Dear Friend,

I am currently researching on violence against women in the family home, including violence during pregnancy, for my Doctoral Thesis. In order to identify ways in which this problem can be reduced and even possibly prevented, I need to talk to women who have at some stage experienced family violence, and who have been to either a Women’s shelter or any other social agency which assists people running away from violent relationships. I would also like to talk to service providers regarding their work and involvement with survivors of family violence. As such your contribution in this regard would be most valuable. The interviews are expected to last for about an hour, as they are quite detailed. I am prepared to have the interviews conducted at any place of your own convenience.

This research aims to make others aware of the effects of this chronic problem, and so, by sharing your experiences, on the nature of and factors associated with such violence, recommendations could be made to policy-makers on how to help eliminate it.

The study also addresses the perceptions and responses of various groups and agencies towards family violence. Do communities at large condone acts of violence in the home? Do friends, relatives and neighbours ignore and excuse violence in the home? Is it enough for physicians to merely mend bones and stitch wounds? Do social workers define
wife battering as criminal behaviour or as a failure in communication? When, and how, do the police and court officials intervene?

Family violence appears to be more than a problem between the two people immediately involved. Societies seem to be faced with a choice: blame the victim or prevent the violence.

I am aware that some questions may cause you some discomfort to which I apologise well in advance. However, you are under no obligation to participate, are also free to withdraw consent and discontinue participation in the activity at any time. Should you feel any willingness to offer any assistance in terms of an interview (s) in this regard, please complete the following undertaking and contact me at the address provided below.

I have read the information above and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this activity, realising that I may withdraw at any time. I agree that research and data gathered for the study may be published, provided my name is not used.

Miss Khotsi Phokojoe
Department of Sociology
University of New England
Armidale, 2351
Tel: 067-732139
067-732300 (Leave a message)

Thanking you well in advance for any assistance you may be able to offer.

Khotsi.

Should you have any complaints concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact the Ethics Committee at the following address:

The Secretary
Human Research Ethics Committee
Research Services
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
Telephone: (067) 732352 Facsimile (067) 733543
APPENDIX B

Interview Schedule for Women

First of all I would like to thank you for your time and voluntary cooperation. The purpose of this research is to gather information from survivors of domestic (family) violence. This is all in the hope that there may be information which will point to changes which need to be made. All the information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential. However, I wish to warn you that some of the questions are very personal and you may find them rather uncomfortable. There are some general issues as well, regarding battering. I do understand and appreciate the difficult situation you may be in and I thank you once more for your assistance. I also wish to point out that should you feel uncomfortable or upset, you are free to stop at any time.

PART A

Demographic Details:
1. Could you please tell me your:
   a. Country of origin
   b. Date of birth
   c. Nationality
   d. Marital history
   e. Number of children
   f. Occupation

1. Present Partner’s Background:
   a. Country of origin
   b. Date of birth
   c. Nationality
   d. Highest education attained
PART B

Relationship/Violence:

1. How did you and your partner meet? How did you get along at the time?

2. How did things develop? Why did you decide to live/move in with him?

3. How long had you known each other before you decided to move in together?

4. When was the first time your partner showed signs of violent behaviour? And what did he do?

5. What was the situation which could have led to that kind of a feeling? Could you please tell me about it?

6. What was the worst violent encounter you have ever experienced?

7. (a) During any violent incident, did you ever try to reason with your partner? Please explain.

(b) What was his response at the time?
What about afterwards?

1. Did it happen again? How long after and what actually happened this time?

2. Did he ever try to/or hit you with anything?

3. Did he ever use any (other) weapons (for example, guns, a knife, etc) on you?

4. (a) At any time your partner physically assaulted you, did you sustain any injuries which needed medical attention? If yes, did you ever seek such attention, and what did you tell the doctor(s)?

   (b) What was the doctor’s response?

5. When the incident happened, were there other people around? Who were they? What did they do?

6. What did your friends in particular think about what happened?

7. When you were pregnant, has your partner ever threatened or physically assaulted you? If so, please tell me about what happened.

