

**THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS
ON DATING VIOLENCE**

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Article Received on 03/04/2020

Article Revised on 24/04/2020

Article Accepted on 14/05/2020

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the degree of dating violence, a recent problem in the heterosexual dating of college students, and to examine the effects of domestic violence experiences on it. The objectives of this study were to develop abuser programs for preventing dating violence and to prevent domestic violence. The subjects of this study were students of C University located in Ulsan. This study examined 164 subjects who agreed to the survey after listening to the objectives of the study. The survey was conducted from May 4 to May 31, 2019, and data was collected in a self-administered survey based on a structured questionnaire. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS 22 program. The results of this study can be summarized as follows: First, in this study, the dating abuse score was 22.38 ± 7.89 points for males students and 21.54 ± 8.49 points for female students. Second, the results of this study showed that the common variables affecting dating abuse were living with parents ($t = -2.62$, $p = .032$) and the persistence of violence between parents ($t = 3.12$, $p = .005$). Third, the results of correlation analysis revealed that date abuse experience was significantly and positively correlated with psychological domestic dispute ($r = .41$, $p < .001$), physical domestic dispute ($r = .51$, $p < .001$), psychological child abuse ($r = .46$, $p < .001$), physical child abuse ($r = .50$, $p < .001$), psychological dating violence ($r = .94$, $p < .001$), physical dating violence ($r = .88$, $p < .001$), and sexual dating violence ($r = .78$, $p < .001$). Fourth, the factors affecting dating abuse were living with parents ($\beta = .034$, $p < .001$), experience of witnessing violence between parents ($\beta = .123$, $p < .002$), and domestic violence experience in childhood ($\beta = .034$, $p < .002$). The explanatory power of dating violence was 33.2% ($F = 28.06$, $p = .001$). The results of this study showed that trust formation and interest from parents were important to prevent date abuse and it was confirmed that interest and affection for children were necessary to achieve this. Moreover, it was found that children who experienced domestic violence were more like to commit dating abuse in adulthood. Therefore, interventions will be needed to minimize the negative effects of domestic violence experiences or to enhance the individual's ability to cope with negative effects by providing therapeutic approaches for children who have experienced violence. It is rare that sexual violence and sex-related curriculums are organized systematically for college students in South Korea. Therefore, it is necessary to implement dating violence programs such as personal counseling and group counseling at the Sexual Violence Counseling Center and Student Life Research Center on the campus to raise awareness about the dating situation for college students. Furthermore, it will be necessary to perform repetitive research targeting male and female college students living in various regions with considering the degree of date violence awareness by the characteristics of regions and to provide dating abuser prevention education as well as the psychological treatment and recovery of dating violence victims.

KEYWORD: Domestic violence experience, dating, and abuse.**INTRODUCTION****1. Need for the Study**

Dating has positive aspects that it can embody vague curiosity and interest in the opposite sex and improve interpersonal skills. However, it can also have negative impacts on life such as a decrease in academic achievement, distrust of opposite sex, abortion, and dating violence. Since Makepeace (1981) published that one in five college students experienced dating violence, dating violence has emerged as a social health

problem.^[1] Moreover, this issue has received more social interest and more studies have been conducted as an all-pervading public health problem that has a serious impact over the short and long term.^[2] Recent studies on dating violence conducted in South Korea also revealed that 73.3-75.1% of the respondents experienced any form of violence while 70.2, 44.8, and 13.2% of the respondents suffered from psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence, respectively.^[3,4] The results indicate that dating violence has been at a

serious level.

The results of a recent sexual behavior experience survey.^[5] on college students showed that more than 70% dated the opposite sex. When each of a couple has different sexual interests or different requirement levels of sexual behaviors, it can lead to undesirable results due to sexual conflicts such as consent of unwanted sex or dating violence.^[5] Dating violence is defined as verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual violence and stalking in heterosexual dating relationships.^[6] It has various forms including verbal threats, physical assault, or other forms of violence.^[7] It has been reported that physical, sexual, and non-physical violence in close relationships has adverse impacts on overall health, including mild or severe depression, various physical symptoms, and a decrease in mental and social functions.^[8] Dating violence is more serious than other violence because it can cause more severe psychological trauma than other violence given that it occurs in love relationships, it is generally performed in a secret and chronic way due to the nature of the close relationships, and it is likely to lead to domestic violence in the long run.^[9] XXX^[10] argued that direct and indirect violence experience in childhood including the violence between parents affected abuse and victim behaviors (가해와 피해) because these factors influenced their aggression, attachment, anger control, and interpersonal relationships in adulthood.

