



Exposure to physical violence in elementary school students in Mardin and their approaches

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Summary

Aim: This study was performed to determine the frequency of physical violence and to be exposed the opinion, attitude and behaviors of the primary education students about the physical violence.

Material and Method: All of the primary education schools were included the study at Mardin Province Center. Whole fifth and eighth class of the schools were chosen randomized and questionnaire was applied to 1351 students.

Results: 50.6% of girls and 49.4% are boys. The mean age was 11.9, counts of people who lives their home was 7, average child count was 3 of the students. The 13.1% of the students were expressed that their mother was beaten by their fathers. The 42.6% of the students were exposed to violence even a time of all their whole life; the 30.7% of them were still exposed to violence from time to time. The physical violence rate of the boys are more than the girls ($p<0.01$). The violence rate applied to children reduce with their classes, that they educated in ($p<0.01$), and fathers' educational situation advanced ($p<0.01$). Children exposed to violence higher that lives in their family in which present the domestic violence ($p<0.01$). The 15.7% of the students are still carrying on fight that includes physical violence, 5.0% of them consider that the violence is a solution.

Conclusions: The rate of the violence that exposed and considering the violence is very common. For that reason, inside of the basic health service supply; child exploitation and neglect attach importance for at primary, secondary and tertiary prevention studies, official and volunteer organizations must study together multidisciplinary for solving the problem, the programs must supported with legal arrangements and take part at government policies. (*Turk Arch Ped* 2013; 48: 226-234)

Key words: Physical violence, primary education students, Mardin, risk factors

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines child abuse as "behaviors which are performed by an adult purposely or inadvertently and which affect a child's health and physical and psychosocial development in a negative way". In this definition, the outcomes are importance rather than the aim. In other words, the aim of the adult is not important, but the effect of the action on the child is important. Abuse may occur in different forms including physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse (1). Abuse is related with the properties of the parents, social problems, unhealthy intra-familial interaction and developmental problems of the child. The factors which

predispose to occurrence of child abuse and neglect have been reported to include low socioeconomic level, narrow living space, extended family structure, presence of migration phenomenon, low education level, single parent-family, low marriage quality, weak parent-child relation, presence of history of substance abuse by parents (2). Lack of parents may be considered as a separate internal stress factor. Broken families due to death, divorce or working in a different place constitute a significant risk group in terms of child abuse. Abuse and neglect by parents, being a witness to violence between the mother and father, having a broken family or emotions arising from various family problems may cause the child to learn and imitate

these and thus get an exploitive personality by affecting the life style and relations of the child (3). Experience of violence, abuse and neglect especially in the childhood leaves deep scars and affects mental and psychological health negatively. Studies show that violence gives birth to violence and violence is learned at young ages. Children or adolescents who grow up in settings where violence is used for solving problems, as a way of punishment and as a method to gain respect will most probably apply violence against their own partners or children when they become adults. Considering the fact that protection of children from violence is the first step in the way of cleaning communities from violence, the importance of studies in this area can not be ignored (4). For children who are the adults of the future to become healthy adults and raise healthy generations parents should keep away from violence and have positive attitudes and behaviors. Our study aimed to demonstrate presence of domestic violence in the province of Mardin and reflections of this violence by children.

Material and Method

This study was a questionnaire-based, descriptive, cross-sectional study performed to determine exposure of 3422 elementary school students studying in the elementary schools in the center of the province of Mardin to physical violence and their approaches. A questionnaire was applied randomly to a total of 52 divisions (one from the fifth and 8th classes each) in 27 elementary schools in the center of the province. Classes from two separate groups (5th and 8th classes) were selected to determine the change in violence in years. The classes included in the sample included a total of 1351 students. The rate of response was 96%. The number of children included in the survey represented the province of Mardin with a 95% safety level. After the necessary approvals (06/10/2011:148) and informed consents were obtained, a preliminary test of the survey was performed in one of the elementary schools to check the age-appropriateness of the questions and to determine the application time of the questionnaire. The multiple-choice questionnaire form containing 52 questions applied to students was the questionnaire of the study of violence applied to school-age children in Elazığ performed by Erhan Deveci, M.D., Associate Professor of Public Health, Elazığ University Medical Faculty. It was used with his own approval and encouragement. The questionnaire consisted of questions about the sociodemographic properties of children and families, the bilateral relation of the mother and father as well as exposure of children to physical violence and the continuance of this. Oppressive behavior not including physical violence was excluded in the questionnaire and actions of spanking and beating were questioned. The mean number of children, the minimum wage level and multiples were used in classifications.

