



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VIOLENCE PERCEPTION OF WOMEN IN TAURUS MOUNTAIN VILLAGES OF EAST MEDITERRANEAN REGION OF TURKEY

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to analyze domestic violence against women living in rural areas in different age groups and to explain what is considered domestic violence against women. Research findings were obtained from individual interviews that were conducted with 238 women living in 10 different mountain villages in East Mediterranean region. 38% of these women were exposed to domestic violence. Approximate for period of is 9.6 years.

Violence against women is centered on physical and emotional violence. It was determined that women at young age groups are aware of economic and sexual violence. There was a significant difference between different age groups in terms of their attitudes towards violence and gender inequality. The most essential reasons for violence against women are summarized as; gender roles and patriarchal system resulting in women being treated like secondary class citizen.

**Key Words:** Domestic Violence against Women, Rural Women, Violence Perception.

### ÖZET

Bu çalışmanın amacı kırsal kesimde yaşayan kadınlara yönelik aile içi şiddeti farklı yaş grupları açısından incelemek ve kadınların şiddet algısını ortaya koymaktır. Araştırma bulguları, Doğu Akdeniz Bölgesinde yer alan 10 dağ köyünde, basit tesadüf örnekleme yöntemine göre seçilen 238 kadınlara yapılan bireysel görüşmeler aracılığıyla elde edilmiştir. Araştırma alanında kadınların %38'i aile içi şiddet görmektedir ve ortalama şiddet görme süresi 9,6 yıl olarak hesaplanmıştır. Kadınların şiddet algısı en fazla fiziksel ve duygusal şiddet türlerinde yoğunlaşmıştır; özellikle yaş grupları açısından genç kadınların, ekonomik ve cinsel şiddet hakkında farkındalığa sahip oldukları saptanmıştır. Kadınların şiddete ve toplumsal cinsiyet rolleri ile ilgili eşitsiz yapılanmaya karşı olan tutumları açısından, yaş grupları arasında oldukça anlamlı farklılık bulunmuştur. Araştırma alanında kadına yönelik aile içi şiddetin en önemli nedeni, toplumsal cinsiyet rolleri ve ataerkil yapı ile bunların sonucunda oluşan, kadının toplumdaki ikincil statüsü olarak özetlenebilir.

**Key Words:** Kadına Yönelik Aile İçi Şiddet, Kırsal Kadın, Şiddet Algısı.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Violence is not only related with individual or humanity's personal space. It starts at the bottom of society and grows as administrative, social and political facts in a multidimensional way (Ergeç, 2015).

Gender inequality and discrimination are the root causes of violence against women, which have been influenced by the historical and structural power imbalance that exists between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world (UNDP, 2014).

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than being an individual and random act; it cuts across

age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; and is a major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally. (UN General Assembly, 2006).

The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or bring suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (UNDP, 1993).

The terms ‘gender-based violence’ and ‘violence against women’ are frequently used interchangeably in literature and by advocates, however, the term gender-based violence refers to violence that is directed against a person because of his or her gender and due to the fact that they may not be following the expectations of his or her role in a society or culture.

Most common type of violence against women is domestic violence (Garica Morena vd. (2005; Heise vd. ,1999) but type of violence against women changes from one country to another.

According to UNDP (2014), between 15 and 76 percent of women are victims of physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the available country data. Most of this violence takes place within an intimate relationship, with many women (ranging from 9 to 70 percent) reporting that their husbands or partners are the perpetrator of the violence.

It is known that women have been exposed to violence throughout history. According to archeological discoveries, male mummies have approximately 9-20% broken bones, whereas female mummies have approximately 30-50% (Kose and Beser, 2008).

### **1.1. Existing Situation of Violence against Women in Turkey**

Like in the rest of the world, violence towards women is one of the most common human rights abuses in Turkey. Domestic violence against women is not limited to physical violence; it can be verbal, economic, psychological and sexual in nature as well. The source of this kind of violence is comes from the male domination society that Turkey is and this is evident at every level of the society in Turkey. Murder is one of the most horrific consequences of this violence. Although we do not have official statistics, news media indicates that their husband, boyfriend or their ex-partner murders no less than three women every day. Once we have agreed that violence towards women stems from the inequalities between men and women in the society and this undermines the woman's right to live, it becomes obvious that we need to fight against it on many fronts (www.morcati.org, 2017 a).

Fact is that violence against women has become more visible in public arena and media in recent years. According to DGSW (Directorate General on the Status of Women) (2009) research that was conducted in 2008, results show that 4 in 10 women are subjected to domestic violence in home by their husband or boyfriend. According to research done by DGSW in 2011, 39% of women were exposed to physical violence, 15% sexual violence and 44% exposed to emotional violence among married women in 2010.

The rate of violence against women increased by 1400% between 2002-2009 in Turkey (Atlan,2011). The number of women murdered because of violence has increased every year since 2008. While this number was 66 in 2008, now it is 277 in 2016. And the average number of women murdered between these years is 193 (www.anitsayac.com,2017). These numbers are official because they were recorded as murder.

Unfortunately, Turkey was the first country to be punished by the ECRH (European Court of Human Rights) because of its domestic violence problem (www.milliyet.com.tr).

According to World Economic Forum’ Report (2015) while a woman in Turkey earns 1 USA dollar, man earns 2.56 USA dollars for same work (ref.sabanciuniv.edu.tr).