SOMETHING is a representative theory among the theories explaining how the experience of domestic violence affects children negatively and influences dating violence in adulthood.^[11] Based on this theory, psychosocial factors and situational factors were suggested as the predictors of dating violence.^[12] It explains how, among the psychosocial factors, exposure to domestic violence such as physical abuse by parents and observing violence between parents during the growth phase affects the aggression of children in the short and long term^[1]. It proves that exposure to domestic violence can be a factor influencing dating violence^[1]. It is clear that the experience of domestic violence can lead to future domestic violence. Therefore, the prevention of dating violence can be considered more important.

Although studies on the dating violence of college students have been conducted considering the long-term inherent problems of dating violence, only a few studies have evaluated the relationships between diverse variables. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the relationship between domestic violence experience and dating abuse and to provide basic data necessary for developing education programs for preventing dating violence.

2. Objective of Study

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of the domestic violence experience of college students on

dating violence. The specific goals of this study were as follows:

- 1) Identifying the general characteristics of the subjects;
- 2) Understanding the differences in the degree of domestic violence experience and the degree of dating abuse;
- 3) Identifying the difference in the degrees of dating violence by the general characteristics of the subjects; and
- 4) Evaluating the factors affecting the effects of domestic violence experience in childhood on dating abuse.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Study Design

This study is a descriptive survey study to understand the effects of the domestic violence experience in childhood of college students on date abuse by identify the experience.

2. Study Subjects

This study used G * power program 3.1 to decide the appropriate sample size. The results showed that this study would require 152 subjects (power=0.90, alpha=0.05, and effect size=0.15). This study collected data from 170 people considering a 10% dropout rate. After recovering questionnaires, this study excluded six copies with incomplete responses and analyzed 164 copies.

3. Data Analysis

This study used SPSS Version 22.0 program to analyze the collected data. The following analysis procedure was employed:

- 1) The general characteristics of college students were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean, and standard deviation;
- 2) t-test and one way ANOVA were used to test the difference in dating violence by the general characteristics of college students;
- 3) The relationship between major variables was analyzed by using Pearson correlation; and
- 4) Regression analysis was used to examine the effects of major variables.

RESULTS

1. General Characteristics of Subjects

This study examined 164 subjects: 76.2% were women and 23.8% were men; and 64.0% were 20-24 years, 33.6% were 25-29 years, and 2.5% were 30 years and older. The results of "Heterosexual Dating Experience" showed that 52.3% were "Currently dating", which was the highest, followed by 44.5% of "Used to date, but currently not dating" and 3.7% of "None". "≥1 month & <7 months" was the most common dating duration, followed by 26.2% of "≥1 year & <2years", 19.5% of "≥7 months & <1 year", 14.5% of "≥3 years", and 10.4% of "<1month". The results of "Heterosexual Dating Relationship Satisfaction" indicated that 32.3% were satisfied, the highest, followed by "Very satisfied (30.5)"

and “Not satisfied or dissatisfied (28.7%)”. The results of “Seriousness of Romantic Relationship” revealed that “Love relationship but never discussed marriage” was the most frequent (28.0%), followed by “Love relationship and discussed marriage but no marriage plan (22%)”, “Regular dating without affection (22.0%)”, and

“Love relationship and plan to marry (18.3%)”. Regarding the question of “Are you living with your parents?”, 62.8% said “Yes and 37.2% said “No” For the question of “Is your parents’ quarrel ongoing?”, 86.6% said “No” and 13.4% said “Yes” <Table 1>.

Table 1: General characteristics of the subjects (n=164).

Characteristics	Classification	n(%)
Gender	Male	39(23.8)
	Female	125(76.2)
Age (year)	20-24	105(64.0)
	25-29	55(33.5)
	≥30	4(2.5)
Heterosexual Dating Experience	Currently dating	85(51.8)
	Used to date, but currently not dating	73(44.5)
	None	6(3.7)
Heterosexual Dating Duration	<1 month	17(10.4)
	≥1 month & <7 months	49(29.9)
	≥7 months & <1 year	32(19.5)
	≥1 year & <3years	43(26.2)
	≥3 years	23(14.0)
Heterosexual Dating Relationship Satisfaction	Very satisfied	50(30.5)
	Satisfied	53(32.3)
	Not satisfied or dissatisfied	47(28.7)
	Dissatisfied	10(6.1)
	Very dissatisfied	4(2.4)
Seriousness of Romantic Relationship	Irregular dating without affection	22(13.4)
	Regular dating without affection	30(18.3)
	Love relationship but never discussed marriage	46(28.0)
	Love relationship and discussed marriage but no marriage plan	36(22.0)
	Love relationship and plan to marry	30(18.3)
Living with Parents	Yes	103(62.8)
	No	61(37.2)
Persistence of Violence between Parents	Yes	22(13.4)
	No	138(84.1)

2. Subjects’ experience of domestic violence, experience of witnessing domestic violence between parents, and the level of dating violence

The subjects’ domestic abuse mean score was 20.12±8.97 points, the subjects’ experience of witnessing violence between parents was 13.71±5.99 points, and the mean of the subjects’ dating violence was 21.74±8.33points (Table 2).

