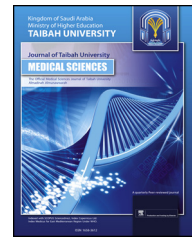




Taibah University
Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences

www.sciencedirect.com



Original Article

Escaping domestic violence: A qualitative study of women who left their abusive husbands

Surianti Sukeri, PhD^{a,*} and Nik Normanieza N. Man, DrPH^b

^a Department of Community Medicine, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan, Malaysia

^b Seberang Perai Utara District Health Office, Wisma Persekutuan, Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

Received 13 February 2017; revised 16 May 2017; accepted 21 May 2017; Available online ■ ■ ■

المخلص

أهداف البحث: تهدف هذه الدراسة النوعية لاكتشاف العوامل التي تؤثر على قرار السيدات اللواتي نجحن في النجاة من العنف الأسري بالحصول على الطلاق.

طرق البحث: أجريت مقابلة مطولة مع 17 سيدة تتراوح أعمارهن بين 21-56 من اللواتي حصلن على الطلاق أو حالياً في عملية الحصول عليه في كلنتان، ماليزيا.

النتائج: ظهرت عدة مواضيع تشير إلى خمسة أسباب رئيسية للطلاق؛ الوصول إلى نقطة الإنذار الأخير، ووجود دعم كاف قبل وبعد الطلاق، والقلق بشأن رعاية الأطفال، والسعي وراء الاستقلال المالي، والخوف من الأذى.

الاستنتاجات: إن تحديد عدد من عوامل الخطر للطلاق قد يحدث شرارة التغيير في عقلية مجتمعنا، الأمر الذي قد يساعد في تمكين المطلقات من الإناث والسماح لهن بالعيش حياة سعيدة خالية من الإساءة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الطلاق؛ العنف الأسري؛ مقابلة مطولة؛ ماليزيا

Abstract

Objectives: This qualitative study aims to discover the factors that influenced the decisions of women who successfully escaped domestic violence by attaining a divorce.

Methods: In-depth interviews were conducted with 17 women, ages 21-56 who were either divorced or

currently in the process of getting divorced in Kelantan, Malaysia.

Results: Several themes emerged, indicating the following five reasons for divorce: 1) reaching the point of ultimatum, 2) having adequate support pre- and post-divorce, 3) concern for children's welfare, 4) seeking financial independence, and 5) fear of harm.

Conclusion: The identification of the driving factors for divorce may spark a change in our society's mindset to empower female divorcees and allow them to lead happy, abuse-free lives.

Keywords: Divorce; Domestic violence; In-depth interview; Malaysia

© 2017 The Authors.

Production and hosting by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of Taibah University. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Introduction

Domestic violence (DV) is a global problem of epidemic proportions.¹ This form of violence encompasses physical, sexual, or psychological harm between husbands and wives, parents and children, siblings, spouses, grandparents, uncles, aunts, relatives by marriage or individuals in family relationships.² The health consequences of DV can be serious, leading to physical, emotional or mental health consequences, such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, phobias, anxiety, panic and substance abuse disorders.³

* Corresponding address: Department of Community Medicine, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan, Malaysia.

E-mail: surianti@usm.my (S. Sukeri)

Peer review under responsibility of Taibah University.



Production and hosting by Elsevier

Divorce may be a successful strategy for abused women to escape from DV.⁴ However, despite social and governmental responses that show support for battered women, many women remain in abusive relationships. When battered women attempt to escape DV, they face numerous obstacles and crises, causing many to struggle with the divorce process.⁵ The combination of poverty and gender inequality, inequities in the legal framework, and corruption in both formal and informal local institutions discourage women who are abused and underserved from seeking divorce and reduce the likelihood of a favourable outcome when they do.^{6,7}

