

Abstract

The present study investigated the relationship between domestic violence, psychological distress and depression. The sample comprised of 50 women with the age range of 14-35 years $M (SD) = 25.3(6.83)$. Psychological distress was measured through the domain of Mental Health Inventory (MHI). Siddiqui Shah Depression Scale (SSDS) was used to measure depression among the women in Darulaman. An indigenous Domestic Violence Tactics Scale (DVTS) was developed to measure Domestic violence among the women. Psychometric properties of the measure were determined which included construct validity, item analysis and reliability analysis. Principal component factor analysis of DVTS revealed three factors comprised of 39 items named as, physical assault/violence (23 items), psychological torture (9 items) and domination (7 items). Correlation among total domestic violence scale and its sub scales was high as well as inter correlation between domestic violence scores, psychological distress and depression was also computed. Step wise regression analysis revealed age and fathers' education as the major predictors of domestic violence. Domestic violence, psychological distress and nature of the visit from family were the predictors for depression. Depression was the only predictor for psychological distress. Results of t- test showed that women who were in late adulthood face more domestic violence, depression and psychological distress than the women in the age of early adulthood. The women face more physical violence than psychological violence and domination. Results also showed that the women whose fathers' were illiterate they face more physical violence and domination as compared to women whose fathers had school education or college education. Results were discussed in the light of existing literature as well as in Pakistani context.