

Domestic Violence

Student Name

Institution

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence has crippled families in the traditional setup and is continuing to impact contemporary families. With the studies on domestic violence still on infant stages, scholars are not willing to take a huge risk of majoring in the course. This has contributed to controversies and debates in regard to the definition, applicability and the solution to domestic violence.

As part of solving the mystery of domestic violence, the highly informative essay explains three main sociological paradigms that revolve around domestic violence. These theories namely, structural functionalism, social conflict and symbolic interactionism provide partial answers to what domestic violence is since the studies of the topic are still premature. Whatever the theories are saying, it has come under attention that domestic violence precipitates from the lack of understanding. The rest has been explained in other parts of the essay.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Definition and Causes of Domestic Violence.....	2
Theories of Domestic Violence.....	2
The Social Conflict Theory.....	3
Structural-Functional Theory.....	4
Symbolic-Interaction Theory.....	4
Conclusion.....	5
References.....	6

www.primeassignments.com

Introduction

Domestic violence is among the greatest challenges traditional and modern families encounter. Despite the punitive legal measures for family violence, thousands of cases are reported daily across the globe, while majority go unreported. Domestic violence is a recipe for physical injuries, family income constraints, family break-ups, and even human loss. Children raised in violent families have psychological and emotional problems that inhibit a healthy development and poor academic performance. That said violence would imply any physical act that may cause injuries to the victim. Moreover, emotional abuse that results in intensive psychological traumas can constitute domestic violence. Domestic violence is a complex subject comprising elder abuse, intimate partner abuse and child abuse (“Characteristics and Consequences of Family Violence: What You Should Know about Family Violence”; “Family Theories”; “What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

Definition and Causes of Domestic Violence

Scholars have come up with hundreds of definitions for domestic violence, but they all converge to represent the same thing; that is, “an act or omission by persons who are cohabitating that results in serious injury to other members of the family”. A family, in this case, is made up of people who live together or are married. The causes of family violence have not been well-documented as the study of the topic is still in the infancy stage, although infidelity and substance abuse could be among them (“What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

Theories of Domestic Violence

Needless to say, the concept of domestic violence is rather lacking simplicity and to dig out what its true representation, three sociological paradigms; structural-functionalism theory, social-conflict theory and symbolic-interaction theory (“What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

The Social Conflict Theory

This sociological paradigm assesses big conflicts, marriages and the communication process. The theory maintains that unacknowledged hostility and shame promote violence in the family. In the family a conflict would escalate or violence would take place if anger and shame in a relationship were not acknowledged (“What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

The law cannot succeed in containing domestic violence if families do not realize the devastation they cause through the act. For instance, anger management and avoiding embarrassing situations are the only answers to family aggression, according to the social conflict theory. To labor this point, consider infidelity in marriages, where a man learns the hard way that his wife is being unfaithful. Finding a spouse in such a compromising situation is embarrassing for both sides and a conflict would erupt. Supposing the cheating spouse continues showing disrespect to their partner by engaging in more infidelity, the conflict could escalate to fists on day (“Characteristics and Consequences of Family Violence: What You Should Know about Family Violence”; “Family Theories”; “What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 4

Anger is also a bad thing in the family. More than often an anger-oriented individual would resolve to violence as the primary source of solution to problems. Wife battery and child physical abuse are going to be the likely option for such a man; therefore, it is imperative to understand the psychology and response of such a person. Likewise, he should be seeking counselling to help monitor his anger (“Characteristics and Consequences of Family Violence: What You Should Know about Family Violence”; “Family Theories”; “What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

Structural-functionalism Theory

The theory asserts that the society is usually balanced and the balance is maintained through the function of society’s component parts. This is analogous to the study of the body parts of humans. Each and every component of the body (brain, head, backbone, legs, hands, fingers etc.) has its own functions without which life becomes difficult. For that matter, the functional components of the society are socialization, religious engagement, population growth or decline, romantic affairs, peace, marriage and divorce, health care, economic status, family experiences, and friendship. In regard to domestic violence, all these functional components must behave in a way favorable to the family. Families experiencing economic problems, divorce processes, and unhealthy romantic relationships, for example, are often characterized by domestic violence (“Family Theories”; “What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis”)

Symbolic-Interaction Theory

According to symbolic interactionism, the community comprises ever-present interactions among persons who share symbols and their meanings. Such theory provides a platform for

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 5

understanding others, bettering communication, and inter-cultural relations. For instance, witch-hunting, crisis management, fears from crime, values, love, and evil are among the aspects governing the theory. Having the knowledge that one goes to prison if they beat their spouse or children, or even members of the extended family would help avoid domestic violence. In some companies, employers monitor their employees' domestic affairs in fight against violence in the house. The symbolic interaction theory is rather complicated than the previous two but very effective when applied prudently ("Family Theories"; "What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis").

Conclusion

Domestic violence is among the greatest challenges traditional and modern families encounter; and despite the stringent legal measures on family violence, thousands of cases are reported daily across the globe, while majority go unreported. The law and researches on domestic violence have done tremendous work in combating domestic violence, but families must be advised that peace in the house is fundamental to progress and that understanding is all that is important.

The family must embrace mutual understanding. The wife is by no circumstance to respect the husband, and the opposite applies. Children have a primary responsibility to respect parents unconditionally, but parents have to behave in certain recommended ways and lead by example. Although the subject of family violence is difficult to conceptualize, this paper has been extremely informative.

References

What Counts as Domestic Violence? A Conceptual Analysis. *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*. Vol. 2 (2). Retrieved from

<http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1106&context=wmjowl>

Hammond, R. and Cheney, P. Family Theories. Retrieved from

<http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/SOCI103/Family%20Theories.pdf>

Characteristics and Consequences of Family Violence: What You Should Know about Family Violence. Retrieved from

http://www.pearsonhighered.com/assets/hip/us/hip_us_pearsonhighered/samplechapter/0205679706.pdf

www.primeassignment.com