SOSYAL SAĞLIK DERGİSİ

COVİD-19 PANDEMİSİNDE EVLİLİK UYUMU VE KADINA YÖNELİK AİLE İÇİ ŞİDDETİN İNCELENMESİ

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Öz

Amaç: Covid-19 pandemisi ile uygulanan kısıtlama tedbirleri toplumsal cinsiyete dayalı güç dinamiklerini ve altta yatan eşitsizlikleri arttırmıştır. Bu kısıtlamalar çiftlerin evlilik uyumlarını etkilemiştir ve kadınlar bu süreçte daha fazla aile içi eş şiddetine maruz kalmışlardır. Bu çalışma Covid-19 pandemisinde çiftlerin evlilik uyumu ve kadınların aile içi eş şiddetine maruz kalma durumlarını araştırmak amacıyla yapılmıştır. **Yöntemler:** Bu araştırma 1 Ocak 2022 ve 1 Mayıs 2022 tarihleri arasında, 18-65 yaş aralığında bulunan 354 kadının katılımı ile yapılmıştır. Tanımlayıcı-kesitsel tipte bir araştırmadır. Bu çalışmaya katılım daveti ve anket formu sosyal medya platformları (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) ve iletişim kanalları (E-posta, SMS, Whatsapp) aracılığıyla paylaşılmıştır. Bu çalışmada kolayda örnekleme yönetimi kullanılmıştır. Veriler, bilgisayar ortamında değerlendirilmiştir. Veri analizler için SPSS 23.0 programı kullanılmıştır. Man Whitney U testi, Kruskal Wallis testi, Dunn testi Spearman korelasyon analizi kullanılmıştır. İstatistiksel anlamlılık değeri olarak p<0,5 kabul edilmiştir. **Bulgular:** Araştırmaya katılan kadınların yaş ortalaması 35 (31-41) olarak belirlenmiştir. Yenilenmiş Çift Uyum Ölçeği' nden alınan puan ortalaması 52,92±10,18 ve Kadına Yönelik Eş Şiddet Ölçeği' inden alınan puan ortalaması 43,99±10,64 olarak bulunmuştur. Yenilenmiş Çift Uyum Ölçeği ile Kadına Yönelik Eş Şiddet Ölçeği arasında negatif yönde zayıf bir ilişki bulunmuştur (r= -0,476; p=0.001). Çalışmamızda yaş, evlilik süresi, evlenme şekilleri, çocuk sahibi olma ve eşin çalışma durumu evlilik uyumunu etkileyen faktörler; çocuk sayısı, evlenme şekilleri ve gelir algısı ise eş şiddetini etkileyen faktörler olarak belirlenmiştir. **Sonuç:** Covid-19 pandemisinde evlilik uyumu ve kadına yönelik eş şiddetini belirlemeye yönelik gerçekleştirilen bu çalışmada Yenilenmiş Çift Uyum Ölçeği ile Kadına Yönelik Eş Şiddet Ölçeği arasında negatif yönde zayıf bir ilişki bulunmuştur (r= -0,476; p=0.001). Evlilik uyumu arttıkça şiddetin azaldığı belirlenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çift Uyumu, Kadına Yönelik Şiddet, Şiddet, Covid-19

DETERMINATION OF DYADIC ADJUSTMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Abstract

Objective: Restriction measures implemented with the Covid-19 pandemic have increased gender-based power dynamics and underlying inequalities. These restrictions have affected couples' marital adjustment and women have been exposed to more intimate partner violence in this process. This study was conducted to investigate the marital adjustment of couples and women's exposure to domestic spousal violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. **Methods**: This study was conducted between 1 January 2022 and 1 May 2022 with the participation of 354 women aged 18-65 years. It is a descriptive cross-sectional study. The invitation to participate in this study and the survey form were shared through social media platforms (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) and communication channels (e-mail, SMS, Whatsapp). Convenience sampling method was used in this study. The data were analysed in a computer environment. SPSS 23.0 programme was used for data analysis and Man Whitney U test, Kruskal Wallis test, Dunn test, Spearman correlation analysis were used. P<0.5 was accepted as statistical significance value. **Results:** The mean age of the women participating in the study was 35 years (31-41). The mean score obtained from the Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale was 52.92±10.18 and the mean score obtained from the Husband

