic freedom. As well,

Regions	Anytime in Lifespan	In last 12 months	Number of married women
West	33.0	06.August	2,839
South	41.7	11.September	964
Middle	44.7	10.September	2,508
North	38.9	07.March	1,328
East	48.5	17.July	3,159

Source: The data retrieved from Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK).

Table 1: Rates of women who were faced with physical violence by her husband or partner based on 5 regions of the country

Regions	Anytime in Lifespan	In last 12 months	Number of married women
Istanbul	38.4	11.1	691
West Marmara	26.2	8.8	859
Aegean	34.7	8.0	848
East Marmara	38.5	10.2	822
West Anatolia	44.1	14.7	915
Mediterranean	44.0	14.7	964
Middle Anatolia	52.8	18.5	887
West Black Sea	46.6	12.0	779
East Black Sea	42.6	12.5	874
Northeast Anatolia	57.1	27.4	1,000
Middle East Anatolia	51.5	21.5	994
Southeast Anatolia	51.1	24.6	1,165
Turkey	41.9	13.7	10,798

Source: The data retrieved from Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK).

Table 2: Rates of women who were faced with physical violence by her husband or partner based on 12 regions of the country

for the last three years, I lived and work in Ağrı. I saw that women are under pressure and don't have any right to say or do by themselves. Also, the murder of Melek triggered me to do this study. Melek was 16 years old women who were murdered by her husband and father in law after her second pregnancy. This was another reason for me to do a study in Ağrı.

Domestic violence is one of the toughest issue to study because the incidents and cases are commonly undisclosed. Therefore this study preferred to examine the complaint files of domestic violence victims who went to the police. As seen in other parts of the country, most of the women experiencing domestic violence probably don't go to police station after violence, here in Ağrı as well. We have to accept that the data is only limited to determine the profiles of the victims to some extent and restricted with the ones who reported to the police.

2.2. Research Questions

Without any generalization goal, for the scope of Ağrı province the main research question was "What is the profile of domestic violence victims?" Other research questions were; 1- What are the types of domestic violence? 2- What are the effecting fac-

tors of domestic violence based on the perceptions of victims? and 3- What did the victims after facing domestic violence?

2.3. Research Sample

Sample of the study were 62 women who went to the Ağrı police station for being exposed to violence between 2011 and 2012, which reflect and compromises the population at the term of the study. These women's statements in official police reports were used. All the current files at the period of the study (total of 62 files) were included. In general, doing a research on the victims of domestic violence is too difficult because they usually opt out involving a study. Thus, only women, who went to the police station due to domestic violence, were available to include into the study. These women's ages range from 16-60.

2.4. Data Collection and Analysis

Data were collected from 62 women's official police reports. The statements of victims were quantitatively analyzed. Descriptive statistics are used to describe the basic features of the data in this study since they provide a powerful summary that may enable comparisons across people or other units. For this study, descriptive statistics enabled us to make comparisons among women victims' features such as age, the number of the years of marriage, having a marriage contract or not, having a job or not etc.

3. RESULTS

The results of the study are presented here step by step and compared with the results of previous studies in the literature especially with the statistics of Van Kadın Derneği (VAKAD). First, age range of women who were exposed to domestic violence is explored. According to the descriptive statistics, women from 20 to 30 years old were mostly exposed to violence and women who are between 15 to 20 years old are the least exposed to violence (see Table 3). It can be said that it is normal to have the

Age Range	Number of Women	Percentages %
15-20	6	9.68%
20-30	30	48.39%
30-40	18	29.03%
Above 40	8	12.90%
Total	62	100%

Table 3: Age Range of Women

least domestic violence between 15 and 20 since these are very young girls. However, according to the culture of eastern part of Turkey, girls mostly marry after 15 years old. This result is not paralleled with VAKAD's 2011 statistics. According to their statistics the age range of applied to them was 35,6 (VAKAD; 2013).

Second, the results show the exploration of the employment status of women who were exposed to violence. Whereas women who are working have some economic freedom, women who don't have any job are attached to their husbands. Mostly in eastern part of Turkey, there is an understanding that while working women are allowed to talk and express their ideas, women who don't work cannot say anything about any matter. Thus, women who don't have any job cannot say much about their children, financial matters of the house and so on. When we look at the results of the study, most of the women exposed to violence are not working in any place. While the working women's number is 6 (9.68%), not working women's number is 54 (87.10%). It shows that not working women are the ones who are highly exposed to domestic violence by their husbands rather than women who are working and have some kind of financial freedom (see Table 4). This result is paralleled with VAKAD's 2011 statistics. %93,8 women, who applied to VAKAD, are not working.