Students who were exposed to physical violence in the last one year were evaluated as the ones who were still being exposed to violence. The fieldwork was done between November 2011 and December 2011. The data obtained were recorded in SPSS program and error checkings, tables and statistical analyses were done using this program. Chi-square test and logistic regression were used as statistical analysis methods and a p value of <0,05 was considered significant.

Results

The mean age of 1351 students included in the questionnaire was 11.9 ± 1.52 years. 668 (49.4%) of the students were male and 683 (50.6%) were female. 55.7% were studying in the fifth class (n=752) and 44.3% (n=599) were studying in the 8th class. The mean number of children at home was 3.0 ± 2.04 . The number of people living at home was 7.2 ± 2.70 . The mean monthly income of the families of the children included in the study was 965.68 ± 176.37 Turkish liras (TL). The monthly income was 0-750 TL in 25.2% of the families, 751-1500 TL in 24.4%, 1501-3000 TL in 17.2% and higher than 3000 TL in 33.1%. 42.6% of the students were exposed to physical violence at least for one time (n=575) and 30.7% (n=415) were still being exposed to physical violence occasionally. The distribution of the demographic properties of the violence applied to children is shown in Table 1. The students reported the reasons for being exposed to physical violence to be "disobeyance" (19.6%), "fighting with siblings" (7.8%), "lying" (4.6%), "for no reason" (4.0%) and "for not studying" (3.3%). The question "what would be the attitude of your parents in response to your imperfect behavior?" was answered as "they convince me by explaining the erroneous aspects of my behavior" by 69.7% of the students. The distribution of the other answers to this question was as follows: 'scowls' (13.3%); 'warns verbally, admonishes' (14.1%); 'frightens, threatens' (2.1%); 'punishes' (5.2%); 'beats' (3.1%). The frequencies of exposure to violence of the students are shown in Table 2. The people who applied physical violence are shown in Table 3 and the outcomes of the violence are shown in Table 4. 1.7% of the students who were exposed to physical violence resulting in injury stated that they referred to a physician because of this reason. The source of physical violence leading to this was the mother with a rate of 2.8% and the father with a rate of 2.3%. The physical violence applied was "beating by hand" in 25.0%, "pulling ears" in 9.3%, "kicking" in 2.6% and "use of belt, stick, ruler" in 2.2%. 79.4% of the students stated that their parents were generally getting along well with each other and 13.1% stated that their fathers applied physical violence to their mothers at least for one time. In the issue of relationship between the mother and father, a wide range of answers were obtained ranging from "they

quarrel occasionally” to “they fight and apply physical violence to each other”. Application of physical violence by the father to the mother was found with a high rate in the groups who stated “they quarrel frequently” and “they apply physical violence to each other” ($p<0.01$). It is significant that mothers who are exposed to physical violence by their husbands apply physical violence to their children ($p<0.01$), (Table 5). Exposure to violence by the mother is related with her education level to be at the level of literacy and her husband’s education level to be at primary school ($p<0.01$). The rate of experience of violence by the mother is higher in families with a number of children of 0-3 compared to families with a number of children of more than 3 ($p<0.01$). (Table 6). Application of violence by the father to the mother and children is significant in families with a monthly income of ‘751- 1500’ Turkish liras ($p<0.01$). There is an inverse relationship between the level of welfare of the family and exposure to violence by the mother ($p<0.01$).

The answers to the question “How does the quarrel of your parents affect you?” were as follows: “they never quarrel” (83%); “I am influenced in a very bad way and I can not get over it for a long time” (4.4%); “ I am influenced, but I rapidly forget” (3,1%); “it does not interest me much” (1%); “I find it normal, it may happen in any family (2.7%); “I try to interrupt them by breaking in (1.1%). The statements of the children (“one can live without fighting” and “fighting is not good”) in families where fathers did not apply violence to mothers were significant ($p<0.01$). In families where fathers applied violence to mothers, the affection of children from violence and their possibility of applying violence to their children when they become adults were found to be significant ($p<0.01$), (Table 6). The answers to the question “ have you ever been in a fight involving physical violence in your life time?” were as follows: “I have never fought” (43.8%); “I fought for one or two times” (27.8%) and “I still fight occasionally” (15.7%). Children who had been in

Table 1. The demographic distribution of the students who were and were not exposed to violence