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Determinatıon of Dyadic Adjustment And Domestic Violence Against Women in The Covid-19 Pandemic

Violence Against Women Scale was 43.99±10.64. A weak negative correlation was found between the Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Husband Violence Against Women Scale (r= -0.476; p=0.001). In our study, age, duration of marriage, marriage styles, having children and employment status of the spouse were found to be the factors affecting marital adjustment, while the number of children, marriage styles and income perception were found to be the factors affecting spousal violence. **Conclusion:** In this study conducted to determine marital adjustment and spousal violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic, a weak negative correlation was found between the Renewed Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Spousal Violence Against Women Scale (r= -0.476; p=0.001). It was determined that as marital adjustment increased, violence decreased.

Keywords: *Dyadic Adjustment, Violence Against Women, Violence, Covid-19*

Determinatıon of Dyadic Adjustment And Domestic Violence Against Women in The Covid-19 Pandemic

1.INTRODUCTION

Violence is an important global public health problem. It causes physical, economic and emotional problems by negatively affecting individuals at every stage of life from infancy to old age. Violence is defined as 'a situation that causes or is likely to cause injury, death, psychological harm, impaired development or deprivation by using threats or physical force against oneself, another person, a group or a society'. It has been reported that half a million people die every year in the world due to violence, one in every 2 children is exposed to physical, psychological or sexual violence and one in every 6 elderly people is exposed to abuse (Centre for Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021; World Health Organization [WHO], 2022).

Intimate partner violence is defined as 'behaviours that cause physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours by intimate partners or ex-partners against women.' Violence causes depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, sleep difficulties, eating disorders and suicide attempts in women. Women who experience intimate partner violence are almost twice as likely to suffer from depression and alcohol dependence. Women may also experience headaches, back pain, abdominal pain, gastrointestinal disorders, and limited mobility. Sexual violence, especially in childhood, leads to increased smoking, drug and alcohol use and may lead to risky sexual behaviours in later ages. It has been reported that approximately 1 in 4 (26%) of women worldwide have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by their intimate partner (WHO, 2022, WHO, 2025). According to the Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Türkiye, 4 out of every 10 women are exposed to physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Türkiye, 2015).

Violence against women adversely affects women sexually, physically and psychologically. Women experience many short or long term health problems due to violence. Violence against women leads to homicide, suicide and injuries and it is known that 42 per cent of women who are subjected to intimate partner violence are injured. Sexual violence causes unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and gynaecological problems in women. Violence causes depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, sleep difficulties, eating disorders and suicide attempts in women. It is known that women exposed to intimate partner violence are almost twice as likely to experience depression and alcohol dependence (WHO, 2025).

There are some risk factors that cause women to be exposed to domestic violence. These are listed as environmental characteristics of partners such as demographic and living environment, psychological characteristics and interaction patterns (relationship, status, incompatibility, relationship satisfaction). In a study conducted in 2018, it was determined that marital harmony affected the rate of domestic violence in women by 16.6% (Deniz, 2019). Having a relationship and conducting it in a positive way, having positive feelings, thoughts

and values towards each other, being able to solve problems together, having strong communication skills and enjoying spending time together are defined as marital adjustment (Sezer, 2018). According to a study conducted in 2022, 59.6 per cent of women stated that they were subjected to violence due to 'a momentary anger of their husbands'. While 46.6% of women reported 'family problems' and 39.6% reported 'jealousy' as the primary causes of violence, 'inability to do housework' (13.9%), 'bad habits' (12.7%) and 'forced marriage' (9.8%) ranked last (Çiftçi and Açık 2022).