Third, while most of the women legally married, there are some men and women who are living together but aren't legally married in Turkey. Especially in small cities or places, it is not good to live together without marriage; Ağrı is one of these places. As seen in Table 5, this study showed that almost all of the women who applied to police station are married, so that 57 women out of 62 women are married (91.93%).

Age Range	Number of Women	Percentages %
Working	6	9.68%
Not working	54	87.10%
Don't know	2	3.22%
Total	62	100%

Table 4: Women Employment Status

Marital Status	Number of Women	Percentages %
Married	57	91.94%
Not Married	5	8.06%
Total	62	100%

Table 5: Marital Status of Women

But, only 5 of these women aren't married (8.06%). VAKAD's statistics of 2011 also showed that married women are more exposed to domestic violence than non-married women. %69,8 of women applied to VAKAD is married and %31,2 of them are not married.

Fourth, using violence, exposed to violence, and/or occurring domestic violence should have a reason. This study also examined what women told about the reasons of their being exposed to violence. Table 6 shows the details of these reasons women stated. When we look at the table there are many different reasons that these women stated. However, it is interesting that most of the women (15 of them, 24.20%) stated that their husbands or partners used violence against them without a reason. They said that their husbands beat them regularly without any reason.

Second most repeated reason was because of relatives, especially mother and sister in laws. Nine women said that their mother and sister in laws always tell something to their husbands and their husbands beat and use violence against them without listening anything (n=9, 14.52%). Those husbands only listens their mothers and sisters. These mother in laws mostly do this because they don't like and see these women as their daughter in laws (see Table 6).

Perceived Reasons	Number of Women	Percentages %
No reason	15	24.20%
After discussion	4	6.45%
Alcohol	4	6.45%
Neuropathy	2	3.22%
Terror	1	1.61%
Birthing another girl	1	1.61%
Food and housework	5	8.07%
Because of children	1	1.61%
Relatives (mother in law, sister in law)	9	14.52%
Wanting to get divorce	4	6.45%
Money	4	6.45%
Cheating	7	11.30%
Leaving home	4	6.45%
Not getting along	1	1.61%
Total	62	100%

Table 6: Reasons of Domestic Violence Perceived by Women

Seven women stated that their husbands use violence against them because their husbands cheat them (n=7, 11.30%). Since their husbands cheat them they use violence against their women just to make them silent (see Table 6).

Marital conflict, alcohol, wanting to get divorce, and financial incompatibility were also perceived by women as reasons of domestic violence. These reasons were repeated by four women each. First one of these factors was after discussion. When wife and husband start to argue, some men get really angry and start to beat their wives. Some of the women have these kinds of men. Their husbands get angry when they start to argue or discuss something and they end up using violence against their wives. Another factor is alcohol. Some women stated that after their husbands drink alcohol, they come home and start to beat them without any reason. A previous study of Prime Ministry Directorate General on the Status of Women (2008) identified that most women stated that men who use violence against themselves were under the effect of alcohol (p.126). The other two factors were financial incompatibility and wanting to get divorce. Four women (6.45%) stated that their husbands don't have any job and since they cannot bring food or money to home they get angry and beat their wives. Another four women (6.45%) stated that since their husband don't look after them and their children and use violence against them, these women want to get divorce but when their husband hear this they beat them again and again (see Table 6).

Table 4 shows that other factors of domestic violence weren't repeated often. Only one or two women mentioned these factors as their being exposed to violence. These reasons are husband's being neuropathy (3.22%), terror (1.61%), birthing another girl (1.61%), because of children (1.61%), and not getting along (1.61%).

These reasons perceived by victims above are paralleled with previous studies. Prime Ministry Directorate General on the Status of Women's study presented not getting along, psychological problems, relatives, cheating, alcohol, money and envy as the main factors of domestic violence stated by women and men participated in the study (2008).

Fifth, it is important to look at if these women were being complainant or not. Even though women came to the police station to file a complaint about their husbands for being exposed to violence, they are afraid of their husbands and don't be complainant. In this study, 87.09% of women became complainant and only 12.91% of them didn't become complainant about their husbands (see Table 7).

Sixth, this study also examined if women request taking shelters or not. It is interesting that even though women applied to police station to file complaint about their hus-

	Number of Women	Percentages %
Complainant	54	87.09%
Non-complainant	8	12.91%
Total	62	100%

Table 7: Number of Complainants

bands and being complainant for their husbands, most of them (80.64%), didn't request to take shelters. They wanted to go to their home. This result parallels with previous studies. The study of Prime Ministry Directorate General on the Status of Women (2008) showed that %52 of women who exposed to violence from their husbands wanted to go home even if they left the house. Only a few of them want to go their parents'houses. Additionally, only a few of these women (11.29%) requested to take shelters. We don't know five of them (8.07%) if they requested or not (see Table 8). These results show that women mostly prefer to go back home with different reasons.