	Exposed to violence	Not exposed to violence	p
Male	312 (46.7%)	356 (%53.3)	0.00**
Female	263 (38.5%)	420 (%61.5)	
Fifth class	296 (39.4%)	456 (%60.6)	0.00**
Eight class	279 (46.6%)	320 (%53.4)	
Family income level (751-1 500TL.)	142 (43.2%)	187 (%56.8)	0.00**
Number of siblings	575 (42.6%)	776 (%57.4)	0.110
Nuclear family	502 (43.0%)	666 (%57.0)	0.432
Extended family	73 (39.9%)	110 (%60.1)	
Maternal education level (illiterate)	196 (48.8%)	206 (%51.2)	0.08
Paternal education level (Primary school)	162 (49.1%)	168 (%50.9)	0.008*
Anne baba sağ	558 (42.8%)	745 (%57.2)	0.429
Anne baba birlikte yaşıyor	543 (42.8%)	725 (%57.2)	0.509

**: $p<0.001$ *: $p<0.05$

Table 2. The frequency of violence in children who are exposed to physical violence

The frequency of physical violence in children who are still being exposed to violence	n (%)	The time of the last physical violence experienced	n (%)
Every day	21 (1.6%)	Today	31 (2.3%)
At least 1-2 times a week	79 (5.8%)	In the last one week	82 (6.1%)
At least 1-2 times a month	74 (5.5%)	In the last one month	86 (6.4%)
At least 1-2 times a year	82 (6.1%)	In the last 6 months	64 (4.7%)
Very very rarely	138 (10.2%)	In the last one year	68 (5.0%)
Never	21 (1.5%)	More than one year ago	75 (5.6%)
		Never	9 (0.6%)
Total	415 (30.7%)	Total	415 (30.7%)

a fight involving physical violence in any life period were significant in the groups who stated that "I find it normal, it may happen in any family" and "I am influenced in a bad way, I can not get over it for a long time" for domestic violence ($p<0.01$).

The rate of participation in a fight involving physical violence was statistically higher in children who were still being exposed to physical violence compared to the children who stated that they had never been exposed to physical violence ($p<0.01$). The possibility of applying physical violence to children was statistically significantly higher in children who were being exposed to physical violence every day compared to the children who had never been exposed to physical violence ($p<0.01$). It was significant that children who were exposed to physical violence in a degree that they had to refer to a physician adopted fighting which involved physical violence ($p<0.01$). It was significant that children whose imperfect behavior was punished by beating considered physical violence as a part of life ($p<0.05$), (Table 7).

5% of the students answered "yes" to the question "Is brute force a solution for some events?". 6,3% of the students answered "yes" to the question 'Would you apply physical violence to your child because of a mistake in the future?'. 7,1% of the students described fighting as "good and nice"; 18,4% stated that it was not nice but a part of life; 67,9% stated that "it was not nice, one can live without fighting, if one wants". The statements 'fighting is nice' ($p<0,05$), 'fighting is not nice, but a part of life', 'brute force is a solution', 'I can apply physical violence to my children because of their mistakes when I become a parent' were mostly used by male students ($p<0.01$). The statement 'fighting is not nice' was predominantly used by female students ($p<0.01$), (Table 8).

Discussion

The definition, aim and direction of violence may vary according to culture or in different periods in the same culture (5). Applications of violence which is observed commonly in the whole world and exposure of children to violence (whatever the age) lead to humanistic and public traumas.

Violence applied to children

Any behavior which involves interactive hurting and harming by family members is domestic violence (6). 42,6% of the students who participated in the questionnaire were exposed to violence. This violence gained intensity in male students and in the fifth class. The person who applied violence was found to be mostly the mother. Hence, in a study conducted with university students, 22,6% stated that physical violence was used in childhood to establish discipline, 15,9% stated that it was used to give a lesson on any issue and 16,1% stated that it was used to establish respect (7). In another study, 53,3% of the students (64% male, 41% female) stated that they experienced violence events including kicking, punching, pushing and pulling down, burning, tooth loss and bone fracture at home in their childhood. Similarly, in a study conducted with parents who had children aged 3-17 years, 17% of the fathers and 35% of the mothers stated that they occasionally beat their children (mostly sometimes) to punish them (8). In the study performed by Demir and Işık (9), it was reported that 89,2% of the students received verbal warning and 2,7% were beaten when they performed an imperfect action. In the study performed by Bilir et al. (10) in 16 000 children, the rate of exposure to physical violence by children was 40,7% in the 4-6 year age group, 33,5% in the 7-10 year age group, 25,8% in the 11-12-year age group and 33,5% in general. This rate was 14% in the Western Anatolia, while it increased to 54% in the Eastern Anatolia. According to the data of the World Health Organization, 40 million children in