The Covid-19 outbreak that emerged in Wuhan in 2019 has been felt as one of the most important threats to humanity for all countries of the world. The consequences of the disease were not only limited to loss of life, but also negatively affected individuals physically, socially and psychologically. In order to protect the public health, prevent the transmission of the virus and control the pandemic, countries applied many methods such as isolation, social distancing and quarantine, and aimed to gradually reduce the number of cases. Domestic violence has steadily increased as an unintended consequence of the negative effects of the pandemic and the restrictive policies implemented. Undoubtedly, domestic violence has negatively affected women and the gendered effects of the pandemic have started to attract more attention. Lockdown measures have exacerbated gendered power dynamics and underlying inequalities, making women particularly vulnerable to intimate partner violence. Women who are isolated due to restrictions are left vulnerable and deprived of support systems to help them. Since they feel trapped with the perpetrator and are unable to report the violence, literature data represent only the 'tip of the iceberg' (Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Türkiye, 2015; Abuhammad, 2021, Gebrewahd, Gebremeskel, Tadesse, 2020).

When the data on domestic violence against women around the world are analysed, the figures reveal the impact of the pandemic. As of 17 March 2020, France reported a 30-36% increase in domestic violence cases, with 36% in Paris alone. Calls to emergency helplines to report domestic violence increased by 20% in Spain, 30% in Cyprus, 33% in Singapore, 25% in Argentina and 40-50% in Brazil. In Colombia, calls to the national women's helpline were reported to have increased by approximately 130 per cent in the first 18 days of lockdown. According to statistics published in India in early April 2020, there was a 100% increase in complaints of violence against women following the nationwide restrictions imposed in March 2020. In Peru, complaints to the national hotline on violence against women increased by 33 per cent in April 2020 compared to April 2019. A police department in China's Hubei province reported that domestic violence cases tripled in February 2020 compared to February 2019, with 90% of these cases related to the Covid-19 pandemic. An online survey of 15,000 Australian women found that 65.4% had experienced violence for the first time during the pandemic, or that former victims of violence reported an increase in the intensity or frequency of violence compared to previous experiences. In Georgia, there was a 79 per cent increase in domestic violence cases compared to the previous year before restrictions began, indicating that even at the beginning of the pandemic, individuals were negatively affected by the pandemic. In a project conducted in the United Kingdom, it was reported that between 23

March and 12 April, deaths from domestic violence more than doubled (16 deaths) compared to the death rate in the previous 10 years, and calls to the emergency helpline increased by 20%. In the United States of America, there was a 21-35 per cent increase in cases of violence. A study conducted in Pakistan showed that 35 per cent of women had experienced some form of violence (physical, emotional, verbal). In Italy, it was reported that 2867 women contacted 80 shelters between 2 March and 5 April 2020. One quarter of the women who applied requested a shelter for the first time in their lives. According to the statistical analysis of the data of the domestic violence emergency helpline in Türkiye between 2007 and 2021; 80% of the victims of violence are women and 73% of them are married. Among those who reported having been subjected to physical violence, 79 per cent were women. Married women were subjected to physical violence 46 per cent more often than single women and 95 per cent more often than widowed or divorced women. According to the same report, after the Covid-19 pandemic started, there has been an increase in cases where the victim of violence is a woman. According to the results of a survey conducted in 28 provinces with the participation of 1873 women between 3-8 April 2020, it was determined that violence against women increased by 27.8% during the pandemic (Gebrewahd et al, 2020; Agüero, 2021; Evans, 2020; Roeshch, Amin, Gupta, Garcia-Moreno, 2020; Lima, 2020; Bellizzi, Nivoli, Lorettu, Farina, Ramses et al, 2020; Evans, Hawk, Ripkey, 2020; Ertan, El-Hage, Thierree, Javelot, Hingray, 2020; Haq, Raza, Mahmood, 2020; Viero, Barbara, Montisci, Kustermann, Cattaneo, 2021; United Nations Population Fund, 2023).

Restriction measures implemented with the Covid-19 pandemic have increased gender-based power dynamics and underlying inequalities. These restrictions have affected couples' marital adjustment and women have been exposed to more domestic intimate partner violence in this process. This study was conducted to investigate the marital adjustment of couples and women's exposure to domestic spousal violence during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.MATERIAL-METHODS

2.1.Research Type

This descriptive study was conducted to determine the marital adjustment of couples and women's exposure to domestic violence in the Covid-19 pandemic. Descriptive studies examine the distribution of the exposed factor in the society according to place, time and participant characteristics (Çaparlar and Dönmez 2016).

