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## **Violence against Women a Case Study in Uznova- Albania**

### **Abstract**

*This paper describes the violence against women in a zone named "Uznove" in Albania, Berat. Such a study has always been needed to the Albanian society because, as they say, a world which is not fit for women is not fit for children either.*

*For this study a simple survey was made and asked to 50% of the population. The sampling was randomly made and the survey happened in the end of 2014. All the 50 participants vulnerably decided to take the survey and was made sure that the filling of it was made under no pressure.*

*By the conducted research we notice that violence against women can still be considered on a dangerous level. By the research we see that the role of woman in Albanian society after the communism period did not have any big change from the role they had during the communism period.*

*All these disparities need to be solved and as a solution education seems to be a good start as it provides the right path towards solving these disparities and diminishing violence against women.*

*Also, another point and the main one is religion. It provides a pure example how to respect even the ones who are naturally weaker than man. The age of women range from 35-50 years old.*

**Keywords:** *Violence, Women, Albania, Questione*

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## 1- Introduction

Once, a wise king named Solomon or Suleiman as known from the Muslims said: *“What has happened will happen again because; there is nothing new under the sun “*(Ecclesiastes1: 9). During the history we have seen many things happen but, time to time things repeat themselves. This saying has and seems to be true in any period. But, what we are mostly interested in is the role of women in a society. Let’s have a look at it in the middle ages in the Middle East before Islam emerged. Women were treated with cruelty, as if they were not God’s creatures. Many times people used to bury their female daughters alive. Female was seen just as a simple servant of the house and violence towards them was inevitable. The same thing we see it happen again but, now we see it happen approximately 1500 years later. The history repeats itself.

Albania during the post – communist period was almost a ruined country and not known by the non – communist countries at that period. Being a ruined country means that the society is ruined. From this we understand that the family, being the nucleus of a society has a problem too. Except the economic problem of the family we see that different other disputes are going on within the family.

Women had to carry all the work of the family and sometimes she had to suffer the violence caused most of the times by her husband. This has a totally negative impact on the coming generations if the rate of violence in family is high. The UN Development Fund claims that at least one in three women will be beaten, or raped or abused in her lifetime, globally. So, the key hypothesis of this study is: Imposing religious teaching in schools would reduce the percentage of violence against women in families.

## 2- Literature Review

The World Health Organization (WHO) prepared an international act plan upon fighting violence in the 49<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva with the participation of 1200 delegates from 191 different countries. (1996) The United Nations (UN) emphasized upon the need to abolish the conventional and traditional violence implementations with 'the Declaration of Ending Violence to Women' in 1993. Although violence records are not seen frequently, according to research in the USA, there seems to be violence problems in 50% of marriages and 30-50% of psychological disorders have "being exposed to violence" stories. (Atman, 2003, p. 333-335). The first World Women Conferences were held by the UN in 1970s (UNICEF 2000) and 8<sup>th</sup> May was declared as the "Women's Day" in 1997. Besides, The UN held 4 different 'World Women Conference' in Mexico (1975), in Copenhagen, Nairobi (1985), Pekin (1995) with the participation of 189 different countries in order to gain women a reputation. Coming to 1994, there are principles present for women in International Conference on Population and Development- ICPO (Taşkın, 2204, p.8.)

Many studies have been made on this topic in here we can mention: "*Equality and stopping discrimination in a social point of view*". (Albanian Helsinki Committee, 2011) This is a study prepared by the Albanian Helsinki Committee to study and stop the discrimination using the school's committees and increasing the use of the non-profit organizations in the country.

Another study has taken place named, "*Women and Children in Albania*". (INSTAT, 2006) This is a full report on the women and children in Albania especially during the post-communist period. It sees the gender equality as a new principle in the post-communist Albania and highlights particularly the impact of gender on poverty, discrim-

ination and inequality against women. Another report published by <http://www.instat.gov.al> shows a full report on the discrimination of the Roma people. A good part of this report talks about the Roma women and how they keep being seen and used with the old patriarchal mentality of the communism period. All these important articles give a necessary background to understand the research.

### 3- **Discussion and findings**

Seeing the analyzed disputes in the end of the upper paragraph the main question that rises would be what is the source of all these issues relating to woman's role in the family? Well, according to many scholars working in the "Albanian Helsinki Committee" claim that the main reason of all these disputes is the 45 year atheism period that Albania lived.

Having lost the religious culture gained centuries ago from the Ottoman Empire and later from the Byzantine Empire made Albanian's "harsh" people. Having forgotten the divine laws and the divine punishment made them cruel and blind not to see that such a creature like female must not come up to that extent.

#### a- **Related to violence against women in "Uznove", Berat, Albania.**

Violence against women has always been a huge issue not only in Albania but, also in the world wide arena. All data gathered from this anonymous survey will be used for a scientific research that will be used in a course named "Research Methods".

