



## An Overview of the Violence Roots with Emphasis on Street Conflicts in Iran

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### ABSTRACT

Violence is a physical activity performed by a person to harm his/her own health and others, or destroy assets. Considering increasing violence in recent years in Iran, it is necessary to study its roots in order to reduce its negative effects on growth. In this study, key words such as violence, work environment, community, family, unemployment, children, women, urban and rural areas were searched on the valid websites related to medical and health magazines in the databases such as Web of Science, Ovid PubMed, Systematic Review, SID, Iran Medex, Scirus, Google Scholar, and Medline. Considering the purpose of the study, the findings were presented in the form of a review article. Findings showed that various environmental and cultural factors such as social, economic and cultural conditions, unemployment, social inequality and addiction are the most common causes of violence in Iranian society. Considering the increasing incidence of violence in Iranian society, it is necessary to study its roots. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to basic needs for a normal life without discrimination and reduction of unemployment. Stopping watching violent movies in the national media prevents increasing violence in society.

**Keywords:** Violence, Unplanned Conflict, Community, Iran

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### INTRODUCTION

Violence is a physical activity carried out with complete neglect of the health of yourself and others, either to harm others or to destroy assets. Violent behavior can be seen among different animals [1, 2]. But among humans, due to the complexity of the social living, it depends on various environmental factors [3]. There is violence against children, women, minorities, lower classes and domesticated animals. In each society, the abundance and form of violence varies, but it affects the entire society, and prevents progress in any society [4, 5]. Violence has been seen in various animals, including mammals, arthropods, reptiles, fishes, and rodents in a variety of ways, for both genetic and environmental reasons. The poison of various animals is used as a tool of violence against enemies [6-9]. In snakes and scorpions, violence

is used to defend against enemies and rivals, to defend habitat or nest, or to move against individuals of the same species or against other species [10, 11]. Pain and discomfort are of the main side effects of injecting poison to humans or animals, so that they can eliminate the threat factors [12-16]. The causes of aggressive and violent behavior in animals and humans are diverse, and genetic background and various environmental factors are effective in creating it. The study of causes of violent behavior can be seen as a more comprehensive understanding of the roots of violent human behavior [17]. In humans, in addition to physical pain, pain resulting from social and psychological pressure, which is due to failure or deprivation, can be seen in meeting the needs [18]. Some people perceive much functional to solve

some of their daily problems that they met via aggressive behaviors instead of rationalist ways [19]. Furthermore, [20] carried out a study to investigate the possible associations between watching aggression on media and playing violent videogames from one side and the aggressive behavior of children in Taif city, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the other.

Disappointments within a community can be one of the main causes of aggressive behavior and violence of humans, which people apply to themselves or other people in the community. Unplanned violence is a form of violence that a person can do harm others without hatred or grudge. This kind of violence in Iran takes place in different forms and places like alleyways, streets and roads, so it is essential to examine roots and causes of this type of violence and the failures that lead to its implementation. The factors and roots of this kind of violence can be considered by the health and safety community.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

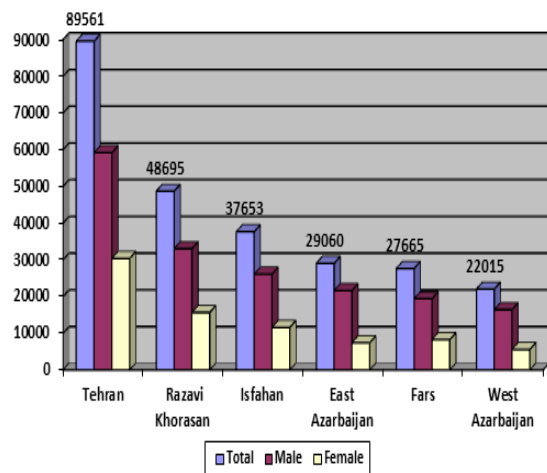
This study was conducted through a review study. Using key words such as violence, work environment, community, family, economy, unemployment, children, women, sex hormones, Iran, urban and rural, websites related to valid medical and health magazines were searched: the Web of Science, Ovid PubMed, Systematic Review, SID, Iran Medex, Scirus, Google Scholar, and Medline. Persian and English articles during 1977 to 2016 were accessed. A total of 150 sources were received. Finally, 96 sources were selected, considering the purpose of the study and focusing on studies in Iran. These studies were reviewed and its application in the country were investigated. The findings were then presented in the form of a review article and a presentation.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In recent years, in the modern Iranian society, new types of violence have spread to the body of Iranian society more often than before [19]. Serial killers and murderers indicate the existence of harmful social faults. Some of these people have had homosexual behavior in addition to rape. Most of these serial murderers have killed women. In interrogation, they admitted 5 to 40 murders [22-24]. The form of violence in human societies has various makeup in the community. Some include physical, verbal, structural, cultural, political, international, seasonal, periodic, religious, ethnic, sexual, class, racial, regional, urban and rural, and legal [4]. In each society, the abundance and form of