Especially in rural areas, economic violence is a life style. According to TURKSTAT (2016) 84,6% of women who are employed in rural areas are working in agriculture but 83,2% of this employment is unpaid family labor (www.turkstat.gov.tr). On the other hand, 70% of seasonal agricultural work is done by women and girls (in fact child labor) but they do not have control over their income (Davran et. All., 2016). It is agreed that passive character given to women during socialization period is affecting high rates of violence (Senol and Yildiz, 2013).

## 1.2. Historical Processes of Combatting with Violence in Turkey

In Turkey, the issue of violence against women was brought forward by the women's movement at the end of 1980s and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) was ratified in 1986 by the Turkish Government as part of a domestic law. CEDAW is explicitly recognized in article 14, and it focuses on particular problems that rural women face and that States Parties should take into account when developing measures to ensure protection against discrimination. Besides this, Turkey has accepted most of the conventions that are related to the elimination of violence against women (Anonymous,2014).

Violence against women, which still maintains its effect on a global scale, is one of the most important social problems facing Turkey. Women all over the world face the risk of gender-based violence regardless of their country, ethnicity, class, religion, and economic and social status. Violence, which is a form of human rights violation and discrimination against women, is among the top priority socially, that has to be combated nationwide (Anonymous,2014).

The institutionalization process of the struggle with violence started in the 1990's and was accelerated with the establishment of the General Directorate on the Status and Problems of Women, together with, the creation of women's guest house that were affiliated with public institutions. The houses started to provide service under the agency for Social Services and Child Protection. In terms of legal legislation, the first step was The Law number 4320 named Protection of the Family and it was enacted in 1998. Legal regulations, which aimed to ensure gender equality, continued to gained momentum in the 2000s. One of the conventions in this field, within the scope of Council of Europe is "Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" was signed in İstanbul in 2011 and it was an important signature in terms of legal regulations that would exist in Turkey. After the İstanbul Convention, steps were taken to adjust the provisions that were aimed to prevent violence within a marriage, which had significant deficiency especially in the Law No: 4320. Therefore, Law number 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women, which had regulations that were in parallel with İstanbul Convention came into force on March 20, 2012. Law No: 6284 considers "any physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence occurring in family or household or among the people who are considered to be a family member whether the victim of violence and the perpetrator of violence live or do not live in the same house" as domestic violence (Anonymous,2014).

## 1.3. Type of Domestic Violence

Violence against women manifests itself in many forms; physical, sexual, emotional and economic. The most common forms are the, sexual violence (including rape), sexual harassment, and emotional/psychological violence (UNDP,2014).

Domestic violence is defined as aggressive behaviors that is carried out against a wife, child, parent and/or close relative by a person in the family (<http://aileicisiddeteson.com>,2016). Domestic violence is generally means violence against women because the most affected individuals are women and most perpetrators are male (husband, brother, father in law, father, brother in law) in the family. Davran et al. (2015) explained that 92,0% of perpetrators are male in the study conducted in the Ege and Mediterranean region of Turkey.

According to the World Health Organization's report, approximately one third of women are being subjected to physical or sexual violence (Pallitto et.all, 2013).

Mor Çatı (2011), which was one of the first NGO created to deal with violence against women in Turkey, explains that violence against women occurs because of male domination society and gender discrimination. Therefore, they define violence against women as "masculine violence". Violence against women can be classified as physical, sexual, emotional and/or economic by Mor Çatı like UNDP (2014) but another type of violence has been also included to be part of this classification and that is Digital violence. Digital violence ([www.morcati.org](http://www.morcati.org), 2017b) can be define as a person using technology (mobile phone, photo machine, laptop, social network etc.) for punishment, control and/or domination of another person. Therefore, digital sphere allows men to watch, threaten and to control women 24/7.

This type of violence has grown and expanded over the last ten years and has been called "new generations' violence."

According to Ergec and Zateri (2017), domestic violence which has been one of our major social problems in recent years has appeared as a major issue within the social media multiplier effect and broad public access. Especially, Facebook and Twitter have become the center of personal experience. The fundamental feature of social media is "state of being free" which results in it lacking inspection. Also, new communication networks are used differently by each individual according to their knowledge, talent and perception.

#### **1.4. Domestic Violence Against Women in Rural Place**

Violence in rural Turkey is different from the urban violence and occurs from time to time because of various causes peculiar to rural life style and human relations (Çaya, 2014).

The literature on rural women and children point to the following factors that influence rates of domestic and family abuse ([www.ruralhealthinfo.org](http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org)):

- social and physical isolation
- lack of education
- less political and social autonomy for women than for men, along with a more traditionalist, conservative view of women and children
- poverty and economic distress
- population loss and particularly the migration of young people to cities
- the inaccessibility of services to enhance the health and well-being of women and children

All of these factors make the problems facing domestic violence survivors in rural area more difficult to address ([www.ruralhealthinfo.org](http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org)).

Soroptimist International (2012) summaries the particular challenges facing rural women as close communities, poor transport links, geographical isolation and lack of support services, access to information and distance from decision makers. PCADV emphasizes especially isolation from services, shelter, jobs, health care, neighbors, families, friends, and little access to public transportation as barriers to leaving in rural areas ([www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org)). Sanchez (2016) also explains less social support resources, social and geographical isolation and inadequate transportation are obstacles for rural women.

