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KELINIZM IN THE KYRGYZ SOCIETY

Mamytova Asel Kazybekovna
Phd in Philology, Ass. Professor
Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn
Institute of foreign languages
asel.mamytova407@gmail.com
Orcid: 0000-0006-6350-4726

Abstract

This article presented a researching problem of women, who faced violence in family. The main purpose is informing the service, which provides the military and civilian communities, who works with violent women. The major points of this review are as follows: a) women's violence usually occurs against them by their male partners; physical and psychological aggression, sexual abuse, coercive control, and stalking; b) married women's violence usually occurs in the Kyrgyz context against them by their male partner's relatives side.

Key words: bride, family violence, abuse, marriage, community.

КЕЛИНИЗМ В КЫРГЫЗСКОМ ОБЩЕСТВЕ

Мамытова Асель Казыбековна
Кандидат филологических наук, доцент
Кыргызский национальный университет имени Ж. Баласагына
Институт иностранных языков

Аннотация

В данной статье представлен обзор научной литературы о женщинах, применяющих насилие в семье. Основная цель — информировать специалистов службы поддержки в военных и гражданских сообществах, работающих с женщинами, подвергающимися домашнему насилию. Основные моменты этого обзора следующие: а) насилие со стороны женщин, как правило, происходит в контексте насилия, которому они подвергаются со стороны своих партнеров-мужчин; физическая и психологическая агрессия, сексуальное насилие, принудительный контроль и преследование; б) насилие со стороны замужних женщин обычно происходит в киргизском контексте со стороны родственников их партнеров-мужчин.

Ключевые слова: келин, домашнее насилие, злоупотребление, брак, сообщество.

KIRGIZ TOPLUMUNDA KELİNİZM

Mamytova Asel Kazybekovna
Filoloji Doktorası, Doçent
J. Balasagyn adını taşıyan Kırgız Ulusal Üniversitesi
Yabancı Diller Enstitüsü

Özet

Bu makale, aile içinde şiddet kullanan kadınlarla ilgili araştırma literatürünün bir incelemesini sunmaktadır. Temel amaç, aile içi şiddete maruz kalan kadınlarla çalışan askeri ve sivil topluluklardaki hizmet sağlayıcılarını bilgilendirmektir. Bu incelemenin ana noktaları şunlardır: a) kadınların şiddeti genellikle erkek partnerleri tarafından onlara karşı uygulanmaktadır; fiziksel ve psikolojik agresyon, cinsel

istismar, zorlayıcı kontrol ve taciz; b) evli kadınların şiddeti genellikle Kırgız bağlamında erkek partnerlerinin akrabaları tarafından gerçekleştirilmektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: kelin, aile içi şiddet, istismar, evlilik, topluluk.

Introduction. According to my experience being ‘kelin’ is as hard as a nail, when I faced domestic abuse, I understood no one (parents, relatives, gender institutions, crisis centers etc.) could assist you in your situation, but there is only one solution to know human rights and laws to protect yourself. Being a professor at university, we have trainings and discussions about domestic abuse on the base of foreign/domestic literature and personal stories. Every woman should be acknowledged with domestic problems in marriage live, be trained to resolve and prevent home violence to protect yourself.

We employed the analysis of theoretical materials and a survey of women from different regions of Kyrgyzstan **as research methods**, which enabled us to identify the problem and reach conclusions.

The **novelty** of the study lies in conducting a survey among married women to understand the true nature of domestic violence and to propose recommendations for universities and law enforcement agencies.

Domestic violence is a purposeful emotional or forceful coercion/action of one person over another person, carried out for a certain purpose, against the consent, will and interests of the victim. The main difference between domestic violence and other types of violence is that it occurs between people in close or kinship relationships. What is domestic violence? - is the deliberate use of various forms of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence by one family member against another, resulting in bodily injury, emotional trauma, developmental disabilities or harm of various kinds.

Definitions and Categories of Abuse, there are physical abuse, emotional abuse and financial abuse. Physical abuse - the use of physical force, the threat of physical force or mistreatment of one person by another which may or may not result in actual physical harm or injury. Emotional abuse - behaviour that is psychologically harmful to another person and which inflicts anxiety or mental distress by threat, humiliation or other verbal/non-verbal conduct. Financial abuse - the unauthorised and improper use of funds, property or any resources including pensions, or others statutory entitlements or benefits. Financial abuse involves an act or acts where a person is deprived of control of their finances or personal possessions or exploited financially by another person or persons [6].

Women’s physical violence is motivated by self-defense and fear, whereas men’s physical violence is more likely than women’s to be driven by control motives, studies of couples in mutually violent relationships find more negative effects for women than for men because of the many differences in behaviors and motivations between women’s and men’s violence ([Swan](#), [Gambone](#), [Caldwell](#), [Sullivan](#), & [Snow](#), 2008).

There are tons of articles, books and researches, that discuss the women’s violence, for example, Adams-Curtis LE, Forbes GB. College women’s experiences of sexual coercion: A review of cultural, perpetrator, victim, and situational variables (2004), Anderson KL. Perpetrator or victim? Relationships between intimate partner violence and well-being (2002), Archer J. Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review (2000), Arias L, Corso P. Average cost per person victimized by an intimate partner of the opposite gender: A comparison of men and women (2005). Axelrod J, Myers HF, Durvasula RS, Wyatt GE, Chang M. The impact of relationship violence, HIV, and ethnicity on adjustment in women (1999), Babcock JC, Miller SA, Siard C. Toward a typology of abusive women: Differences between partner-only and generally violent women in the use of violence (2003), Barnett OW, Lee CY, Thelen RE. Gender differences in attributions of self-defense and control in interpartner aggression (1997) etc. but it is still untied issue in our society.

