

POWER, ABUSE & VIOLENCE

CHAPTER 11

Definitions

Battering—includes hitting, kicking, choking, and use of threats

Sexual assault—forced sexual acts, bondage, beating, torture, mutilation, bestiality, gang rape.

Signs of Abusive Behavior

- Obsessively jealous
- Aggressive & possessive
- Won't let you have friends
- Checks up excessively on you
- Controlling/you are afraid of
- Issues threats/use or own weapons
- History of violence or bad relationships
- Makes all decisions

Signs of Abusive Behavior

- Pressures you for sex
- Does not accept no when you say no
- Abuses alcohol or drugs
- Mistreats you and then blames you
- Has traditional views on gender roles
- Isolates you from family, friends

Theories on Family Violence

- Social Learning Theory
- Social Situation Theory
- Social Exchange Theory
- Patriarchal Social Order Theory
- Dependency or Resource Theory

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

- Family as the training ground
- Intergenerational violence
- Learn from parents & siblings
- Learn to use physical force to solve problem
- Learn to justify violence
- Violence in one's family is correlated with later violence

SOCIAL SITUATION THEORY

- Violence result from family stress
- Unemployment
- Illness
- Cultural norms that support use of force, violence

SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY

- Violence occurs when rewards are higher than its costs
- Costs are less in societies with low legal intervention
- Socially tolerated

PATRIARCHAL SOCIAL ORDER THEORY

- Subordination of women
- Violence against wives
- Date violence
- Date rape

Dependency or Resource Theory

- Fewer options and few resources to help cope with spouse's behavior
- Fewer alternatives to marriage
- Dependency increases tolerance for abuse
- “golden handcuffs”--the more dependent—the more to suffer violence

Reasons for Partner Violence

- Control of partner
- Jealousy
- Retaliation for emotional hurt
- Show of anger
- Feel more powerful
- Inability to express self verbally
- Punish partner for wrong behavior
- Retaliation
- Self-defense

Factors of Spouse Abuse

- “Troublesome” qualities
- Past experience of physical violence
- Child problems—personality disorder; inadequacy-immaturity
- Alcohol—50% of wife abuse cases
- Jealousy
- Helplessness

Factors of Spouse Abuse

- Powerlessness
- Feeling Unsuccessful
- Low self-esteem
- Financial stress
- Low education
- Unemployment
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Economic dependence

Factors of Spouse Abuse

- Low ego-strength
- Low self-worth
- High self-blame
- Feeling of no option
- Denial
- Marriage at an early age
- Shorter periods of acquaintance with spouse before marriage

Child Abuse

- Ultimate parental rejection
- Use of anger as relief from depression
- Low parental self-esteem
- Absence of mother-infant bonding
- Premature birth
- Children with behavioral problems
- Poor social support systems

Child Abuse

- Use of corporal punishment
- Single parenthood
- Multiple children with limited spacing
- Lack of role models for parents
- Family stress
- Alcohol
- Unmarried pregnancy
- Dysfunctional families
- Absence of self-disclosure

Child Abuse Occurrence

- 30% of abused parents abuse their children
- 3% of girls & 1% boys--sexual abuse victims
- 19% incestuous contact in families (parent-child; sibling incest)
- 2.1 million children abused each year

Incest Effects

- Lifelong adverse effects
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Guilt
- Self-depreciating behavior
- Poor self-image

Incest Effects

- High frequency of anti-social behavior
- Self-injurious behavior
- Low sexual response
- Mistrust of men (or women)

Success for “abused children” when married depends on:

- Parental love and support
- Having a loving spouse
- Fewer stressful experiences in life
- Awareness of their abuse history

Effects of Abuse on Children

- Lower peer status
- Fewer friends
- More aggressive
- Less cooperative
- Display of social isolation

Effects of Sexual Abuse on Children

- Display of anxiety
- Inability to concentrate
- Abuse of Alcohol
- Low self-esteem
- Provocative dressing
- Seductive behavior
- Self-deprecation

Effects of Sexual Abuse on Children

- Sexual promiscuity
- Lack of trust
- Poor peer relations
- Withdrawal
- Rebellious
- High correlation between past experience and present
- 12% of today's adults were physically abused

Marital Violence

- Inability to deal with anger
- Verbal aggression
- Non-verbal acts that hurt
- Sulking
- Refusing to talk
- Insults
- Doing something out of spite
- Stomping out

Elderly Abuse

- Physical abuse—malnutrition, injuries
- Sexual abuse—unwanted sexual activity
- Psychological abuse—verbal assaults
- Exploitation—theft or misuse of property
- Medical Abuse—withholding of medical attention
- Neglect—caregiver misappropriating resources