Seventh, most of the women (82.25%) stated that they have been exposed to violence since they get married. Contrary to that, only a woman of them (1.61%) stated that violence she encountered wasn't permanent. Some women (8.07%) stated that they have been victimized by domestic violence lately. They said that they have been exposed to violence lately since their husbands have financial or alcohol problems lately. But, five women (8.07%) didn't answer this question (see Table 9). VAKAD's statistics also showed that only %15 were exposed to violence before marriage or lately, on the other hand, exposed to violence after marriage and following years were %85 of them.

Finally, this study looked at what these women do after being exposed to domestic violence. We did not know what 24 women (38.71%) out of 62 women did following exposure to the violence because police could not reach them by police to ask their final situation. We don't know why these women didn't answer this question. Almost

	Number of Women	Percentages %
Requesting to take shelter	7	11.29%
Not requesting	50	80.64%
Don't know	5	8.07%
Total	62	100%

Table 8: Distribution of requesting to take shelter

	Number of Women	Percentages %
Since getting married	51	82.25%
Lately	5	8.07%
Didn't answer	5	8.07%
Not permanent	1	1.61%
Total	62	100%

Table 9: Duration of violence exposure

half of women gave different reasons why they couldn't apply to court for getting divorced following exposure to violence. Some of the reasons are; because of having children (17.75%), being afraid or threatened by their husbands (12.91%), no place to go (3.22%), and endured (3.22%). Interestingly, 3.22% of these women want to reconcile with their husbands and go to their homes again. Nevertheless, 20.97% of women applied to court to get divorce from their husbands.

4. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to understand domestic violence phenomenon by examining the profile of women victims in Ağrı province of Turkey. For that reason, police reports prepared for 62 women applied to police station because of being exposed to domestic violence from their partners or husbands were analyzed. Through the files of police department, this study focused on domestic violence profiling regarding age of victims, the number of the years of marriage, having a marriage contract or not, having a job or not and etc.

	Number of Women	Percentages %
No place to go	2	3.22%
Endured	2	3.22%
Want to reconcile	2	3.22%
Being afraid-Threat	8	12.91%
Because of children	11	17.75%
Applied to court to divorce	13	20.97%
No answer	24	38.71%
Total	62	100%

Table 10: What They Do After Domestic Violence

When we look at the perceived reasons for domestic violence, there are some similarities and differences with the existing literature regarding age range, employment and marital status of women. First of all, according to Prime Minister Family Research Center's study of 1995, there isn't any age differences on being exposed to domestic violence by partner or husband, but they also stated that domestic violence is most common between ages 15-22 (Nadelson, 1996). However, this showed that women victims who applied to the police are mostly between ages 20 and 30. This study's results are similar to the 2004 study of Erbek et al. They found that domestic violence is common during the ages of 21-36 which is similar to the results of this study. Also, they stated that most of the marriages consisting of violence resulted with divorce. This study also found that most of the women who applied to the police station later got divorced.

According to the World Health Organization's (1990) records, it is possible that domestic violence occurs during the first years of marriage rather than further years (Gelles, 1985 & Frazer, 1986). Opposite to this literature, this study found that most of the women who applied to the police station said that they had been exposed to domestic violence since they get married.

In a field study done in 1993 in Turkey, it was determined that using alcohol raises the chance of violence and partners'are being educated reduces the chances of using violence towards their partners (Prime Minister's Institution of Family Research, 1995). Women's being educated and working reduces being exposed to domestic violence is also determined in this study.

As a result of this study, women go to police station however they usually don't want to go to shelters and they want to go back to home which they will be exposed to domestic violence again. There are many different reasons of this. Some of these reasons are not to leave their kids, being afraid of or don't know their rights. Most of these women don't know their rights and what to do. Thus, for further studies, this study recommends to study or develop a policy to inform these women about their rights and what they can do.

This study's limitations were related to the field of the study and number of participant. Although there are many women who are exposed to violence, I had to analyze only a small part of them disclosed in police reports since many others did not file a report to the police. Thus, this study's findings cannot be generalized to the whole society even in Ağrı province. Besides, this study was conducted in a small city of the country, however if the study could be done in different cities, this would give researchers better understanding. It is hoped that this study helped researchers or policy makers to understand domestic violence issue in eastern part of Turkey better.

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