Table 2: Subjects’ domestic violence experience, witnessing violence between parents experience, and degree of dating violence abuse (n = 164).

Domain	Mean±Standard Deviation (M±SD)
Experienced Domestic Violence	20.12±8.97
Witnessed Violence between Parents	13.71±5.99
Dating Violence	21.74±8.33

3. Differences in date abuse by general characteristics
<Table 3> shows the differences in “Witnessed violence between parents” experience and “Physical abuse in childhood” by general characteristics.

Dating abuse was not different by gender ($t=-.549$, $p=.807$), age ($F=0.450$, $p=.639$), heterosexual dating experience ($F=1.091$, $p=.355$), heterosexual dating duration ($F=.689$, $p=.601$), heterosexual dating

relationship satisfaction ($F=1.564$, $p=.186$), and seriousness of romantic relationship ($F=.108$, $p=.367$). However, it was significantly affected by living with parents ($t=-2.162$, $p=.032$) and persistence of violence between parents ($t=.3.117$, $p=.005$). In other words, students who did not live with parents tended to have higher date abuse score and the date abuse score was higher when the violence between parents continued to this day.

Table 3: Differences in date abuse by general characteristics (n=164).

Domain	Classification	Dating Abuse (M±SD)	t or F	p
Age	20-24 years	21.43±7.53	.450	.639
	25-29 years	22.50±9.88		
	≥30 years	19.50±5.0		
Heterosexual Dating Experience	Currently dating	20.77±6.43	1.091	.355
	Used to date, but currently not dating	22.89±10.06		
	None	19.83±6.94		
Heterosexual Dating Duration	<1 month	19.0±4.76	.689	.600
	≥1 month & <7 months	22.91±8.98		
	≥7 months & <1 year	21.48±8.83		
	≥1 year & <3 years	21.69±8.91		
	≥3 years	21.96±7.13		
Heterosexual Dating Relationship Satisfaction	Very satisfied	23.10±8.90	1.564	.186
	Satisfied	20.52±6.90		
	Not satisfied or dissatisfied	21.37±7.61		
	Dissatisfied	21.26±10.30		
	Very dissatisfied	17.0±5.13		
Seriousness of Romantic Relationship	Irregular dating without affection	21.16±8.90	1.08	.367
	Regular dating without affection	20.52±6.90		
	Love relationship but never discussed marriage	21.37±7.61		
	Love relationship and discussed marriage but no marriage plan	21.26±6.41		
	Love relationship and plan to marry	24.53±11.46		
Living with Parents	Yes	20.66±7.70	-2.160	.030
	No	23.59±11.46		
Persistence of Violence between Parents	Yes	28.41±11.43	3.117	.005
	No	20.58±7.24		

4. Correlation between dating abuse and variables

<Table 4> shows the correlation between the main variables.

Dating abuse experience was significantly correlated with psychological domestic dispute ($r=.41$, $p<.001$), physical domestic dispute ($r=.51$, $p<.001$), psychological child abuse ($r=.46$, $p<.001$), physical child abuse ($r=.50$, $p<.001$), psychological dating violence ($r=.94$, $p<.001$), physical dating violence ($r=.88$, $p<.001$), and sexual dating violence ($r=.78$, $p<.001$). The results indicated that the degree of date abuse was higher when the subjects experienced domestic violence more in childhood and witnessed violence between parents more.

Table 4: Correlation among dating abuse, domestic violence in childhood, and witnessing the violence between parents (n=164).

		Witnessed Violence between Parents		Domestic Violence in Childhood		Dating Abuse			
		Psychological domestic dispute	Physical domestic dispute	Psychological child abuse	Physical child abuse	Psychological dating violence	Physical dating violence	Sexual dating violence	Dating violence experience
Witnessed Violence between Parents	Psychological domestic dispute	1							
	Physical domestic dispute	.65 ($<.001$)	1						
Domestic Violence in Childhood	Psychological child abuse	.63 ($<.001$)	.52 ($<.001$)	1					
	Physical child abuse	.48 ($<.001$)	.66 ($<.001$)	.74 ($<.001$)	1				
Dating Abuse	Psychological dating violence	.37 ($<.001$)	.41 ($<.001$)	.49 ($<.001$)	.44 ($<.001$)	1			
	Physical dating violence	.36 ($<.001$)	.50 ($<.001$)	.32 ($<.001$)	.45 ($<.001$)	.66 ($<.001$)	1		
	Sexual dating violence	.37 ($<.001$)	.54 ($<.001$)	.40 ($<.001$)	.57 ($<.001$)	.57 ($<.001$)	.71 ($<.001$)	1	
	Dating violence experience	.41 ($<.001$)	.51 ($<.001$)	.46 ($<.001$)	.50 ($<.001$)	.94 ($<.001$)	.88 ($<.001$)	.78 ($<.001$)	1

5. Effects of witnessing violence between parents and domestic violence experience in childhood on dating abuse

Simple regression analysis was conducted to identify factors influencing dating abuse by using the witness of violence between parents, domestic violence in childhood, and living with parents, which were identified using previous studies, as independent variable and dating abuse as a dependent variable. The results of this analysis were as follows <Table 5>.