Having analyzed the women’s violence in the Kyrgyz context, we have found very similar issues, but there is a different type of the women’s violence in the society, it is “kelinizm”. In

traditional nomadic society, daughters-in-law of Kyrgyz people were called "Kelin". Kelin had to be able to make a good impression on her newfound family, and sometimes attempts to do so went as far as exploiting Kelin herself. However, even after decades of Soviet urbanization and harsh social reconstruction, Kyrgyz girls remain oppressed to this day. Although the meaning of the word "Kelin" has not yet found its exact definition, it usually refers to a recently married woman who has just moved into her husband's family home. Often quietly submissive, she is required to do chores, clean, cook, care for the children, honor and never contradict her new family. As a rule, Kelin occupies the lowest rank in the family, and in order to leave the house or visit someone outside it, she must get permission from her mother-in-law or husband. In remote areas of Kyrgyzstan, a young Kelin may not be allowed to wear modern clothes or have her own cell phone. Kelin may also be humiliated by her other newfound relatives, including a sister-in-law who may exploit her labor, or a brother-in-law who may mistreat or even use force against her. ([Akisheva, 2023](#)) [1]

If you google “Kelin in the Kyrgyz society ”, you may find hundreds of articles, for example, Eraliev C. Wife or "free labor": Who are kelins in Kyrgyzstan? (2016), K. Elkeev Is Kelin a servant or a full member of the family? (2017), Nazarova S., Kelinka from Osh. Why does she choose the path against stereotypes. (2018) etc.

The Government expresses concern regarding current women’s violence and involves the bunch of laws to protect women (Law No. 63 of the Kyrgyz Republic of April 27, 2017 on Protection and Protection from Family Violence).

In order to understand the current situation in the Kyrgyz communities we had provided a survey and obtained answers from 25 women in different regions in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Table 1.



In the table 1 we can see participants involved in the survey gained sufficient experience to judge the real situation, they were from 4 years until 40 years in marriage (Question (Q): How long are you married?).


Table 2.



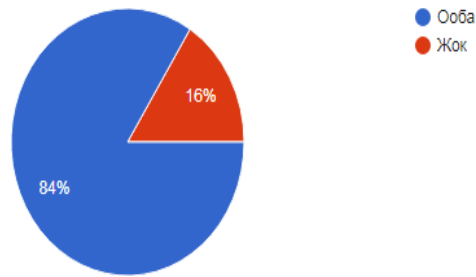
In the Table 2, we see that 76% participants have been physically hurt being kelin (Q: Have you ever been physically hurt? Yes- 76%, No – 24%).

Table 3.

Соз менен сиздин намысыңызга тийген создор сиз тарапка айтылды беле?

 Копировать

25 ответов



The information we obtained in the Table 3, helped to clarify the issue that majority women were suffered emotionally with the domestic violence against kelins.

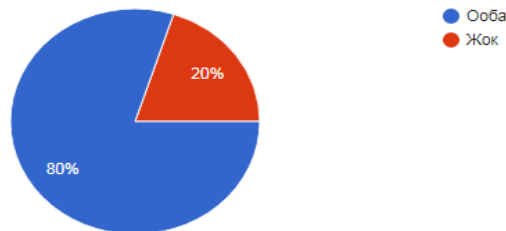
(Q: Have you ever been emotionally insulted? Yes- 84%, No – 16%).

Table 4.

Финансылык жактан сизге кысым корсотулду беле?

 Копировать

25 ответов




The information we acquired in the Table 4, assisted to see vividly the problem that majority women were suffered financially being home.

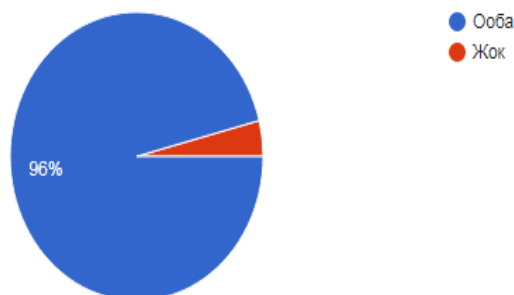
(Q: Have you ever been financially restricted? Yes- 80%, No – 20%).

Table 5.

Сиз биздин коомдогу "келинге" карата мамилени озгорткунуз келеби?

 Копировать

25 ответов



96 % of participants in the Table 5 desired to change the civil and social attitudes to being ‘kelin’.

(Q: Do you want to change the civil and social attitudes to being ‘kelin’? Yes-96%, No – 4%).

According to our survey, there are valuable tips from married women to women who are going to get married: be patient in different situations, don't get married in young age, to obtain degrees to be more financial independent, no one loves and appreciates sister-in-law, to get acknowledged with human rights and laws to protect yourself etc.

Outcomes: Lack of attention from the political leadership, marginalization of national gender institutions, insufficient funding for shelters and crisis centers, inadequate and inconsistent statistics on family violence, lack of knowledge and training among police officers and judges and etc.

To come to the **conclusion**, women urges the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to provide comprehensive training for police officers police and prosecutors and court officials in the area of the law on social and legal protection from domestic violence, including how to how to work with protection orders. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice should publicly condemn family violence and explicitly instruct their staff to use mechanisms to combat it. At universities and secondary schools, girls should be taught and got trained to shield themselves.

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Рәуҗи:

Ү.Баласақун ад. Қырғыз Milli Университети
t.e.d., prof. Тинчтікбек Чороттеқин