2.2.Population and Sample of the Study

The whole of the elements to which the results of the research are intended to be generalised is called the universe. The sample, on the other hand, is a small set selected from a certain universe according to certain rules and accepted to be representative of the universe (Karasar, 2005). The population of this study consisted of married women between the ages of 18-65. The number of people to be included in the sample (n) was determined as 354 by using the

simple random sampling formula (p=0.36; t=1.96; d=0.05). Women between the ages of 18-65 years, who accepted the informed consent, were married, and could read and write Turkish were included in the study. The presence of a communication barrier was determined as an exclusion criterion. The convenience sampling method was chosen to ensure that many women from different parts of Türkiye were represented.

2.3. Data Collection Method

The data of this study were collected between 1 January 2022 and 1 May 2022. The data collection phase was terminated when the calculated sample size was reached. As data collection tools, 'Information Form on Descriptive Characteristics of Women', 'Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale' and 'Husband Violence Against Women Scale' were used. The invitation to participate in this study and the survey link were shared through social media platforms (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) and communication channels (E-mail, SMS, Whatsapp). Data were collected from women living in the Marmara Region of Türkiye.

2.4. Data Collection Tools

Information Form on Descriptive Characteristics of Women: There are 11 questions in the form in total. In this form, there are questions about the age, education level, occupation, employment status, having children, education and employment status of the spouse, and income perception of the women participating in the research. These questions were created by the researchers by reviewing the literature (Deniz, 2019; Sezer, 2018; Yalçın, 2014).

Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale (RDAS): It is the final version of the 32-item Dyadic Adjustment Scale developed by Spanier (1976), which was reorganised by Busby et al. (1995) and reduced to 14 items. A Turkish validity and reliability study was conducted by Gündoğdu (2007) and an adaptation study of the scale to Turkish culture was conducted by Bayraktaroğlu and Çakıcı (2017). As a result of the factor analysis, Bayraktaroğlu and Çakıcı (2017) found that there are items 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 for the satisfaction factor; items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 for the consensus factor; and items 8, 10, 14 for the consensus factor. Items 7, 8, 9, 10 of the scale are reverse scored. The highest score that can be obtained from the scale is 70 points, and the score indicates the relationship quality. The scale was developed to assess the relationship quality of married or cohabiting couples in marriage or similar dyadic relationships. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the three subscales of the three-subdimensional RQRQ is 0.87, 0.80, 0.80, 0.80, 0.74 for the total score, satisfaction, consensus, and consensus subscales, respectively. The correlation of the scale with the Marital Adjustment Scale used for criterion-related validity was calculated as 68 (p<0.01) in a positive direction (Busby et al. 1997). In the study of Bayraktaroğlu and Çakıcı (2017), the Cronbach alpha coefficient of the scale was calculated as 0.88 (Bakraktaroğlu & Çakıcı, 2017).

The Husband Violence Against Women Scale (HVAWS): This scale was developed by Deniz (2019). The scale consists of a total of 29 items and 3 subscales. Items numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27 constitute the subscale of intimate partner violence against women (physical, psychological, economic and sexual); items numbered 15, 16, 17, 18, 29 constitute the victim's perception of social support in the face of violence; and items numbered 20, 21, 22, 23, 29 constitute the victim's common beliefs about violence. While scoring the scale, items 12, 15, 16, which have positive expressions regarding the demand for social support in the face of violence, are reversed and scored. The rating is based on a 5-point Likert scale from 'Strongly disagree (1)' to 'Somewhat agree (2)'. 'undecided (3)' "strongly agree (4)" and "strongly agree (5)". The highest score that can be obtained from the scale is 145 and the lowest score is 29. In the study conducted by Deniz in 2019, the cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficient for the whole scale was determined as 0.93. The cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficients of the sub-dimensions of the scale were 0.73 for the sub-dimension of types of violence experienced by women, 0.77 for the sub-dimension of social support perception of women victims of violence, and 0.88 for the sub-dimension of common beliefs of women victims of violence about violence. In the same study, it was reported that this scale is sufficiently reliable and has a valid structure for use in married literate women samples (Deniz, 2019).