Patriarchy is instrumental in rural places having violence. According to Hunnicutt (2009) violence against women is a product of patriarchal social arrangements and ideologies that are sustained and reinforced by other systems of domination. Patriarchal structure affected all women and subordinated them in a society, additionally there is a stronger effect in rural society than in urban ones when it comes to Patriarchal systems existing. Factors effecting masculine violence against women that are distinctive for rural areas was summarized by Jiwani (1998) as intimacy of the community, isolation (social-geographic and cultural), lack of transportation, lack of facilities (justice, social etc.) economic insufficiency and guns. In many rural areas, guns are part of the household, often used for hunting and protection (Nolan, 1992; transferred: Jiwani,1998) like in Turkey. Rural isolation was explained by Websdale (1998) as a factor in violence against rural women from the point of view loneliness. Since the loneliness increases the controlling behaviors of perpetrators.

These factors are closely tied to each other from the point of violence against women view. Besides these, according to Davran and Veziroğlu (2012) religion and patriarchy are also integral part of rural life and religion has more of an effect on women because of fatalistic perception. Jiwani (1998) also pointed out a mutual relationship between religion beliefs and patriarchy. On the other hand, Websdale (1998) detailed patriarchy as being rural patriarchy and connected with tradition not necessarily religion. As the result of all these reasons, women generally do not share the fact that violence has been committed against them with family member or official institutions. Furthermore, they cannot do anything to change their life because they do not have any options, they cannot go anywhere including their parents. Together with these events, most women give up and allow men to carry out the violence.

Main purpose of this study was to investigate domestic violence against rural women and to put forth violence perception of rural women living in Taurus Mountains from the point of different age groups.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

A report named “ethic and safety recommendations for domestic violence” prepared by Garica Morena et al. (2005) shows that one of the great problems face by researchers when it comes to this issue is it requires sensitivity and women participating in the research. However, researchers are not able to help with determining the conditions that women are exposed to because of shame, self-crimination, fear, and concern of being exposed to more violence (Garica Morena et al., 2005). Besides, Heise et al. (2004), Heise et al. (1994), World Health Organization (WHO, 1997) conducted research; they carried out surveys within over 50 communities in Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, Latin America, North America and achieved significant results. It confirmed that research on domestic violence against women can be done correctly by taking respect, ethical values, and safety into consideration.

The information collected from this research consist of primary data achieved through face to face (individual) interviews in terms of respect, ethical values, and safety. Individual interviews are preferred because of women’s low education level. Also, all of the questions had to be answered.

Women’s willingness to be interviewed was considered before interviewing her in rural areas because women can be sensitive to violence. The research was conducted in Taurus Mountain Villages of East Mediterranean. Research area includes ten villages Aladag, Feke, Kozan, Saimbeyli and Tufanbeyli districts. The 0-14 age group was excluded from the research; women above 15 years old were included in the research. 5 different age groups were formed (15-24/25-34/35-44/45-54/55+) since violence against women at those different age groups can differ from one another. Each group was coded. The 5 age groups’ were proportional distribution according to Turkey’s population, and the number of women interviewed was distributed equally into these 5 groups (Table 1). Women representing different age groups and willing to be interviewed in every village is in the Table 1. Information was collected from 238 different women in total. Data obtained from the research was analyzed with reference to different age groups, and statics which were definitive and correlative used. Questionnaire forms were divided into four main parts; “demographic structure, level of knowledge about violence, violence perception and encountering violence, reasons of violence and attitude towards violence”. To measure violence perception, subheadings were used that belonged to five main types of violence (physical, emotional, economic, sexual, and digital). Then questions were asked one by one and analyzed whether women consider them to be violence. The research, questionnaire forms were designed by Davran and Veziroglu (2012).

**Table 1.** Population Distribution by Age Group in the Research Area and Turkey

**Tablo 1.** Türkiye’de ve Araştırma Alanında Nüfusun yaş Gruplarına Göre Dağılımı

Age Group	Turkey*		Research Area	
	Total number of population (person)	%	Number of Interviewed Women (person)	%
15-24 (1)	12.782.381	16.5	51	21,4
25-34 (2)	12.789.496	16.5	50	21,0
35-44 (3)	11.428.673	14.7	47	19,8
45-54 (4)	9.112.684	11.7	40	16,8
55+ (5)	12.720.240	16.4	50	21,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.695.904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	238	100,0

\* TURKSTAT, 2015.

Questionnaire attitude scale was designed by Senol and Yıldız (2013) and it was used to ask women who were part of the research about their “attitudes to violence against women”, and from this survey 13 of 21 questions were used in the research. Except the last question on attitude scale, “She should report, when woman is exposed to violence”, the other attitude questions were used in the research. Data obtained from the attitude scale was analyzed and referenced to different age groups (square), and frequency, average and standard derivation values were calculated. Binary scale, “agree and disagree”, was used in every attitude scale questions; besides, “neither agree nor disagree” option was added to the

scale. Agree option was numbered as “1”; disagree option was numbered as “2”; neither agree nor disagree option was numbered as “3”. Reliability in attitude questions in the survey was calculated using the Cronbach Alpha formula. Alfa coefficient, is particularly, used to calculate reliability of Likert type scales. This coefficient should be .70 or above (Doganyay et al., 2015). Cronbach Alpha coefficient for this research was found to be .749; that means the scale is reliable. Additionally, the research, attitude scale which obtained as a reference from (Senol and Yildiz, 2013), had a coefficient of .74.

