

## **Summary**

Many pregnant women are exposed to various types of violence, which might be physical, psychological. or sexual, or combinations of these forms. Whether complicated or not, they need good instructions and services during pregnancy to ensure that they maintain good health and that they deliver healthy babies. These services must be accessible to violent women who need help.

**The present study aim** was to assess violence against women during pregnancy through **the following questions:**

- 1-**Assessing types of violence during pregnancy .
- 2-**Assessing knowledge and attitude of women toward violence
- 3-** Identifying the factors that lead to women violence during pregnancy

### **Setting:**

This descriptive study was carried out in two places, the Family Health Center and Maternal and Child Health Care Center in Benha city.

### **Sample:**

It consisted of all pregnant women were attended to Family Health Center (were about 120 ), and to Maternal and Child Health Care Center (were about 100). The total sample was 220 pregnant woman. They chosen during the period from the beginning of October 2010 till March 2011 according to the following criteria: being in the three stages of pregnancy, and free from any medical problems

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**Tools of data collection:**

Two tools were used for data collection, an interviewing questionnaire, and data from medical record.

**The first tool;**

An interviewing questionnaire for pregnant women:

**First part :** Socio-demographic characteristic for pregnant women: consisted of (age, level of education, occupation, duration of marriage, income, etc).

**Second part:** Included questionnaire to assess woman's knowledge towards domestic violence.

**Third part :** Included questionnaire to assess the exposure to violence during pregnancy, its types, predisposing factors, and associated complications which may be (physical, emotional and sexual).

**Fourth part :** Included questionnaire to assess the relationship between pregnant woman and her husband.

**Fifth part :** Included statements to assess Woman's attitude within their husbands .

**The second tool:**

Data from medical record, it included three parts:

**-First part:** assessed data about pregnant woman's vital signs, weight, length and any problems related to pregnancy. It included data about blood pressure, weight, family medical history, and problems during this pregnancy.

**-Second part:** assessed data about past and obstetric history of pregnant woman.

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**-Third part:** assessed data about the current pregnancy of pregnant woman

**The current study revealed the following results:**

- Age of pregnant women which exposed to violence was ( $31.727 \pm 6.209$ ), (74%) of them were more than 30 years, (78%) of them were housewives, and (55%) of them were illiterate.
  - As regard duration of marriage (62%) of them were over 8 years , while (46%) had between 4 and 6 children, and (50%) of them had not enough income
  - Regarding past and obstetric history of pregnant women, (49%) of pregnant women were hypertensive, and (67%) of them had suitable weight during pregnancy. As regard family medical history (78%) of them were free, and (36%) of them were suffering from dizziness(65%) hadn't previous abortion. As regard the order of current pregnancy (64%) of them were the fourth or more.
  - Regarding to women's knowledge toward domestic violence, (46%) of them had complete answer about the meaning of violence. While (50%) had incomplete answer about sexual violence, violence. And (42%) of them had incomplete answer about factors leading to violence.
  - Regarding to the husband role toward the family, ( 42%) of husbands always takes care of the sexual relation ,while (65%) sometimes takes care of financial support, and (30%) of them never takes care of conducting religion.
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- Regarding to exposure to various types of violence,(57%) of pregnant women were exposed to physical violence in the form of pushing, and (65%) had bleeding complication related to violence. As regard exposure to emotional violence ,(61%) of them were feeling stress due to abusive relationship. As regard exposure to sexual violence ,(79%) of them their husbands practice sexual intercourse without consent, and (38%) of them practice twice /week.
- Regarding to relationship between pregnant women and their husbands, (45%) of them had neglect from their husbands, and (30%) of husbands were nervous. While (39%) of husbands dealing with violence problems inappropriate verbal speaking. As regard quarrelling(76%) started with husbands. While (71%) of wives were begin to solve quarrelling .
- Regarding to women's attitude within their husbands , (29%) of them always tends to be isolated and sit crying alone. While (48%) of them sometimes consults husband's family, and (93%) never calms their husbands.
- There was highly statistical significant relation between women's total attitude and their age ( $< 0.011^*$ ).
- There was no statistical significant relation between women's total attitude and their education ( $>0.05$ ).

**Based on the study findings, it is recommended that:**

- Health education programs about violence are needed for pregnant women in Maternal and Child Health Care Centers and out patient clinics.
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- Pregnant women must be encouraged to report about domestic violence.
  - For this, researches are needed to investigate the value of consultations and counseling on resolving domestic violence against pregnant women
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