2.4. Data Analysis

The numerical variables used in the study were analysed with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test for conformity to normal distribution. Accordingly, Man Whitney U test was used for comparisons between two independent groups and Kruskal Wallis test was used for comparisons between more than two independent groups. If there was a significant difference as a result of Kruskal Wallis test, Dunn test was used for pairwise comparisons. Spearman correlation analysis was used to determine the statistical relationships between variables. Numerical variables were shown as median [interquartile range - IQR]. Categorical variables were expressed as number and percentage. Type I error (α) was set as 0.05 and p values below 0.05 were considered statistically significant. All statistical calculations were performed with statistical software (IBM SPSS Statistics, Version 23.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.).

2.5. Ethics Committee Declaration

Ethics committee approval was obtained before starting the study (Date: 13.01.2022, Number: E-61923333-050.99-96112). The study was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Before filling out the data collection form, the women were informed about the purpose of the study and asked whether they wanted to participate in the study and their written consent was obtained. After written consent was obtained, the participants filled in the data collection forms.

3.RESULTS

Table 1. Distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of participants

Variables		n
Age		35 [31-41]
Education Status	Primary school	10 (2.8)
	Middle school	16 (4.4)
	High school	57 (15.8)
	University	223 (61.9)
	Postgraduate	54 (15)
Education Status of the Husband	Primary school	13 (3.6)
	Middle school	30 (8.3)
	High school	80 (22.2)
	University	187 (51.9)
	Postgraduate	50 (13.9)
Working Status	Yes	234 (65)
	No	126 (35)
Employment Status	Officer	199 (55.3)
	Employee	23 (6.4)
	Freelance	12 (3.3)
Employment Status of the Husband	Yes	339 (94.2)
	No	21 (5.8)
Manner of Marriage	Marriage by Meeting and Agreement	300 (83.3)
	Arranged Marriage	45 (12.5)
	Runaway match	12 (3.3)
	Consanguineous Marriage	3 (0.8)
Duration of Marriage		9 [5-16]
Having Children	Yes	311 (86.4)
	No	49 (13.6)
Number of Children		2 [1-2]
Income perception	Income is less than expenses	22 (6.1)
	Balanced income and expenses	45 (12.5)
	Income is more than expense	293 (81.4)

Statistics are shown as n (%) and median [interquartile range].

The average age of the women who participated in the study was 35 years (31-41). It was observed that 65 % of the women were employed in an income-generating job. It was determined that the women had been married for an average of 9 years, had an average of 2 children, and 83.3% of the women were married after meeting and agreeing. When their income status was questioned, 81.4% of the women answered that income was more than expenses.

Table 2. The Distribution of the Relationships Between the Participants' Scores on the Husband Violence against women scale and the scores on the revised dyadic adjustment scale.

HVAWS	RDAS							
	Satisfaction		Cohesion		Consensus		Total	
	r	p	r	P	r	p	r	p
Husband violence	-0.544	**<0.001**	-0.556	**<0.001**	-0.592	**<0.001**	-0.633	**<0.001**
Belief	-0.082	0.119	-0.065	0.222	-0.153	**0.004**	-0.116	**0.028**
Social support	-0.116	**0.028**	-0.023	0.662	-0.096	0.069	-0.085	0.106
Total	-0.449	**<0.001**	-0.378	**<0.001**	-0.455	**<0.001**	-0.476	**<0.001**

r: Spearman correlation coefficient.

The mean score obtained from the RDAS was found to be 52.92±10.18 and the mean score obtained from the HVAWS was found to be 43.99±10.64. A weak negative correlation was found between the RDAS and the HVAWS (r= -0.476; p=0.001). Even if it is not strong, this relationship shows that spousal violence against women decreases as marital adjustment increases. Table 3 shows the distribution of the relationships between the participants' scores on the HVAWS and the RDAS scores.

Table 3. Distribution of the Relationships Between Participants' Scale Scores and Age, Duration of Marriage and Number of Children.

