

Intimate Partner Violence Victimization, Interpersonal Dependency, and Anger among women in South Korea



Jeongmin Ha, Kwisoon Choe, Heesook Son, Ji-su Kim

Department of Nursing, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Purpose of the Study

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious social problem worldwide. Almost one third of all women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Women at risk of intimate partner violence tend to be passive and dependent interpersonally (Peabody, 2013). Women who are highly dependent on their partner, both mentally and financially, are at high risk of intimate partner violence victimization (Lin et al., 2018). In addition, The anger of the victims is an important issue that we need to pay attention in intimate partner violence (Sween & Reynolds, 2017). Anger caused by violence can lead to aggressive behavior toward self and others (McKinney, Hirsch, & Britton, 2017). The victim who feels angry becomes also the perpetrator (Zavala, 2017). It is sometimes difficult to distinguish victims from perpetrators in intimate partner violence (Renner & Whitney, 2012). After all, anger of the victim influence the reoccurrence of intimate partner violence directly or indirectly (Kuijpers, van der Knaap, & Winkel, 2012). Most of all, anger is associated with interpersonal dependency (Abi-Habib & Luyten, 2013). However, there is a dearth of research focusing on interpersonal dependency and anger in IPV victimization. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the relationships between intimate partner violence victimization, interpersonal dependency, and anger of the women in South Korea.

Methods

The cross-sectional study design was used. After receiving institutional review board approval from university, a survey announcement including research purpose, procedure and criteria for participants was posted on an online community such as Facebook page. When participants clicked the URL attached to the post, they were taken to a page reiterating the study details and containing a voluntary consent form. A sample of 182 participants completed the Partner Victimization Scale, The Korean version of the Relationship Addiction Questionnaire, and The Korean version of the State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory. This study examined the correlations between intimate partner violence, interpersonal dependency and anger (state and trait) among female adults in South Korea.

Results

Results showed that 1) interpersonal dependency was positively correlated with both state and trait anger. 2) Different results were founded according to age. Among the subjects aged 30 – 49, there was no difference interpersonal dependency according to experience of intimate partner violence. However, among the subjects aged 18 – 29, interpersonal dependency was found to differ according to experience of intimate partner violence.

Conclusion

interpersonal dependency was higher in the intimate partner violence victimization in participants aged 18 to 29. It is may be important to focus on reducing interpersonal dependency and fostering autonomy in adolescence, in order to ensure that individuals are able to achieve healthy relationships in adulthood. Also, it may be necessary to assess interpersonal dependency among victims of intimate partner violence and implement interventions (e.g. mindfulness therapy) to reduce it. State-trait anger were significantly positive correlated to intimate partner violence victimization and interpersonal dependency. Therefore, practitioners should consider the need to screening their potential anger in developing an initial intervention protocol for victims of intimate partner violence. Practitioners are required to have knowledge and skills for reducing interpersonal dependency and improving anger management. If practitioners meet a victim of intimate partner violence, they should educate them about psychological and mental side effects that they may experience, including interpersonal dependency and anger. Therefore, we recommend that developing the community-based educational programs focus on how to develop independence and manage anger for intimate partner violence victims.