Violence committed by women (mother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law etc.) in rural areas is widespread; however, it is mainly committed by men. In this research, only violence against women committed by men was studied, woman on woman violence was excluded.

### 3. RESEARCH RESULTS

#### 3.1. Demographic Findings

The average age of women interviewed for the research was 40.61. The marital status was 74,8% of women were married; married women’s average marriage duration was 24,2 years. Majority of women, 79,5% to be exact were married because their family carried out the decision. The family wideness size was found to 5.1 in the research area. The average number of children per woman was 3.49. Women’s education level was low, and mostly it centered on the preschool level. The average education duration of women was not different from men’s. Approximately half of the women define themselves as housewives. The number of women defining themselves as farmer was low even if they are engaged in farming (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Socio-Demographic Indicators of Women

**Tablo 2.** Kadınların Sosyo-Demografik Göstergeleri

Average age of women	40,61 years
Average age of husband	44,54 years
Average year of marriage	24,2 years
Average family size	5,1 person
Average child number	3,49 person
Average year of education	6,37 year women; 6,75 year men
Education level (%)	
	Illiterate 10,5
	Literate 4,2
	Primary School 58,8
	Secondary School 13,2
	Lycee (high school) 9,7
	University 3,4
Family type (%)	
	Nucleus 63,9
	Extended 36,1
Marital Status (%)	
	Married 74,8
	Single 25,2
Occupation (%)	
	Housewife 50,4
	Farmer 7,1
	Both of them 31,5
	Others 11
Marriage decision (%)	
	Family 79,5
	Herself 20,5

### 3.2. Women's Level of Knowledge about Violence, Violence Perception, Encountering Violence

97,1% of women interviewed in the research had knowledge about domestic violence. Nevertheless, when they were asked to describe violence, they only described physical (78,3%) and emotional (21,8%) violence. Consequently, women's perception of violence was analyzed and given in Table 3. When behaviors which at least 60% of the women perceived to be violence were considered, only physical and emotional violence was identified. This analysis is parallel with women's violence description. Nevertheless, women accepted sexual violence as types of violence even when it was not among their descriptors. Digital and economic violence was not perceived to part of violence against women. However, when it was approached from the viewpoint of age groups, it was determined that younger age groups had an awareness of these being issues. In fact, when women's perception of violence was analyzed using age groups, significant difference among women in terms of digital and emotional violence was found to exist (Table 3).

Table 3. Perception Violence of Women

Tablo 3. Kadınların Şiddet Algısı

General Violence Types	Subheadings of Violence	Percentage of Women Regarding as Violence %	Chi Square
1. Physical	a. <b>Beating</b>	<b>95,4</b>	,716
	b. <b>Slapping</b>	<b>90,0</b>	,260
	c. <b>Pushing</b>	<b>85,3</b>	,066
	d. <b>Throw Stuff etc.</b>	<b>85,2</b>	,162
	e. <b>Coming at, grasping women's throat, grasping arm etc.</b>	<b>86,9</b>	,369
	f. <b>Killing</b>	<b>94,2</b>	,307
	g. <b>Injuring</b>	<b>93,3</b>	,524
	h. <b>Paralyzing</b>	<b>93,5</b>	,347
2. Emotional	a. <b>Yelling</b>	<b>80,0</b>	,126
	b. <b>Threatening</b>	<b>77,8</b>	,181
	c. Controlling with Eye and Eyebrow Movement	50,8	,267
	d. Emotional Exploitation	36,2	,062
	e. Making Feel Guilty	43,0	,007
	f. Excessive Jealousy	46,6	,088
	g. Being Offended and Sulking	47,1	,788
	h. <b>Making Women Feel Ashamed</b>	<b>62,3</b>	,140
	i. <b>Humiliated -Insulting- Teasing</b>	<b>72,7</b>	,276
	j. Forbidding (going out, talking, visiting neighbor or relative etc.)	56,5	,015
	k. <b>Starving</b>	<b>65,1</b>	,069
3. Economic	a. Depriving of Money	54,9	,017
	b. Holding Women to Save Money/Holding Money	43,9	,004
	c. Holding Inheritance	43,0	,249
	d. Forbidding Working	33,6	,002
	e. Giving Little Money	34,0	,016
	f. Having Begged for Money	47,9	,012
4. Sexual	a. Controlling-Checking (where, with whom, etc.)	40,6	,100
	b. <b>Harassment - Rape</b>	<b>91,4</b>	,201
	c. <b>Bringing Co-Wife</b>	<b>91,0</b>	,835
	d. <b>Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse</b>	<b>66,3</b>	,034
5. Digital	a. Taking Photograph without permission or Informing and Using Photographs as a Threat	56,0	,003
	b. Calling Constantly and Forcing to Call	47,4	,059
	c. Checking Cell Phones	47,7	,002
	d. Forbidding to Use Internet, Social Media etc.	36,9	,001
	e. Checking Usage of Internet, Social Media etc.	35,3	,004
	f. Texting Constantly	35,8	,010

57,2% of women interviewed stated there was violence in their environment. And looking deeper into this number, 76,1% of violence was physical violence; 21,7% emotional, 2,2% economic. 52,8% of

women were exposed to violence in their neighboring environment meaning it was their own family (mother, brother/sister, sister in law etc.); 47,2% were their neighbors. The highest number was 88,9% and was committed by husband; 4,4% by fathers; remaining 6,4% by women (mother-in-law, sister-in-law etc.).

