

Experience of Intimate Partner Violence Among Chinese Women: A Text Analysis of Online Forums on Domestic Violence

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Background

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) as a **serious public health problem** among Chinese women ¹: lifetime prevalence rate of 19.7% ¹ and detrimental health outcomes ²
- **Little is known** about the experience of IPV in Chinese women
- **Lower disclosure/report rate** compared to western counterparts ³ due to unique cultural and social factors:
 - Concerned about the disturbance of family harmony
 - Concerns of losing face (dignity)
 - Stigma
 - Victim-blaming attitudes of general public
- **New opportunities created to understand the experience of IPV by:**
 - Prevalence of the Internet: 772 million users in China, covering 55.8% of the total population ⁴
 - Anonymity of online forums ⁵

Purpose

- This study aims to conduct a text analysis of the IPV experience posted on online public forums by Chinese women who experienced IPV, which will provide unique insights into IPV experience and contribute to a better understanding of this population as well.

Methods

Data Collection

- **Baidu Tieba**, the largest Chinese online community, is selected as the pool for searching potential forums
- **Inclusion criteria for forums:**

1. Accessible by general public without registration or account
2. Posts in the forum should be accessible by general public without registration or account
3. Theme of the forum should be relevant to IPV

Inclusion criteria for posts:

1. Original posts posted by women who have experienced IPV themselves
2. Contents of the post should be the personal experience of women who have experienced IPV
3. Posts should be posted within the time interval from August 1st, 2017 to August 1st, 2018

- A total of **three forums and 675 posts** have been examined and **72 posts (10.67%)** have met the inclusion criteria

Data Analysis (in progress)

- **Conventional content analysis** ⁶ has been used
- Two coders, native speaker of Chinese, have and will analyze each post separately
- 10 posts have been analyzed

Preliminary Results

Living In the Deepest Hell with desperation

“Every minute and second I am alive is torture for me...If there is no way out in the end, I would rather die together with my son than staying here with him...”

“From the beginning to the end, all my husband did is to blame me, never see anything good in me... We can never communicate and every phone call ends with quarrels...I really want to shout out aloud...I am extremely sad and feel misunderstood...I suffer from severe depression...”

Decisions I Make Have Much More to Consider than “ME”

“I knew that he really regret about it (beating me) and I forgave him again for my baby...I don't want my baby to be born without dad...”

“I am really afraid he would kill my parents...So I still stayed...”

“I was so wrong to wish him to change by having a child...After that, I completely become a slave...”

Lack of Support/Isolation

“I wanted to get divorced several times...but my parents always told me my kid would suffer a lot without me and just tolerate the violence...Thus, whenever I got beaten by my husband and returned to my parents' house, they sent me back after several days...”

“I don't even have a single friend ...I have no one to go to if leave...because of him, I am alienated from all of my friends”

“My parents-in-law never helped me...either to escape or call the police and they only listened to what their son said...I was standing by the windows on 11th floor and shouting for help...A lot people were downstairs but no one helped..”

“We already divorced and the reason why we still lived together is that I owned my parents \$400,000...”

Public Attitudes Act as Social Chains Keeping Women from Leaving

“The next day after I met him, I got raped by him...I told my family and my mom asked me to end the relationship...However, I think it will influence my reputation and decided to continue the relationship with the purpose of getting married...”

“I don't know whether it is still necessary to be in this kind of marriage... but getting divorced at this age (47)...”

Discussion & Conclusion

- IPV among Chinese women has to be **addressed from multiple level approach** from individual, relationship, family level to society level
- **More supporting resources** should be introduced to this population to deal with social isolation as well as mental health issues
- **Health education about IPV for the public** will be crucial to reduce IPV-related stigma and discrimination where nurses can take the lead

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