		Age		Duration of Marriage		Number of Children	
		r	p	r	p	r	p
RDAS	**Satisfaction**	-0.189	**<0.001**	-0.213	**<0.001**	-0.106	0.061
	Cohesion	-0.188	**<0.001**	-0.198	**<0.001**	-0.073	0.200
	Consensus	-0.014	0.796	-0.039	0.465	0.012	0.832
	Total	-0.174	**0.001**	-0.197	**<0.001**	-0.080	0.160
HVAWS	**Husband violence**	0.070	0.184	0.091	0.086	0.059	0.298
	Belief	-0.156	**0.003**	-0.129	**0.015**	-0.081	0.156
	Social support	-0.019	0.724	-0.002	0.969	0.075	0.185
	Total	0.071	0.180	0.087	0.098	0.123	**0.030**

r: Spearman correlation coefficient

The distribution of the relationships between the participants' scale scores and age, duration of marriage and number of children is given in Table 2. A negative relationship was found between the RDAS and the age variable (r= -0.174; p=0.001), and a weak negative relationship was found between the duration of marriage and the age variable (r= -0.197; p=0.001). There was a positive correlation between the HVAWS and the number of children variable (r= 0.123; p=0.001). (Table 3).

Table 4: Some Sociodemographic Characteristics Thought to be Related to the Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale

Socio-Demographic Characteristics	n	RDAS	
		Score	p
Education Status			
Primary School	10	49,5 [41-56]	
Middle School	16	53,5 [44,5-62]	
High School	57	52 [45-58]	0.118
University	223	56 [47-61]	
Postgraduate	54	55 [52-60]	
Education Status of the Husband			
Primary School	13	46 [34-57]	
Middle School	30	53 [44-58]	
High School	80	53 [47-60]	0.067
Bachelor	187	56 [48-61]	
Postgraduate	50	55 [50-62]	
Employment Status			
Employed	234	55 [48-61]	0.204
Unemployed	126	54 [46-60]	
Employment Status of the Husband			
Employed	339	55 [48-61]	**0.038**
Unemployed	21	48 [45-56]	
Profession			
Public Servant	199	56 [49-61]	
Worker	23	52 [45-61]	0.825
Self-employed	12	57 [47-60,5]	
Manner of Marriage			
By Meeting and Agreeing	300	56 [49-61]	
Arranged Marriage/Consanguineous Marriage	48	49,5 [38,5-57,5]	**0.001**
Marriage by elopement	12	52 [41-55,5]	
Having Children			
Yes	311	55 [47-60]	**0.007**
No	49	57 [53-63]	
Income Perception			
Income less than expenditure	22	53 [43-58]	
Income and expenditure balanced	45	52 [40-59]	0.054
Income more than expenditure	293	55 [49-61]	

The characteristics of the participants' education level, spouse's education level, employment status, spouse's employment status, occupation, marriage patterns, having children and perception of income, which are thought to be related to RDAS, are given in Table 4. The characteristics of the participants' education level, spouse's education level, employment status, spouse's employment status, occupation, marriage patterns, having children, amount of income and income perception, which are thought to be related to the HWAWS, are given in Table 5.

Table 5: Some Sociodemographic Characteristics Thought to be Related to the Husband Violence Against Women Scale

Socio-Demographic Characteristics	n	HVAWS	
		Score	p
Education Status			
Primary School	10	43,5 [38-45]	
Middle School	16	42 [41-45]	
High School	57	43 [40-49]	0.591
University	223	42 [38-45]	
Postgraduate	54	42 [39-45]	
Education Status of the Husband			
Primary School	13	43 [38-48]	
Middle School	30	43 [41-45]	
High School	80	42 [39,5-45]	0.687
Bachelor	187	42 [39-45]	
Postgraduate	50	42,5 [38-45]	
Employment Status			
Employed	234	42 [39-45]	0.718
Unemployed	126	42 [39-46]	
Employment Status of the Husband			
Employed	339	42 [39-45]	0.065
Unemployed	21	44 [41-47]	
Profession			
Public Servant	199	42 [39-45]	
Worker	23	41 [37-45]	0.565
Self-employed	12	42 [39,5-43]	
Manner of Marriage			
By Meeting and Agreeing	300	42 [39-45]	
Arranged Marriage/Consanguineous Marriage	48	44 [40,5-51]	**0.030**
Marriage by elopement	12	42,5 [39-45]	
Having Children			
Yes	311	42 [39-46]	0.636
No	49	42 [39-45]	
Income Perception			
Income less than expenditure	22	42 [39-46]	
Income and expenditure balanced	45	44 [41-51]	**0.015**
Income more than expenditure	293	42 [39-45]	