38,1% of women interviewed in the research stated that they were exposed to violence. 27,6 of women were exposed to physical violence; 65,5% emotional violence; 6,9% digital violence. While the research that was carried out by Senol and Yildiz (2013) in Turkey, stated that 28,8 of women were exposed to violence; whereas, 39% of women were exposed to violence according to DSGW's research (2011). According to research carried out by Volkova et al. (2015) in rural areas of Russia and Australia, 25% of women in Russia stated they were exposed to violence. The proportion of women who were exposed to at least one type of violence was 27,7 in a research conducted in Nigeria's rural areas (Ajah et al., 2014).

In the research area, average duration of exposure to violence was calculated to be 9,6 years. 48,3% of women who were exposed to violence it lasted from 1 to 5 years; 17,2% of women it was 6-10 years; 13,8% of women between 11-15 years; and 20,6% of women it was more than 16 years of violence. There is not a significant difference between age groups and the duration of the exposure (Value: 27,553; df:28;  $p > ,488$ ). In other literature 20,7% of women were exposed to violence between 1-3 years in the research conducted in rural areas of Nigeria (Ajah et al., 2014). However, in the research conducted in Turkey (Senol and Yildiz, 2013), it was determined that 10% of women were exposed to violence constantly; 18,6 of women were exposed to violence occasionally. 61,1% of women were exposed to violence once they were married; whereas, 37,8% of women were exposed to it when they were single. Majority of violence against women comes from their husbands at 56,1%; others were fathers at 20,9%; brothers at 6,6%; and mothers-in-law or mothers at 16,4%. However, in the research conducted in Nigeria rural areas it was the husbands that caused 78% of the violence against women (Ajah et al., 2014). Additionally, (58,8%) remained silent once violence was carried out against them; one third of them reacted (38,3%); and only (2,9%) tried to talk to their husbands.

When it comes to economic situations, 54,0% of women have a monthly income. Only 21,5% of these women make spending decisions by themselves; while 73,4% of women's husbands, fathers, or brothers make the decisions and 4,7% of women's children actually make decisions. Looking at this decision process 83, 0% of women were pleased with it. When it came to inheritance 24,1% women in this research had received inheritance but only %28,1 of women ended up managing their own inheritance. The rest of the women's inheritance was used by their husbands or children and 75,0% of women were pleased with this situation.

Usage of social media by the women was analyzed, and explanation of digital violence was put forward. It was determined that 33, 8% of women use cell phones; 13,3% of women had access to Internet; 10,1% of women used some form of social media. 32,4% of women watched TV regularly; 10,4% of women listened to radio regularly. Usage rate of social media in terms of age groups is given in Table 4. It was determined in the analysis in terms of age groups, there is significant relation between usage of social media and age groups ( $p > ,000$  value: 42,757 df:16).

**Table 4.** Type of Communication Tools Used by Age Group

**Tablo 4.** Yaş Gruplarına Göre Kullanılan İletişim Araçları

Communication Tools	Age Groups (%)					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
Mobile Phone	24,5	17,0	23,4	20,2	14,9	100,0
Internet	51,4	32,4	16,2	0,0	0,0	100,0
Social network	46,4	32,1	21,4	0,0	0,0	100,0
TV	18,9	20,0	22,2	21,1	17,8	100,0
Radio	27,6	24,1	20,7	17,2	10,3	100,0
Total	28,8	22,3	21,6	15,5	11,9	100,0

Women's average usage of communication instruments was 6,57 years for cell phones, 4,8 years for Internet, 3,4 years for social media, 28,5 years for TV, 33,0 years for radio. There was a significant



difference between age groups and usage of communication instruments (p ,000 value: 243,875; df: 16) (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Communication Tool Usage Time by Age Group

**Tablo 5.** Yaş Gruplarına Göre İletişim Araçlarını Kullanma Süreleri

Age Groups	Communication Tool Usage Time (%)					Total
	< 1 year	1-5 year	5-10 year	10-15 year	15 year +	
1	4,5	45,5	45,5	4,5	0,0	100,0
2	0,0	5,9	41,2	47,1	5,9	100,0
3	0,0	27,3	50,0	22,7	0,0	100,0
4	0,0	71,4	19,0	4,8	4,8	100,0
5	0,0	44,4	22,2	0,0	33,3	100,0
Total	1,0	40,0	36,0	15,0	8,0	100,0

Also, there is a significant difference between types of communication instruments used and the usage time in research area (p, 000 value: 243,875 df: 16) (Table 6).