violence varies, but its harmful effects affect the entire community. Annually, more than half a million Iranians are referred to Iran's forensic centers all over Iran because of their quarrels. For example, according to the report of forensic organization, in the first 10 months of 2013, 521,000 people were referred to Medical jurisprudence centers due to a dispute. 30% of the clients were women and 70% were men [25]. However, these figures should also be added to the number of people who have refused to go to forensic centers or make a complaint. The street strife leading to a referral to the Medical jurisprudence centers has been observed over very minor issues [26]. Occasionally, violence (more among boys) have been observed in high schools due to adolescent competition [27]. Violence in working environments such as hospitals has been done more against nursing staff [28]. Violence has spread to certain geographical areas, especially in the major cities. Accordingly, in 2013, the provinces of Tehran, Razavi Khorasan and Isfahan, respectively, had the highest rates of referrals to the legal system, including Tehran (89,561 cases: 30386 women, 59175 men), Razavi Khorasan (48,695 cases: 15656 women, 33039 men) and Isfahan (37,653 cases: 11571 women, 26082 men). Also, East Azarbaijan, Fars and West Azarbaijan also ranked fourth to sixth. South Khorasan, Ilam, and Semnan provinces have the lowest incidence of conflict [4]. The streets and roads (50% of violence) were the main sources. The hands were hurt by about 55%. 50% of the cases of violence resulted in wounds. The average age of violence was 26.5 years. About 45% of the treatments have been performed at home [29].

Acid spraying has sometimes been done and has left irreparable lesions [30]. The increase and decrease of the conflict is directly related to factors such as population, urban texture, physical development and other social factors, so that with the increase of these components, the statistics of the conflict also increased. Tehran province include about one-sixth of referent to judicial system in the whole country [4, 31, 32] (Figure 1). Poverty is one of the main causes of violence, and Sistan-Baluchistan province is the poorest in the country [33]. Women and children are the first group to be involved in various types of violence. The type of violence used is also different [34]. In Iran, domestic violence against women in Tehran and other cities has been reported to be between 17.6% and 93.6%. [35]. Violence mainly occurs against women and children and other minorities and lower classes.



**Fig. 1.** Six provinces with the highest number of conflicts in Iran (Source:

<https://www.isna.ir/news/92122314932>)

#### **Violence Against Women:**

An increase in testosterone in men has increased the incidence of violence against women. The likelihood of committing crime by young men who use anabolic steroids, that are a combination of testosterone, is much higher [36, 37]. In some countries, there is a major difference between the rights of women and men, and this has led to gender discrimination. A survey in Iran has shown that more than 50 percent of Iranian women have experienced violence [24].

#### **Violence Against Children:**

According to a field study on 585 street children in the age group of 6 to 18 years old, 50 percent of these children were harassed by their own employers. Also, 41% of the child laborers surveyed experienced violence, with 10% being sexually abused. In street children the rate of AIDS is 45 times more than other people. Nearly, 85 percent of children having parents were abused by their parents [4]. Violence and related factors are observed among young prisoners. Violent behaviors between parents create aggressive behaviors. Violence among youth and adolescents is one of the problems of the Iranian community [38].

#### **The Effect of Weather On Violence:**

Some scientists, like Montesquieu, believe that more crimes can occur when the heat goes up [39]. Ibn Khaldun suggests that in the warm seasons and the southern countries, there is usually higher violence against individuals [40]. The green environment and good weather is effective in reducing the incidence of violence as it gives humans a lot of peace [41]. In contrast, crowded and overcrowded environments with various environmental pollution have also been considered as one of the causes of violence. The role of lead in violence has been considered in some studies [42, 43].

#### **Failure, Inequality, Migration, Marginalization, And Violence:**

The peripheral parts of urban environments, due to factors such as heterogeneity of income and costs and inequality in the social situation, cause violence and conflict, and sometimes lead to murder [44]. Individuals with socio-economic disadvantages are more likely to learn about violent behavior, and some researchers suggest that the level of violence in individuals with low socio-economic status is higher than those in the medium and high base. With increasing unemployment, the level of violence between the husband and wife increases. Unemployed men apply more violence in their household than employed men [45, 46]. People with lower social incomes are more vulnerable to violence [47].

#### **Drug and Alcohol Consumption:**

The use of alcohol and drug abuse is one of the causes of violence and conflict. In many cases, the use of these substances, or the attempt to obtain these materials, leads to crimes and deaths or even murder [48, 49]. In Iran a large proportion of violent crimes such as robbery, battery, domestic violence, and divorce occur by addicts. In some cases, 30-90% of the violence has been reported due to drug use [50].

#### **Education Effects on Violence:**

The outbreak of violence is in many cases caused by education. Reports indicate that seeing violent television which shows the harm to children's spirits and increase the potential for violence [51, 52]. Sometimes unnecessary fears of animals may lead to violence against them [53]. Listening to rock, rap, and heavy metal music raises violence [54].

#### **Political Grouping in Violence:**

Individuals who are in the same group consider acts of violence against the other group as legitimate and natural. Unequal power relations also cause acts of violence on the part of persons with more power than those with less power [55].

Psychological stresses and tensions from economic, social, cultural and political crises increase the risk of violence. In Iran, the economic factor is currently a major cause of violence and aggression in society. Experts point out that social problems of unemployment or lack of proper work are one of the first and most important social damages in the country, which is also a major factor in aggression [4].

According to the WHO, in 80 developing countries, environmental factors have played a major role in dysfunctioning of those communities, and violence is one of these dangerous and pathogenic behaviors. In these countries, the role of cultural, socio-economic,

and political environments is more observed in human health [56, 57].

### CONCLUSION

Unplanned street violence depends on socio-economic factors. Unemployment, addiction, feelings of discrimination and inequality, history of academic failure and school firing are of the major contributors to the history of violence. There is a correlation between drug abuse and alcohol with aggression and violence. Providing young people with appropriate conditions, teaching proper parenting methods, proper supervision of the parents on children, continuous monitoring of media broadcasts, teaching life skills such as anger control skill and providing a good educational environment, paying attention to the marginalization are steps to be taken to reduce and prevent the violence and its dangerous consequences.

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