

INTRODUCTION

pregnancy is a critical event in women's life that affects her health and well being, the carrying of one or more offspring , known as a fetus or embryo inside the uterus of a female . Childbirth usually occurs about 38 weeks after fertilization (conception) i.e , approximately 40 weeks from the Last Normal Menstrual Period (LNMP) in humans . The World Health Organization (WHO) defines normal term for delivery as between 37 weeks and 42 weeks . The calculation of this date involves the assumption of a regular 28- day period, (*Barron ,2008*) .

Violence is the use of physical force to injure people or property. Violence may cause physical pain to those who experience it directly, as well as emotional distress to those who either experience or witness it. It is also a major cause of premature mortality and lifelong disability. Thus, violence related morbidity is a significant factor in the rising costs of health care . Violence can be categorized as physical, sexual, and psychological. Violence starts with throwing things, pushing, kicking and biting; then, it may progress to beating with the fists and hitting with an object, (*Frances et al 2005*).

Domestic Violence is a violent confrontation between family or household members involving physical harm, sexual assault, or fear of physical harm. Family or household members include spouses / former spouses, those in (or formerly in) a dating relationship, adults related by blood or marriage, and those who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship. Domestic violence statistics point to the severity of the problem, (*Aimakhu and Olayemi, 2004*).

Violence against women is a problem seriously underestimated by health care providers, who rarely ask specific questions during antenatal

clinics. Several reasons may explain their lack of interest in this problem, including, doubts about the effectiveness of interventions to help these women or feeling uncomfortable in discussing this issue. During pregnancy domestic violence is a serious risk to both mother and fetus. Abuse was also shown to be significant predictor of poor obstetric history, (*Amoakohene,2006*).

Community health nurse play a key role in reducing violence against women through providing pregnant women essential knowledge about the types of violence and how to deal with violence during pregnancy to prevent complication to mother and baby. The typical model for preventing and reducing violence includes activities such as assessing the problem, developing policy based on established objectives, and conducting research, (*Hindin,2007*).

Magnitude of the study

According to the report violence against pregnant women in Egypt 129 women had died due to crimes of violence in the second half of 2009, bringing the annual toll to more than 300 victims. The report referred to incidents of violence against pregnant women that were published in local newspapers during the second half of 2009, it points to a systematic campaign of abuse and violence against pregnant women that amounted to 256 crimes of violence, of which 129 were fatal, (*Rennison and Weichans,2010*). The community health nurse is effective in educating and supporting the parenting needs of violent women , she also can assist women through primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention intervention at the individual, community, and national levels, (*Hedin,2005*).