Table 3. People who applied physical violence

	Students who were exposed to violence for once	Students who were still being exposed to violence
Mother	131 (22.7%)	74 (17.8%)
Father	115 (20.0%)	56 (13.5%)
Older sister. older brother. sibling	61 (10.6%)	24 (5.8%)
Friend	44 (7.6%)	20 (4.7%)
Teacher	78 (13.5%)	38 (9.2%)
Owner of the business. master	4 (0.7%)	1 (0.3%)
Manager or other directors	23 (4.0%)	12 (3.0%)
Other	77 (13.4%)	109 (26.3%)
No response	42 (7.5%)	81 (19.4%)
Total	575 (%100)	415 (%100)

the 1-14-year age group in the world are exposed to abuse and neglect and need support (5). In a study performed in Hong Kong, it was reported that physical punishment was a traditional method to discipline children and 95% of university students were exposed to physical punishment in their childhood. In a study performed in Canada, 21.3% of children stated that their mothers got angry with them, shouted at them and scolded them for more than 6 times a year, 6.6% stated that their mothers cursed and damned them for more than 6 times a year and 5.8% stated that their mothers threatened them that they would throw them out of the house and dismiss them. In a study performed in India, it was found that 50% of the mothers used severe verbal punishment and 42% used severe physical punishment for discipline. The majority of the families in Kuwait stated that they beat their children which resulted in injury when their children committed an important offense and a part of the families stated that they used methods including burning and locking in a dark room (11). In our study, similar results were obtained showing that mothers used violence more than fathers, boys were exposed to physical violence with a higher rate and as the age of children got older exposure to physical violence decreased. These findings can be interpreted as consideration of mothers as the responsible one for raising children and use of violence in disciplining children as an acceptable method almost in the whole world. The methods used in "upbringing" are

similar with the other studies performed. In our study, 67% of the students described presence of findings including ecchymosis, injury, bruise, hemorrhage and swelling as a result of physical violence. 1.7% of the students stated that they referred to a physician because of these findings. In parallel with the information in the literature, it was found that domestic violence was generally not expressed, it was experienced inside the house and finished and the violence was mostly applied by people who were primarily responsible of the care and safety of the child including the mother and father. Thus, it was found that the mothers (96.2%) and fathers (91.9%) of the majority of the children in our study were alive.

In our study, the togetherness or being separated or divorced of the parents was not related with violence applied to children and involving of children in fights involving physical violence. In the study performed by Işık (12) in Elaziğ Reformatory School, the mothers of 92.9% of the children and the fathers of 80% of the children were reported to be alive. According to this study, it was found that there was no direct relation between loss of parents and crime. However, loss of parents is not an ignorable condition. Although loss of the mother or father does not directly affect violence and crime, its effects on the development of the child may last for a life time.

Experience of domestic violence

13.1% of the students included in the study stated that their fathers applied physical violence to their mothers. In the study performed by Güneş et al. (13) in Malatya, 39,6% of medical faculty students stated that their fathers applied physical or verbal attack against their mothers for 1-2 times, 25.6% stated that their fathers applied physical or verbal attack occasionally and 3.1% stated that their fathers applied physical or verbal attack very frequently. Presence and intensity of domestic violence is clearly observed in both medical faculty students and elementary school students. In the whole of Turkey, one of every 10 women has experienced physical violence in the last 12 months. There is a clear variability between regions in terms of experience of physical violence. While the rate of physical violence is 25% in Western Marmara, it is 53% in Northeast Anatolia and 48% in Southeast Anatolia (14).