**Table 6.** Communication Tool Usage Time by Type of Communication Tools

**Tablo 6.** İletişim Araçlarına Göre İletişim Araçlarının Kullanım Süreleri

Communication Tools	Communication Tool Usage Time (%)					Total
	< 1 year	1-5 year	5-10 year	10-15 year	15 year +	
Mobile Phone	1,1	43,0	38,7	16,1	1,1	100,0
Internet	5,4	51,4	32,4	10,8	0,0	100,0
Social network	0,0	60,7	35,7	3,6	0,0	100,0
TV	0,0	0,0	2,2	7,9	89,9	100,0
Radio	0,0	0,0	3,4	17,2	79,3	100,0
Total	1,1	27,5	22,1	11,6	37,7	100,0

The research aimed to be determined whether women were being exposed to digital violence by asking women during the interview if they received warnings from their family members because of the communication instruments they were using. 8 women (2,9%) stated that they received warning from men (husbands or fathers) because of their usage of cell phones (3 people), Internet (3 people), social media (2 people) and that for all 8 their communication instruments were being controlled. All 8 of these women are among the first two age groups. Additionally, 4,3% of other women received warnings because they were wasting time using them; While 92,8% of women received their warnings because the instruments were harmful for them. There is significant difference between the instrument being used and the warnings (p, 002 Value: 24,068; df: 8). Accordingly, women had their usage of cell phones, Internet, and social media controlled; whereas, they received only verbal warnings when it came to the usage of TV and radio because it was thought to be hazardous and a waste of time.

### 3.3. Reasons for Women Exposure to Violence

When the women being interviewed in the research area answered the question of “why are women exposed to violence”, they emphasized gender roles. Some examples of this were, not taking care of children, coming home late, being out constantly, disrespecting the husband’s family, rumors spread by husband’s relatives about the woman, and talking on the phone were considered as reasons for exposure to violence at least %50 of women stated. To conclude, patriarchal system and talking on the phone were showed as the two main reasons by approximately half of the women. A significant difference between the reasons could not be found, except for not taking care of children, when it came to the being exposed to violence when examined in terms of age groups (Table 7).

**Table 7.** Reasons for Domestic Violence against Women from Women's Perspective**Tablo 7.** Kadınlara Göre Kadınların Aile İçi Şiddet Görmelerinin Nedenleri

Reasons	Percentage of Women Regarding as a Reason to Violence %	Chi square
Responding	<b>65,1</b>	,681
Not Taking Care of Children	<b>50,3</b>	,032
Coming Home Late	<b>53,8</b>	,160
Going out Constantly	<b>54,5</b>	,263
Disrespect to Husband's Family	<b>50,3</b>	,639
Doing Something without Permission (shopping, going out)	45,8	,442
Not Cooking Meal	33,3	,519
Desire of Women to Work in a Paid Job	23,4	,855
Provoking Man's Relatives and Rumoring	<b>54,1</b>	,140
Talking on the Phone Constantly	<b>56,9</b>	,797
Texting	49,3	,803
Reluctance of Woman to Give Money She Earned	26,1	,492
Sexual Distance	23,2	,342
Anger of Man	37,6	,627
Women's Acceptance of Violence	22,3	,184
Patriarchal System	<b>44,4</b>	,995

Women suggested similar things for the question "reasons for women's exposure to violence" in research conducted in Nigeria's rural areas (Ajah et al., 2014). Especially, "doing something without husband's permission" (28,7%), "neglecting children" (27,7%), "arguing with husband" (27,7%) were among crucial reasons. When reasons for women enduring violence were examined (Table 8), unemployment, poverty, economic dependence, patriarchal system, and marriage were suggested as among the reasons by 60% or more women. As a result of these women cannot leave their homes do to lacking economics self-sufficiency and because of their children. Apart from these reasons, 72,3% of women said that violence against women being justified was seen as the crucial reason. A significant difference could not be found between age groups and reasons for women enduring violence (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Reasons for Enduring Domestic Violence against Women from Women's Perspective**Tablo 8.** Kadınlara Göre Kadınların Aile İçi Şiddete Katlanma Nedenleri

Reasons	Percentage of Women Regarding as a Reason to Violence %	Chi square
Patriarchal System	<b>59,3</b>	,545
Economic Dependence	<b>66,7</b>	,851
Poverty	<b>67,6</b>	,854
Lack of Education	55,3	,540
Unemployment	<b>74,5</b>	,454
Traditions	50,0	,121
Companionate Marriage	<b>67,2</b>	,648
Not Having Family Support	30,3	,744
Increase in Threats and Harassments of Man	22,8	,774
Threats of Men about Hurting Woman's Family	27,5	,688
Laws in Favor of Man	26,7	,542
Women's Justification of Violence	<b>72,3</b>	,232
Not Having any Place to Go	23,1	,829
Inadequacy of Women's Shelter	57,2	,601

In research conducted in rural areas by Jiwani (1998), poverty, unemployment, children social pressures, threats by men were the influencing factors affecting women from leaving or staying in their house. Hetling and Zhang (2010) determined that there is a connection between poverty and domestic violence against women and stated there is complex relation in their research. Additionally, Senol and Yildiz (2013) had similar results in their research conducted in Turkey. Women explained it was due to economic problems that they stayed at (32,1%); otherwise, they stated they would not endure violence. Senol and Yildiz (2013) interpreted this as women believing that men had a right to commit violence. This result is very similar to the research conducted in Taurus mountain villages.

The women interviewed in the research area (43,3%) answered the question “what should woman being exposed to violence do?” by saying “they should get help from their family elders”. Apart from this, 22,4 % of women said it should be reported; 17,9% of women said a woman that is exposed to violence should try to talk to her husband; 14,2% of women said she should endure. 2,2% of women didn't have any idea. In the research conducted in Nigeria's rural areas (Ajah et al., 2014) similar result were obtained. 50,5% of women said she should tell her family elders; 30,1% of women said she should endure.