4.DISCUSSION

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the relationship between family and spouses in various ways as in every field. In particular, practices such as social isolation, working from home, continuing education online and restrictions have led to various conflicts and mental health problems in individuals, families and spouses. The data obtained from our study to determine the relationship between marital adjustment and domestic violence against women in the

Covid-19 pandemic will be discussed in the light of the literature. In this study, age, duration of marriage, employment status of the spouse, marriage types and having children were found to be factors affecting marital adjustment in the Covid-19 pandemic (p<0.05). In addition, the number of children, marriage patterns, amount of income and income perception were found to be factors affecting spousal violence against women in the Covid-19 pandemic (p<0.05).

The mean score obtained from the RDAS was found to be 52.92±10.18. According to this score, it can be said that the marital adjustment of the women in the sample group is at a good level. In the study conducted by Gökbulut, Bal, and Uçar (2021); 73.8% of the participants stated that their spousal relationships were not negatively affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. In another study conducted in 2020, similar results were observed, and 69% of women reported their relationships with their spouses as good and as usual (Li, Tang, Song, Wang, Qunshan et al., 2020). Another study conducted in 2020 reported that couple and family dynamics improved during quarantine processes (Günther-Bel, Vilaregut, Carratala, Torras-Garat, Pérez-Testor, 2020). In a study conducted by Kaya and Işık (2021), it was shown that due to the increase in the time spent with the spouse during the pandemic, the spouses bonded more closely and became closer to each other. The results of this study and similar studies show that the marital adjustment of couples was not negatively affected during the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

In our study, age, duration of marriage, employment status of the spouse, marriage types and having children were found to be factors that increased marital adjustment in the Covid-19 pandemic (p<0.05). According to the study conducted by Erdinç (2018), the age variable does not affect marital adjustment. In the study conducted by Rodoplu (2019), it was shown that the age variable has no effect on marital adjustment. According to the results of these studies, it can be said that married individuals are ready for the harmony brought by marriage. In our study, it was determined that the duration of marriage was among the factors affecting marital adjustment. A study conducted in 2020 showed that marital satisfaction was high in the first years of marriage, gradually decreased in the following years and increased again after middle age (Erdal, 2020). According to the result of the study conducted by Erbil and Hazer (2018), it was determined that marital adjustment was high in the first 5 years of marriage and marital adjustment decreased as the duration of marriage increased. According to the result of the study conducted by Koçak (2021), it is seen that marital adjustment increases as the economic status increases. In another study examining relationship satisfaction and relationship dissatisfaction in the Covid-19 process, it was found that the relationship satisfaction scores of the group whose partner worked were higher and relationship dissatisfaction scores were lower compared to the non-working group (Artan, Atak, Ofluoğlu, Türk ve Ünlü, 2021). In our study, it was observed that spousal harmony increased when the spouse was employed. When the relationship between spousal adjustment and marriage types was analysed, a statistically significant difference was found between the participants who were married through arranged marriages/marriage of relatives and those who were married through meeting and agreement. Looking at the

literature, it is seen that the marital adjustment of individuals in love marriages is higher than individuals in logic marriages (Erdinç, 2018; Tıraşlıoğlu & İpek, 2018). Our research is similar to the literature in this respect. It is seen that another variable affecting marital adjustment is having children. According to our study, marital adjustment was found to be higher in individuals who had children. In Yıldırım and Erdinç's study, marital adjustment of individuals who did not have children was found to be higher than individuals who had children (Erdinç, 2018; Yıldırım, 2018). In Uzel's (2015) study, it was observed that having children did not affect marital adjustment. In Yalçın's (2014) study, it was reported that the number of children had no effect on marital adjustment. Having children creates a serious care burden on parents. It is thought that marital adjustment between couples is positively affected when this care burden is shared, but when the responsibility is shared by a single parent, marital adjustment is negatively affected.