In Islamic law, the husband has the exclusive right to divorce or *talaq*, i.e., the husband can simply say, 'I divorce you', and the divorce is carried out. This divorce does not require the intervention of a judge or the wife's approval.⁸ In special circumstances, Islam makes allowances for a woman to seek divorce for one of three reasons: *khul* (divorce for monetary redemption), *ta'liq* (divorce for breach of a condition in the marriage contract), and *fasakh* (divorce by the *kadhi* [judge] for justifiable reasons proven by the wife). Regardless of which path a woman takes, more often than not, the process is time consuming and arduous. However, some women successfully escape their lives of DV and go on to lead an abuse-free existence. What motivates these women to divorce, despite everything that intends to block their path? What can we learn from them and their circumstances that can be used to assist other victims of DV? These questions, among several others, laid the groundwork for this qualitative study. Put simply, the objective of this study is to understand the motivation for women to seek a solution to their problem-laden lives and how their environments ensure their continued commitment to their decisions. As a result, researchers can comprehend how their family members, the community, social service agencies and legal statutes interlink to assist the women with their exit strategies, which in turn provides an excellent opportunity to facilitate divorce.

Materials and Methods

The setting for the present study was Kelantan; a north-east state of Peninsular Malaysia. In-depth interviews were conducted among Malay women, ages 21 to 56, who were either divorced or currently in the divorce process. The required number of participant was not decided prior to the study. The researcher gathered data until reaching the level of 'saturation', which is when new data no longer emerges.⁹ Considering the sensitivity of the topic and the difficulty in identifying study participants, purposive and snowball sampling methods were employed. Study participants were recruited from the health clinics and the Social and Welfare Department Unit in Kota Bharu, where advertisements were posted to request voluntary participation in the in-depth interviews. In addition, some prospective participants were approached directly and offered the opportunity to participate in the study.

Informed consent was obtained from participants prior to each interview. Participants were informed of the sensitive nature of the interview content and given the freedom to withdraw from the study at any stage of the interview. Interviews were conducted in places that could ensure maximum privacy. Confidentiality of information was strictly

maintained. Before each interview session began, adequate time was allotted to establish trust and rapport with the participants. Participants were interviewed using an interview guide that included a series of broad, open-ended questions about women's experiences of abuse. The questions focused on how the individual viewed the abuse, if she wanted the abuse to stop, steps she took to end the abuse, her decision-making processes and her support networks. All interviews were carried out in the Kelantanese dialect of the Malay language and lasted from 45 min to 90 min. Upon completion of the interview, a cash token of RM50 was presented.

The thematic analysis used in this study involves the six phases adapted from Braun and Clark.¹⁰ Interview recordings were transcribed verbatim and checked by NN. SS and NN read and re-read all transcripts and constructed a coding frame of themes using the method of constant comparison, in which new data was compared to previously collected data in order to refine the 'labels' given to themes in the data. Then, analytic themes were discussed and developed further by the main authors (NN and SS).

Results

A total of 17 participants were interviewed; 12 were divorced and five were awaiting divorce proceedings. The participants' ages ranged from 21 to 56 years old. All participants were Malays of Muslim religion and lived in Kota Bharu. The backgrounds of the participants are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sociodemographic background of study participants.

Participant	Age	Status	Occupation	No of children
1 Mrs M	50	Divorced	Cleaner	6
2 Mrs A	27	Divorced	Cleaner	3
3 Mrs R	56	Divorced	Nurse	6
4 Mrs SR	25	Divorced	Business	1
5 Mrs NH	33	Divorced	Nurse	2
6 Mrs S	30	Awaiting divorce proceedings	Clerk	Nil
7 Mrs AZ	48	Awaiting divorce proceedings	Housewife	6
8 Mrs K	28	Divorced	Self-employed	3
9 Mrs H	36	Divorced	Self-employed	3
10 Mrs SU	33	Divorced	Clerk	1
11 Mrs NHS	30	Divorced	Tailor	4
12 Mrs Z	30	Divorced	Barber	2
13 Mrs SH	31	Divorced	Social worker	2
14 Mrs NL	29	Awaiting divorce proceedings	Research Assistant	2
15 Mrs AZR	37	Divorced	Clerk	2
16 Mrs CN	33	Awaiting divorce proceedings	Lecturer	2
17 Mrs SL	21	Awaiting divorce proceedings	Housewife	2

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات