

Abstract

The study of "Domestic Violence : Voices of the Battered Women" aims to lay out women's experiences and their meanings toward domestic violence. Main question of this study is how women deal with violence. Theoretical frameworks used in the thesis are Gender Relations, Cycle of Violence, and Social Support. Ethnography was a research method employed for this study.

Physical violence against women occur repeatedly. All 10 women interviewed recalled that after the first time they were hit, they tried to come up with 'reasons' or 'causes' of the violence. Most of the explanations they gave to themselves were : their husbands' s jealousy, their husbands were not 'being themselves' because they were drunk, some women blamed themselves for not being 'good wives.' At that time they thought that they had no other choices due to many reasons. Some women had low education and hence low income, they could not afford to raise their children all live together. They then decided to stay in the relationship with their spouses and hoped that the violence would end. However, the violence went on repeatedly. Women experienced more violence, they were hit harder and more often, as the time pass.

The battered women had 3 ways to deal with the situation. Five women still be with their husbands and hope that they find ways to be on their own someday. Two of them got divorce after they find ways to earn income and have place to live. The other three killed their husbands. They said that they were 'accident,' they were only defending themselves but they did not feel sorry for what had happened.