





Men's Perspectives on Domestic Physical Violence and Their Ways of Interpreting It: The Case of Ankara Province

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Abstract

The family is the fundamental social unit that provides individuals with a sense of security and the opportunity to develop essential social skills. This institution, which individuals spend the majority of their lives within, exerts a profound influence on both the individual and society as a whole. It can be reasonably deduced that individuals who have been raised in healthy families form the foundation of a healthy society. However, even within the family, which is generally considered a safe environment for individuals, undesirable situations may occasionally arise. Domestic violence represents one such undesirable situation, which is associated with gender inequalities and patriarchal norms. This study examines the perceptions of domestic physical violence held by men and the social and cultural factors that underpin this violence. The research was conducted in Ankara province between August 25 and October 12 in 2024 and is based on findings from semi-structured interviews with men who have been married for a minimum of five years and have children. The study evaluated men's perceptions of domestic violence and the processes by which they legitimize this violence through the lens of sociological concepts, including gender norms, the patriarchal structure, and hegemonic masculinity. The findings indicate a tendency among men to perceive domestic violence as legitimate or to accept it as a disciplinary tool. This illustrates the pervasiveness of gender roles and patriarchal values in men's minds. The findings offer significant insights into understanding the social sources of domestic violence and enhancing the effectiveness of interventions targeting these sources.

Keywords

Domestic Violence, Gender Inequality, Hegemonic Masculinity, Patriarchy, Symbolic Violence

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