8. What do you think was the reason for his action?

9. In your opinion, why would any husband physically assault a pregnant wife?

PART C

Practical issues:

10. (a) Did you ever leave your partner? And where did you go?

   (b) What made you decide to leave?

11. Did you get back together? Was it different and in what ways?

12. (a) Did you have any more physical fights? Could you recall what happened?

   (b) How severe was the violence?

PART D

Family background and Family details:

13. (a) Could you tell me about your childhood family? Was there much violence?

   (b) Did you experience any yourself? Tell me about some of the incidents.
14. How do you and your partner spend your leisure time?

15. What are the interests you have in common?

16. Do you think any of these activities sometimes contribute towards your partner’s behaviour? Please explain.

**PART E  Therapy:**

17. (a) Did you ever contact anyone regarding your partner’s violent behaviour? Who?

(b) What did you tell them? And what happened?

18. Have you ever contacted any member of your family? What was their response?

19. Have you ever tried to contact either the social workers or counsellors? And what actually happened?

30 (a) What about the refuge workers? Were they of any help at all?

(b) How do you feel about the type of assistance they offer to battered women?

20. Apart from these, what other agencies did you seek help from?

21. What impact has your partner’s violent behaviour had on your life?

22. How do you feel your decision to leave your partner will help you?

23. Have you ever thought of family violence as a problem to which a solution is needed?

Tell me what you think about all this

24. What are your ideas about a solution?

25. What is your feeling about batterers in general?

26. Are you presently on any community type program? What effect on you is this process having?

27. What are your comments and recommendations regarding any improvements in so far as this particular program is concerned?
APPENDIX C

Interview Schedule for perpetrators

First of all I would like to thank you for your time and voluntary cooperation. The purpose of this research is to gather information from perpetrators of domestic (family) violence. This is all in the hope that there may be information which will point to changes which need to be made. All the information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential. However, I wish to warn you that some of the questions are very personal and you may find them rather uncomfortable. There are some general issues as well, regarding battering. I do understand and appreciate the difficult situation you may be in and I thank you once more for your assistance. I also wish to point out that should you feel uncomfortable or upset, you are free to stop at any time.

PART A

Demographic Details:
1. Could you please tell me your:
   a. Country of origin
   b. Date of birth
   c. Nationality
   d. Marital history
   e. Number and ages of children
   f. Educational Background
   g. Work History

1. Present Partner’s Background:
   a. Country of origin
   b. Date of birth
   c. Nationality
d. Highest education attained

e. Occupation

1. Background of Partner at the Time of Violence:

   a. Country of origin
   b. Date of birth
   c. Nationality
   d. Highest education attained
   e. Occupation

PART B

Relationship/Violence:

1. How did you and your partner meet? How did you get along at the time?

2. How did things develop? Why did you decide to live/move in with her?

3. How long had you known each other before you decided to move in together?

4. When was the first time you felt angry? What did you do?

5. What was the situation which could have led to that kind of a feeling? Could you please describe it?

6. What was the first time you actually became aggressive? What happened?

7. What made you feel like this?

8. (a) Did you ever try to reason with your partner during these episodes? Please explain.

    (b) How did your partner respond at the time?

    (c) What about afterwards?

9. Did it happen again? How long after and what actually happened this time?

10. (a) Did your partner ever need medical attention? If so, what did you tell the doctor?

    (b) How did the doctor respond?

11. When the incident happened, were there other people around? Who were they?
12. What did they say or do?

13. What did your friends in particular think about what happened?

14. How do you feel when your partner is pregnant? Do you have fights during this time?  
   Please tell me about what happened.

15. In your opinion, why do husbands physically assault their pregnant wives?

PART C  
Practical issues:

16. (a) Did your partner ever leave you? Where did she go?
   (b) What made her decide to leave?

17. How did you feel about your partner leaving you?

18. (a) When your partner left, did you contact anyone?
   (b) If yes, who? What did you explain to them, and what was their response?
   (c) If no, why not?

