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Violence among early married Jordanian and Syrian refugee women in Jordan

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Statement of the problem: Early marriage has increased sharply in the past decades and consequently posing significant problems on maternal and neonatal outcomes. Violence considered as a substantial development barrier and worldwide human rights violation and problem facing this vulnerable population. The purpose of the study is to assess the frequency and types of violence among early married Jordanian and Syrian refugee women.

Methodology: A cross-sectional descriptive design was used to recruit a convenient sample of 160 Jordanian and Syrian refugee women from three governmental hospitals in Northern Jordan. Face-to-face interviews were used to collect violence data using (a structured violence questionnaire). In addition, a maternal-neonatal checklist was completed from patients' records. Descriptive and inferential statistics were calculated using SPSS version (23). Chi-square test, and independent t-test were used to compare the frequency and types of violence between the two groups, as well as, complications of violence among the study sample.

Findings: Exposure to violence from their husbands was high for the total sample as 63.7% Jordanian women reported being exposed to violence by their husbands 58.7% of Syrian women. A significant relationship was found between monthly income and having a history of violence by other family member with violence exposure. The predictors of violence were abuse caused by other family member and monthly income. There were significant differences between the two groups in the type of birth (CS birth) (43.8% vs. 18.8%; $p=0.001$); episiotomy rate (82.2% vs. 67.7%; $p=0.002$); and using pharmacological pain relief post CS (64.2% vs. 26.2, $p=0.007$) among Jordanian and Syrian groups, respectively.

Conclusion: Early marriage put those women at greater risk for different types of violence and its related complications.

Biography

Salwa Al-Obeisat Associate professor in the Maternal and Child Health Department at the Faculty of Nursing, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan. She obtained her Doctorate in Nursing Science from the Catholic University of America in 1999. She was the dean of nursing at the Hashemite University in Jordan, between the year 2003 - 2006. She served as a temporary consultant for national and international organizations including WHO, Jordanian Nursing Council, and Higher Population Council. She is currently a member of several university committees.

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