Title:
Interpersonal Verbal and Physical Abuse Against Female Nurses and Doctors in Karachi, Pakistan

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Session Title:
Concerns Regarding Domestic Violence
Slot:
H 05: Monday, 30 October 2017: 2:45 PM-3:30 PM
Scheduled Time:
2:45 PM

Keywords:
Nurses and doctors, interpersonal abuse and verbal and physical abuse

References:

Abstract Summary:
This abstract is a piece of my MScN thesis work, in this abstract draws attention to the magnitude of the problem specifically among those married female healthcare providers who treat and provide care to the other verbal and physical abuse victims.

Learning Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
<th>TIME ALLOCATED</th>
<th>TEACHING/LEARNING METHOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The learner will be able to describe the prevalence of verbal and physical abuse among married female healthcare providers working in the tertiary care hospitals at Karachi, Pakistan</td>
<td>describe content providing to learner to meet the objective</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>power point presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The learner will be able to determine the most frequent perpetrator of verbal and physical abuse among married female healthcare providers working in the tertiary care hospitals at Karachi, Pakistan</td>
<td>describe content providing to learner to meet the objective</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>power point presentation</td>
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Abstract Text:

**Background:** Verbal and physical abuse is a global social and criminal issue against women.

**Objective:** To estimate the prevalence of interpersonal verbal and physical abuse among married female nurses and doctors working in the tertiary care hospitals in Karachi, Pakistan.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 350 married female nurses and doctors, who were recruited from three tertiary care hospitals (one public and two private). This study used the self administered “WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Life Experiences” (2005) tool, after some modifications. Descriptive and univariate analysis was performed to arrive at results.

**Results:** Descriptive statistic showed that 97.7% (n= 342) of the study participants reported one or more forms of violence at some point in their married life, and verbal abuse was the most common form (n=332, 97.1%) and 94.6% (n=193) were victims of physical abuse. Participants’ husbands who had completed their high school (n=80, 39.9%) and graduation (n=81, 39.4%) were more common perpetrators of physical abuse. In univariate analysis, there was a significant difference of those who used and do not use alcohol created verbal (p=0.005) and those husbands who used substance abuse creates physical abuse (p=0.015). The most common responses of verbal and physical abuse are fought back and remain quite. The main reason for using silence was fear of escalating the violence. This study has identified that verbal and physical abuses are highly prevalent among nurses and doctors.

**Conclusion:** Our study identified that verbal and physical violence is highly prevalent among healthcare providers’ nurses and doctors. The main perpetrators are husband. In the response of violence health professional either try to fight back or remain quite. The reasons of being quite are due to fear of escalating violence. Many respondents also reported helplessness in the control abuse from husbands and in-laws. Socio-demographic factors were related to physical and verbal abuse. Legal action against domestic violence should be strengthened and strictly implemented not only for housewives but also for working women. Being healthcare providers we need to advocate through print and electronic media, to support the work in progress for passing and implementing the law against domestic violence.