Almost half of the women (45,5%) in the research area had a general knowledge of legal regulations; the rest of the women (54,4%) did not know the regulations. Additionally, 50,8% of women believe that women and men are equal, whereas 42,4% of women did not think women and men are equal. 6,7% of women did not have idea.

### 3.4. Women's Attitudes towards Violence

Results from the attitude scale evaluation of the question “women's attitudes towards violence” and answers given by women interviewed were analyzed in terms of age groups and are given in Table 9. Chi Square analysis for each attitude question is written in vertical column in Table 9 created in terms of age groups. Average (M) and standard deviation (SD) to the answers given to attitude questions are written in horizontal column.

According to the Table 9, questions 1,2,6,8,11,12,13 and 14 had significant relationship in terms of age groups. The questions, which do not have any relationship to each other in terms of age groups, are divorce due to violence, protected by government, arresting men, and responding to violence with violence. There are differences among age groups in terms of average value. Low age groups are against violence and unequal gender roles, at a higher average than middle age women and above.

**Table 9.** Women's Attitudes to Violence against Women in Terms of Age Groups

**Tablo 9.** Yaş Gruplarına Göre Kadınların Şiddete Karşı Tutumları

Items	Age Groups					Chi Square
	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>1. If Violence Is Not Severe, It Can Be Excused (%)</b>						
Agree	17,6	40,0	53,2	75,5	64,0	<b>(P&gt;,000)</b>
Disagree	76,5	60,0	46,8	20,0	30,0	
No İdea	5,9	0	0	2,5	6,0	
<b>M-SD (Total: 1,54- ,570)</b>	1,90-,539	1,60-,495	1,47-,504	1,25-,494	1,42-,609	
<b>2. Violence with the Purpose of Decency Can Be Supported (%)</b>						
Agree	27,5	54,0	57,4	65,0	78,0	<b>(P&gt;,000)</b>
Disagree	64,7	44,0	40,4	35,0	16,0	
No İdea	7,9	2,0	2,1	0	6,0	
<b>M-SD (Total: 1,48- ,586)</b>	1,82-,623	1,48-,544	1,45-,544	1,35-,483	1,28-,573	
<b>3. If There Is Beating, Spouses Should Divorce (%)</b>						
Agree	52,9	32,0	38,3	40,0	36,0	<b>(P&gt;,187)</b>
Disagree	31,4	60,0	55,3	52,5	56,0	
No İdea	15,7	8,0	6,4	7,5	8,0	
<b>M-SD (Total: 1,69- ,632)</b>	1,63-,747	1,76-,591	1,68-,594	1,68-,616	1,72-,607	

<b>4. If Woman Is Exposed to Violence, She Should Be Protected by Government (%)</b>						
Agree	82,4	72	72,3	57,5	64,0	(P>,389)
Disagree	15,7	22	21,3	37,5	30,0	
No Idea	2,0	6	6,4	5,0	6,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,36-,605)</i>	1,20-,448	1,34-,593	1,36-,673	1,50-,679	1,42-,609	
<b>5. Woman Provokes Man to Violence (%)</b>						
Agree	25,5	30,	34,0	45,0	58,0	(P>,031)
Disagree	60,8	60,0	61,7	45,0	30,0	
No Idea	13,7	10,0	4,3	10,0	12,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,72-,649)</i>	1,88-,621	1,82-,661	1,70-,548	1,65-,662	1,54-,706	
<b>6. If There Is Reasonable Cause for Violence, It Can Be Accepted (%)</b>						
Agree	23,5	46,0	40,4	67,5	64,0	(P>,000)
Disagree	66,7	54,0	51,1	27,5	24,0	
No Idea	9,8	0	8,5	5,0	12,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,60-,633)</i>	1,88-,621	1,54-,503	1,68-,629	1,38-,586	1,48-,707	
<b>7. Man Sometimes Should Commit Violence (%)</b>						
Agree	17,6	20,0	25,5	22,5	44,0	(P>,084)
Disagree	78,4	74,0	72,3	72,5	48,0	
No Idea	4,0	6,0	2,1	5,0	8,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,79-,531)</i>	1,88-,516	1,86-,495	1,77-,476	1,83-,501	1,64-,631	
<b>8. If Women Doesn't Meet Her Husband's Expectations, She Can Be Exposed to Violence (%)</b>						
Agree	21,6	30,0	53,2	42,5	74,0	(P>,000)
Disagree	70,6	60,0	40,4	52,5	20,0	
No Idea	7,9	10,0	6,4	5,0	6,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,65-,664)</i>	1,88-,588	1,84-,710	1,55-,686	1,62-,586	1,32-,587	
<b>9. If Man Commits Violence, He Should Be Arrested (%)</b>						
Agree	66,7	58,0	59,6	55,0	54,0	(P>,475)
Disagree	23,5	36,0	27,7	32,5	36,0	
No Idea	9,8	6,0	12,8	12,5	10,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,53-,710)</i>	1,43-,671	1,50-,678	1,53-,718	1,63-,838	1,56-,675	
<b>10. One Exposed to Violence Can Respond in the Similar Way (%)</b>						
Agree	15,7	14,0	17,0	12,5	18,0	(P>,835)
Disagree	80,4	76,0	80,9	80,0	78,0	
No Idea	3,9	10,0	2,1	7,5	4,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,90-,448)</i>	1,88-,431	1,96-,493	1,85-,416	1,95-,450	1,86-,452	
<b>11. Woman Should Obey Her Husband in Any Circumstances (%)</b>						
Agree	7,3	13,6	19,1	19,1	40,9	(P>,000)
Disagree	34,5	28,4	20,7	14,7	1,7	
No Idea	25,0	16,7	16,7	16,7	25,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,59-,587)</i>	1,90-,458	1,74-,527	1,60-,577	1,52-,599	1,16-,510	
<b>12. Beating is a Means for Decency (%)</b>						
Agree	4,8	11,3	21,0	28,2	34,7	(P>,000)
Disagree	41,2	34,3	18,6	2,9	2,9	
No Idea	25,0	8,3	16,7	16,7	33,3	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,52-,586)</i>	1,86-,491	1,72-,454	1,51-,547	1,15-,427	1,26-,664	
<b>13. Man Should Make Decisions and Woman Should Obey (%)</b>						
Agree	7,9	11,1	19,0	27,8	34,1	(P>,000)
Disagree	37,6	35,6	21,8	4,0	1,0	
No Idea	27,3	0,0	9,1	9,1	54,5	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,53-,593)</i>	1,94-,420	1,74-,487	1,49-,585	1,18-,501	1,22-,582	
<b>14. If Woman is Exposed to Violence, She Should Report (%)</b>						
Agree	80,4	62,0	74,5	65,0	50,0	(P>,013)
Disagree	17,6	36,0	19,1	27,5	42,0	
No Idea	2,0	2,0	6,4	7,5	8,0	
<i>M-SD (Total: 1,39-,612)</i>	1,22-,461	1,40-,535	1,32-,594	1,48-,784	1,58-,642	