1. Did you get back together? Was it different and how?

2. (a) Did you have any more physical fights? Could you recall what happened?
   (b) How severe was the violence?

PART D  
Family Background and general details:

3. Can you tell me about your childhood and family? Was there much violence?

4. Did you experience any yourself? Tell me about some of the incidents.

5. How do you and your partner spend your leisure time?

6. What are the interests you have in common?

7. Do you think any of these activities sometimes contribute towards your fights? Please explain.

8. Do you have many fights outside the family home? Whereabouts? And who with?
PART E

Therapy:

9. (a) Did you ever contact anyone regarding the fights which occur in your family?

   (b) Who? And what happened?

10. Have you ever tried to contact either the social workers or counsellors? And what actually happened?

11. Apart from these, from what other agencies have you sought help?

12. What impact do you think violent behaviour has had on your life?

13. Have you ever thought of violence as a problem to which a solution is needed? Tell me what you think about all this.

14. What are your ideas about a solution?

15. Are you presently in a community type program? What effect on you is this process having?

16. Do you have any comments and recommendations regarding any improvements in so far as this particular program is concerned?
APPENDIX D

Interview Schedule for Service providers

I am a postgraduate student carrying out some research on violence against women at the University of New England. The research involves both interviews and documents/records as sources of data and your assistance will be highly appreciated. This research is part and parcel of my doctoral thesis and whatever information you provide will be treated with strict confidentiality. Thank you for your time.

1. What is the name of your agency

2. What sorts of work do you do with the agency?

3. Could you please tell me when this agency was established?

4. How did it come to be set up?

5. What are the objectives of your agency in so far as family violence is concerned?

6. Do you feel that so far some of these objectives have been accomplished?

7. What brought you into this kind of work?

8. What types of people work here? i.e. voluntary or paid workers only?

9. What are the main sources of funding for your agency?

10. What sorts of numbers of clients do you get here?

11. What kinds of general background do these clients have?

   a. Age

   b. Marital Status

   c. Nationality

   d. Occupation

1. How often do clients visit here and for how long do they stay?

2. In your opinion, what finally makes clients decide to seek help from you?
3. Do you think that their decision to seek help is related to the incidents/level of violence they experience? Please explain.

4. What particular forms of violence are common among your clients? Please give as much details as possible.

5. Some studies on family violence have shown a link between the various levels of violence (for example, low, medium, and high) and some demographic features. Can you comment on this?
   a. Age
   b. Marital Status
   c. Nationality

1. Are there any particular reasons in your opinion why different groups show differing levels of violence?
   a. Low
   b. Medium
   c. High

1. Do many of your clients decide to separate from their partners? What do you think makes them do this?

2. How many decide to go back?

3. (a) What are the reasons in your opinion, prompting these clients to go back?
   (b) Do you ever get puzzled by such decisions? Why?

4. Whenever clients actually go back to their partners or be on their own, are they the same people as when they first sought assistance from you?

5. What type of follow-up programs do you have on clients who have used your service?

6. What sort of role do you think your agency plays in helping them to come to a decision?
7. What sorts of general problems have you had regarding either your work or the clients who use your service?

8. What other referral groups do you work in liaison with whenever you encounter problems with which you cannot cope?

9. What do you think of the ways in which these groups handle family violence?

10. Physical violence between husband and wife has sometimes been associated with pregnancy. Have you observed anything like that? Have you had any encounter with women who were assaulted only during pregnancy? For women who were assaulted at other times, what impact did pregnancy have on the level of violence perpetrated against them?

11. In your opinion why is it that many battered women are often physically assaulted by their partners during pregnancy?

12. Is there any particular period in pregnancy which you identify as the ‘risk time’ for women?

13. What do you think are the causes of such violence, particularly at that time?

14. What do you think should be done to reduce and possibly prevent family violence in general and specifically during pregnancy?

15. Any additional comments?
REFERENCES


Hatty, S. E. (1988), *Woman-Battering: Where to From Here?*, University of New South Wales, Australia.