Table 4. The type of injury as a result of physical violence applied to the child

	Number	%
Hemorrhage-bruise-swelling in the face, lips, nose	56	4.1
Various bruising, swelling and hemorrhage in the body	23	1.7
Swelling, cut in the head	5	0.4
Fractures and dislocations	6	0.4
The type of injury: not reported	1	0.1
Total	91	6.7

Table 5. Application of physical violence by the mother who is exposed to violence

	Never beat	Rarely, very infrequently	Sometimes	Frequently, generally	Used to beat in the past, not beating now	p
Presence of physical violence against the child	469 (34.7%)	30 (2.2%)	38 (2.8%)	3 (0.2%)	16 (1.2%)	0.000**
Absence of physical violence against the child	705 (52.2%)	14 (1.0%)	7 (0.5%)	4 (0.3%)	5 (0.4%)	

**: $p < 0.001$ *: $p < 0.05$

The World Health Organization reported the rate of physical violence applied by husbands or partners to women to be 10-69%. In USA, it was reported that 11-30% of the women presenting to emergency departments were injured by their husbands and partners. In India, the rate of violence applied by partners was reported to be 20-75% (5). This low rate in our study is thought to be higher in fact considering the difficulties of individuals to remember and express previous violence events, the common thought in Turkey that family problems should stay in the family and the difficulties and obstacles of adolescents in expressing negative aspects of their families. Hence, considering the most valuable characteristic of a child for mothers of low socioeconomic level is obedience as found in the study of Kağıtçıbaşı which included three generations in Turkey (15), we can understand the difficulty to rebel and express violence and how the quiet acceptance of violence in the family develops.

In our study, the rate of exposure of children to violence at least for once and being still exposed to violence was found to be high in families in which mothers were exposed to violence. Literature findings show that women who are victims of violence may also abuse their children physically and/or psychologically in addition to men. Thus, children living in households in which violence is experienced may be exposed to violence with a higher rate (16,17). It is observed that when any form of domestic violence is experienced, the possibility of experience of other forms is also increased markedly. Violence is experienced convolutely in the family. In a family in which violence is present, it is very difficult for any family member to stay away from violence. In cases where the father applies violence to the mother, the child generally experiences a multiple and multi-dimensional trauma. In addition to being a witness to the violence applied by his/her father to his/her mother, the possibility of exposure of the child to violence by the mother or father or both is also very high (18).

Table 6. Violence applied to the mother by the father

	Non-standardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient		
	B	Std.Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Maternal education	-.105	.014	-.201	-7.378	.000**
Paternal education	.357	.015	.654	23.971	.000**
Number of children (0-3)	.004	.001	.098	3.624	.000**
Effect of fight on the child	.417	.028	.417	14.791	.000**
The possibility of applying violence against their children when they become parents	-1.280	.193	-.215	-6.627	.000**

**: $p < 0.001$ *: $p < 0.05$

Table 7. The opinions and attitudes of the child exposed to violence related with violence

	Non-standardized coefficient	Standardized coefficient	Beta	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
Exposure to physical violence at least for one time					
Participating in fight involving brute force	-.118	.010	-.296	-11.464	.000**
Fighting is nice	.003	.000	.203	6.385	.000**
Students who are still being exposed to violence					
Participating in fight involving brute force	.132	.015	.236	8.870	0.000**
Fighting is nice	-.003	.001	-.165	-5.054	0.000**
Students who were exposed to violence such as physician referral was needed					
Participating in fight involving brute force	.049	.010	.134	4.979	.000**
Regarding brute force as a solution	.057	.017	.114	5.707	.000**
Child who was exposed to physical violence in response to imperfect behavior					
Fighting is nice	1.210	0.571	.335	4.496	0.034*
Fighting is not nice but it is a part of life	1.311	0.606	.370	4.680	0.031*

**: $p < 0.001$ *: $p < 0.05$

Table 8. Distribution of the opinions of the students about physical violence by gender							
Opinions of the students about physical violence	Male		Female		Total		P value
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Is physical violence a solution?							
Yes	56	8.4	12	1.8	68	5.0	$\chi^2=62.956$
No	444	66.5	565	82.7	1009	74.7	Sd=3
If necessary	168	25.1	102	14.9	270	20.0	$p<0.01$
Will you apply physical violence to your children because of any mistake when you become a mother or father?							
Yes	57	8.5	28	4.1	85	6.3	$\chi^2=14.881$
No	608	91.0	646	94.6	1254	92.8	$\chi^2=7.551$ Sd=3 $p<0.01$
What do you think about fighting?							
Fighting is nice	59	8.8	37	5.6	96	7.1	$\chi^2=7.551$ Sd=2 $p<0.05$
Fighting is not nice but is a part of life	152	22.8	97	14.2	249	18.4	$\chi^2=16.749$ Sd=2 $p<0.01$
Fighting is not nice an done can live without fighting if one wants	408	61.1	510	74.7	918	67.9	$\chi^2=32.552$ Sd=3 $p<0.01$