In order to have a better understanding of the results we have divided the relationships in four types according to the points collected by the survey answers:

0-10 non-abusive relationship

11-18 slightly abusive relationship

19-26 severely abusive relationship

27-32 perilously abusive relationship

So, if the score is between 0 and 10 the relationship is not considered to be an abusive one. The couple seems to be dealing with the issues correctly and the husband is not violent. If, the score is between 11 and 18 we have a home which has had violent experiences at least one. It might be just the beginning of a relationship or it has stopped by some different causes.

If, the score is between 19 and 26 then the situation is considered to be seriously abusive. Serious injuries are possible as bruises or wounds. In such a relation the husband is considered violent and there might be the need to taking some action on that.

If, the score was between 27 and 32 then the option of leaving that relationship would be considered as the best one as the person you are living with is serious threat to the women, children and society.

**b- Types of relationships regarding to violence**

Number of relationships taken from participants and the percentage of the number the relationships regarding to the rate of violence are seen as follows;

Non-abusive	20	50%
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Slightly abusive	10	25%
Severely abusive	8	20%
Perilously abusive	2	5%

At the end of the study we see that there are 20 relationships which are considered as non-abusive, 20 relationships came out to slightly abusive, and 8 of them severely abusive and only 2 of them were considered as dangerously abusive.

Regarding to the percentage of that data table 2 clearly shows that 50% of the relationships asked have a non-abusive relationship, 25% of them a slightly abusive one, 20% of them a severely abusive one and only 5% of them have a previously abusive relationship.

### c- **Methods and methodology**

Well, as Earl Babbie cries that; “Each research method has its strengths and weaknesses, and certain concepts are more appropriately studied by some methods than by others. (Belmont, 2011, p.119.)”

This research uses the inductive method. In our research a survey might be the suitable way to study about the violence against women in Albania as surveys are generally well suited to study the public opinion. In this study we surveyed 50 women in Berat in Albania. Their ages are between 35-50 years.

#### 1- **Sample**

The population of interest in our case is the women who are legally married excluding the widows and living in the neighborhood of “Uznove”. The sampling frame for this research was obtained by the

municipality's office of Uznove. It consisted of 80 women who suited best to the criteria. Out of this population, a simple random sample of 50% of the population (50 women) is to be included in the research. Most of the participants were above the age of 30 years old and who have completed only the first 8 years of school.

The main reason of this research is to see in what degree is the violence against women dangerous to the coming generations.

## 2- **Measures**

To conduct this research the proper way was by the help of the Likert Scale. It was named the Likert scale because of its inventor, Dr. Rensis Likert. He is an organizational-behavior psychologist. In order to make the data amenable to statistical analysis, he ascribes the quantitative value to the quantitative data. Used mostly in surveys without excluding the training course evaluations it uses five potential choices (Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree) or sometimes even more. Test-retest reliabilities were not seen needed while conducting this research.

## 3- **Design**

As mentioned, this research was a quantitative one and the Likert scale types of questionnaires are asked to the participants. Regarding to design having chosen the sample in a random way makes this research a type of randomized experimental design. This type of design most of the times is considered to be strong regarding to the internal validity. It rules out threats of history, instrumentation etc...

## 4- **Procedures**

The survey was done by the 2014 period of time. The 50 participants were chosen randomly from the sample and all ethics threats

like: vulnerable participation, anonymity issues etc... were made possible, they were given a possibility to ignore taking part in the survey too. Also, exactly the very same questions were asked to the chosen sample which included mostly the behavior of their husbands against then or to his friends. To all the participants was given 2 week time to fulfill the survey.

## 5- **Populations**

There were 50 participants in the sample for this study. All the results of the survey were collected by 31, December 2014 and the survey was as follows:

## 6- **Conclusion**

Women's role has always been and will be an important one in the prosperity of the social life. But, in order to gain that prosperity it must be given to the woman the right place in the family. And now the most important question rises, how can we give an end to all these disputes? And the reason seems to be a twofold one: first we have religion and second we have education.

Having accepted atheism as the main reason of causing these disputes it's crystal clear that a monotheist system is the solution to it. As I stated in the introduction part, this is not the first time that humanity deals with the women discrimination. If we get back in time in the Middle Ages in the Middle East we will see the same problem that we are facing nowadays and if we see again a century later at that period the disputes were solved with the emerging of Islam. Let's have a look at the teachings of Islam during that era. For example:

*"You are from one-another"* (Koran, 4: 25).

So, basically it means that we are all sons of Adam. We are all



equal and as equal we should behave towards each other no matter of what our relations can be. Also, another example from the Old Testament clearly shows us that such disputes must no exist,

*“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:28).*

Regarding to education which is also a very important topic regarding to women discrimination. Everyone must be entitled to higher education and try to solve things with the good and the peaceful way.

So, the hypothesis of this research is being approved. Further this research shows that there has been improvement regarding to the violence against women as the society develops.

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