In this study, the number of children, marriage methods, and income perception were determined as factors affecting spousal violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic (p<0.05). In the study conducted by Akkuş and Yıldırım (2018), it was observed that men who perpetrated violence had 3 or more children. Another factor affecting spousal violence against women is the type of marriage. A statistically significant difference was found between participants who met and got married by agreement with arranged marriage/consanguineous marriage. (p<0.05). In the study conducted by Öyeçkin, Yetim, and Şahin (2012), it was observed that spousal violence was 2.5 times more in those who got married by arrangement compared to those who got married by agreement, while violence was 4 times more in those who got married by eloping. In the study conducted by Tel, Kocataş, Güler, Aydın, and Gündoğdu, it was observed that the scores of the domestic violence determination scale of women who got married by meeting and got married were higher in women who got married by arrangement. It is observed that getting married by agreement does not always protect women from violence. It is seen that illiterate women, women with a large age difference between their spouses, women with poor economic conditions and women with unemployed spouses are more disadvantaged than other women in terms of violence (Demircioğlu, 2021). In our study, a statistically significant difference was found between women whose income is higher than their expenses and women whose income and expenses are balanced (p<0.05). In the study conducted by Öyekçin et al. (2012), economic violence was found to be associated with low income. In the study conducted by Demircioğlu (2021), it was determined that 31.6% of the participants had one of their family members unemployed during the pandemic. Studies show that people who are unemployed or have low income levels are restless during the quarantine processes and their family problems increase.

In this study, the mean score of women on the HVAWS was found to be 43.99±10.64. The mean score of women on the dyadic adjustment scale was found to be high, while the mean score of the spouse violence scale was found to be low, and a weak negative relationship was found between them (r= -0.476; p=0.001). In the study conducted by Seçgin et al., it was determined that the frequency of all types of violence in women increased during the

pandemic compared to the pre-pandemic period. In the study conducted by Eke and Küçükali (2022), it was determined that while the frequency of psychological and physical violence among women was high before the pandemic, psychological, physical and economic violence was applied at a high rate during the pandemic. In the qualitative study conducted by Sabri et al. (2020) with immigrant women who were exposed to intimate partner violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, women stated that violence and the frequency of violence against women who were at home with abusive spouses increased. In the study conducted by Akalın and Ayhan (2022) to determine the prevalence and risk factors of intimate partner violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was determined that 35.5% of the women participating in the study experienced physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. 332 women were included in the study conducted by Adibelli, Sümen and Teskereci (2021) to determine domestic violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic. The average scale score of the women was determined as 66.57 ± 11.30. In the same study, the relationship levels of women with their partners were questioned and it was seen that they received 8.02 ± 1.82 points out of 10 points (1-very bad to 10-very good). A moderate negative relationship was found between the total violence score averages according to the relationship levels with their partners. The results of our study are parallel to this study.

Limitations

This study has some limitations. The universe of this study consisted of married women between the ages of 18-65. The data of the study were collected from women living in the Marmara Region of Turkey. Therefore, it cannot be generalized to the entire universe. In addition, this study was conducted only in a certain period of time. Therefore, it is limited in terms of data on domestic violence against women covering the entire Covid-19 pandemic process.

5.CONCLUSION

In this study conducted to determine marital harmony and spousal violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was determined that violence decreased as marital harmony increased. Age, duration of marriage, spouse's employment status, types of marriage and having children are variables that affect marital harmony. It was determined that spousal violence was affected by the number of children, types of marriage, amount of income and perception of income.

Violence against women, which is a major public health problem globally, has caused much more adverse conditions for women due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the restrictions, families and societies have faced many psychological, economic and social problems, and the burden of these problems has fallen on women's shoulders due to their roles and responsibilities within the family. More studies are needed in terms of the factors affecting couples' marital harmony and violence against women. There is a need to create

policies that will cover all women and families by evaluating the dynamics of individuals within the family in their own special way.

As a result of this study, the reasons why women experience domestic violence have been defined. The study provides very important information in terms of defining the reasons why women experience violence. Women are in a very critical position in terms of the welfare and health of society. The reasons for physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence against women should be well defined and this crisis should be managed with a multidisciplinary approach. It is very important for states to ensure a life without violence for all women and to create policies in this context.

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