In our study, it was stated that the father applied violence to the mother in all groups. As the education level of both the mother and father increased, the rate of the subjects who stated that their fathers applied violence to their mothers decreased. This finding is compatible with the results obtained in studies from both Turkey and other countries which show that as the level of education of the woman and/or her husband increases, violence against woman decreases. The literature shows that the prevalence of exposure to violence decreases, as the education level of women increases. In the study performed in Elazığ, the education level of 77.3% of the women who were exposed to violence was found to be primary school or lower. In another study, women who were graduates of primary school constituted 62.3% of the women who most frequently experienced violence (19). Women who consider violence as a right of men, who think that they deserve to be exposed to violence, who perceive this as a part of their lives, who do not question violence, who have a lower chance to select a separate life compared to other women and who have to definitely behave obediently are exposed to violence with a higher rate and this group appears to have a lower education level.

In our study, the group with the highest rate of students who stated that their fathers applied violence to their mothers was the group with low socioeconomic level who reported that the monthly income of their family was below 1500 TL.

The income group in which violence was observed with the lowest rate was the highest income group. It has been reported that economic problems may increase the stress of the family and husband and additional strains including increased number of household and children generally increase applications of violence, education levels may generally also be low in low socioeconomic level groups and this may increase use of violence (18). However, when the results of population-based studies are evaluated, it is observed that there are contradictory publications in which the income level of the family and violence against women do not show a consistency (20). It should not be ignored that the relation between the income level of the family and prevalence of violence against women is not based only on the economical status.

The effect of violence on children

In an experimental study, it was found that children experienced physical stimuli for about half an hour while watching the conflict between the mother and father and are influenced negatively by the conflict between the mother and father, even though they do not express this verbally (21). Since mothers who are victims of violence, who are depressive and introverted can not feed their children emotionally, introversion problems develop in their children (22). In contrast, increased psychological power of women increases their parenting abilities and affects their children positively (23). Students who were exposed

to domestic violence expressed the effects of violence with their answers. The group of 2,7% who stated that they found presence of domestic violence normal and that it might happen in any family was evaluated to be the introverted group who had difficulty in expressing their experiences. Consequently, children who themselves are exposed to violence in addition to witnessing domestic violence carry a higher risk in terms of developing psychological problems (24). When children witness violence, they start to learn that violence is a method for solving problems, violence is a part of intra-familial relations and violence is a way to control other people (24).

Studies consistently show that children who are exposed to physical violence by their parents have a higher rate of tendency to aggression and externalize violence with a higher rate compared to children who are not being treated badly. Some investigators emphasize that witnessing violence by the father to the mother has more effect on the child's aggression level compared to exposure to violence by the parents and this effect is especially prominent in boys (25,26). There are studies showing that boys who witness domestic violence display violence behavior with a markedly higher rate compared to girls (25).

In our study, the rate of participating in fights involving physical violence was statistically significantly higher in children who were still being exposed to physical violence every day compared to the ones who stated that they had never been exposed to physical violence. In addition, we find it thought-provoking and worrying that children whose mistakes are punished by beating consider violence as a part of their lives by getting used to it, though they do not like it, as a passive group exposed to violence which we assume to be present in the family and among peers. In addition, we think that the statement of these children "fighting is good" suggests that they will enter into the group who may apply violence in the future among peers or in any part of their social life or that they are already in this group. The possibility of children who are exposed to physical violence every day to apply physical violence to their children when they become parents is statistically significantly higher compared to children who have never been exposed to physical violence. If you pay attention, you can understand that children cause the behaviors which have been directed to themselves or which they have taken as an example witnessing domestic violence to become settled and persistent in their own lives. Children who witness that the family solves problems with violence tend to use violence also in their own relations and experience more problems in school or in social relations because of using these methods (27). Children who witness violence become more angry and aggressive and the negative attitudes and punishments of parents, aggressive behaviors

and conflicting relations with the child lead to an increase in extroversion problems (28,29). These children are involved in aggressive relations and relations with strength imbalance including peer abuse and bullying (30).

Conclusively, the place where children are at the highest risk is the family setting, although it is also the place where they can feel safe with the highest degree. It is clear that the process of growth and development covers some habits directed to children which should be corrected in the whole world and in our country. Considering the negative effects of violence, preventive services should be supported by giving sensitivity-stimulating education to families and the community in the large-scale on the issue of protecting children and healthy development of children, because violence applied to children is a public health problem rather than involving only individual outcomes.

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