The results showed that tolerance was between .535 and .993, which was less than 1.0, and the variance inflation factor (VIF) was between 1.007 and 1.87, which was less than 10, the threshold. The results indicated that there was no multicollinearity issue in error terms. Further tests were conducted to evaluate whether residuals satisfied assumptions or not. The histogram of residuals was close to the normal distribution and the P-P

chart also showed that residuals were evenly distributed along the 45-degree diagonal line in the middle of the graph. Residuals satisfied the normality assumptions. The scatter plot analysis showed that residuals were scattered evenly around the horizontal line 0, satisfying the homoscedasticity of residuals. Moreover, residuals satisfied the assumption of linearity because residuals were evenly distributed in a straight line. The Durbin-Watson statistics, an autocorrelation test, was 1.70, close to 2, so it was confirmed that the residual independence was satisfied. Therefore, the basic assumptions for performing multiple regression analysis were satisfied.

The analysis results confirmed that living with parents ($\beta=.13$, $p=.038$), witnessing violence between parents ($\beta=.12$, $p=.002$), and domestic violence experience in childhood ($\beta=.03$, $p<.001$) significantly affected dating abuse. The explanatory power of the three variables was 33.2% ($F = 28.06$, $p <.001$).

Table 5: Effects of witnessing violence between parents and domestic violence experience in childhood on dating abuse (n=164).

Variable	B	β	t	p
(Constant)	7.17		3.29	$<.001$
Living with parents	2.19	.13	2.09	.038
Witnessed violence between parents	.38	.27	3.12	.002
Domestic violence experience	.32	.08	3.90	$<.001$
$R^2=.53$, Adjusted $R^2=.332$, $F=28.06$, $p<.001$				

DISCUSSION

This study was conducted to provide basic data for preventing dating violence and develop nursing intervention programs by confirming the effects of dating violence in childhood on dating violence and identifying influence factors.

Dating abuse scores according to the general characteristics were 22.38 ± 7.89 points for male students and 21.54 ± 8.49 points for female students, showing that the dating abuse score of male students was higher than that of female students. The results agreed with XXX [13] who showed that female students suffered from sexual dating violence more than male students. Other studies reported that female subjects exercised violence more during dating^[14] and female and male students exerted violence at similar rates^[15]. The conflicting results of these studies make it unclear which sex is the main victim of dating violence. It is necessary to prevent dating violence by recognizing that it is a matter of violence rather than a personal problem of violence victim.

The results of this study confirmed that people who witnessed the quarrels between parents and experienced domestic violence were more prone to be dating abusers. The results supported the social learning theory that children learn by imitating their parents' behaviors. Moreover, the results concurred with the results of previous studies that SOMETHING affected violence between parents^[16, 17]. According to the social learning theory^[1], which considers violence as a learned behavior, people can learn aggression from childhood by witnessing the violence of parents or experiencing violent behaviors directly and consider aggression as daily life in an intimate relationship. It also explains that they can be more easily generous to aggressive behaviors when interacting with dating partners in adulthood^[1]. Since the experience of domestic violence in childhood also affects the interpersonal relationship in the time of college, adulthood, it is desperately needed to seek social efforts to identify and monitor domestic violence experiences in childhood for eradicating domestic violence. Additionally, the social intervention will be needed to minimize the negative impact of domestic violence experiences or to improve personal coping skills through therapeutic approaches to children who have experienced violence.

In conclusion, it will be critical to develop and apply dating violence prevention programs targeting male and female college students that help victims of domestic violence or dating violence resolve issues non-violently and improve their interpersonal skills.

CONCLUSIONS

It was a descriptive survey study that aimed to understand the effects of domestic violence experiences in childhood on dating abuse. The results of this study showed that domestic violence experiences in childhood

affected dating abuse experiences.

Currently, the regular curriculum of South Korea does not cover dating violence and sexual violence and does not teach them systematically. Consequently, it will be necessary to develop programs including individual counseling and group counseling according to the life cycle, from early childhood to college, for raising awareness about the severity of dating violence and sexual violence and how to cope with them. Moreover, it will be needed to provide prevention education for abusers as well as psychotherapy and recovery for dating violence victims.

This study was supported by the 2019 Choonhae College of Health Sciences Research Support.

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