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

Attitudes and perceptions of women, living in mountain villages, were analyzed in this research. Women's perception of violence is centered on physical and emotional violence. This result is similar to the definitions given for the meaning of violence against women. However, they also highly accepted other violence types, which were not defined by them. When the research is considered in terms of age groups, young women have a better knowledge of economic and sexual violence.

One in four women were exposed to violence and the average time of the exposure was 9,6 years. Significant amount of women (58,8%) remain silent to violence. The most common solution to this problem was "getting help from family elders". Women stated that they were exposed to physical, emotional, digital violence; however, they didn't mention economic violence. Most of the women were exposed to economic violence, but unfortunately they were not aware of it. In fact, almost half of the women (54,0%) have a monthly income; one third of women (28,1%) inherited some form of income from their families. However, only one in five (21,5%) made their own spending decisions; one in four (24,2%) manage their inheritance. Moreover, three fourth of the women were pleased with how the spending decisions and inheritance was being allocated because they had accepted that the role of a woman was one of functional and men as instrumental. This is emphasizing in the fact that women, who engage in farming, don't define themselves as farmers but housewives.

A significant relationship between usage of social media and age groups was determined in analysis regarding digital violence. Young women that were part other first two age groups had their cell phones, Internet, and social media usage controlled. These results confirmed the term "new generation violence".

The women interviewed in the research area had widely internalized the gender roles, and almost half of the women did not think women and men were equal. This confirms that gender roles have a significant effect in why women are more likely to be exposed to violence. The fact that there is no significant difference in terms of age groups supports this. Economic insufficiency is the underlining reason for why women endure the violence; in other words, poverty and unemployment are the main reasons women do not leave abusive relationships. The reasons for why women are exposed and endure violence were found in similar research conducted in other countries and Turkey. The fact that three fourth of women say violence against women is justified is a crucial reflection of women's secondary role and status. For women, who don't want to leave their children, are not educated, don't have a job, and don't have any place to go, violence has become a learned helplessness. Fatalism, patriarchal system and primary relationships play significant roles in creating this situation. Half of the women think, as in other countries, that getting help from a family elder instead of organizations against violence is better, and it shows that rural areas have patriarchal system and are isolated from cities and organizations.

Women's attitudes towards violence should not be separated from gender roles, inadequacy in mechanisms that protect women, and economic dependency. Most of the women stated that they didn't agree with the "attitude questions" about divorce due to violence, protected by government, arresting men, and responding to violence with violence. The reasons for this are women don't have any place to go and they cannot live without their husband both economically and morally. This situation is similar for all women and there is no difference no matter which age group it is. On the other hand, there are significant differences among age groups in terms of women's attitudes towards violence and unequal gender roles.

As a result, women living in rural areas in Turkey have difficulty reaching resources. Thus, they fall behind the women living in cities in regard to education, income, employment, social life etc. This situation is also true for the research area, increases and causes negativity because of its unique introversion and domestic violence.

It is not possible to find a general solution for this problem even if they are similar to one another in terms of domestic violence against women because violence is multidimensional and every society has progressed differently in its socio-cultural properties. Men, who are in the decision making positions, should be included in fight against violence in patriarch societies and rural areas, and research should be men-centered, especially in rural areas, freedom of women economically and morally depends on men. Focal point of the research should be in raising awareness publicly by means of formal education. It should be thought that educating children in rural areas is a powerful investment in long term.

Rewarding and giving certificate etc. to improve motivation can increase success. Cooperation between non-governmental organizations, universities, women's organizations, public and private sector is crucial.

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