

Domestic Violence and its Economic Costs

Sabina BELSHAKU (PhD)

ALEKSANDER XHUVANI' UNIVERSITY,
FACULTY OF EDUCATION SCIENCES,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dorina XHANI (PhD)

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA,
FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCES,
EDUCATION AND LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY,
EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Abstract

Domestic violence is a growing concern for Albanian society. Gender-based violence-oriented studies have focused on physical, sexual, and psychological manifestations or their consequences. There is still no study to refer to the socio-economic cost of violence against women in Albania. Knowledge of the economic causes and consequences of the problem is important to enable society to deal with it constructively and correctly. It should be noted that the financial / economic costs that accompany the phenomenon of domestic violence, result as one of the factors that lead the family to deepen poverty and also limit women's opportunities for development. The purpose of this study is to describe the economic cost of violence against women. This study seeks to draw attention to the economic aspect of this phenomenon - the economic cost of violence experienced by women. Although the socio-economic cost of domestic violence requires a very complex and advanced study and especially an efficient statistical system (administrative resources), it is important to clarify that this study is an attempt to present how much it

costs a family, violence against women in marital relationships. An important finding of this study is the fact that there is a cause-and-effect relationship in the relationship between domestic violence and the economic situation of the family. So in a family in which violence is present in many forms, its economic situation is significantly affected. In addition to the individual consequences of the psychosocial cost of pain and suffering, interpersonal violence has a number of economic effects at the population level, including reduced credibility in economic, legal and social structures.

Keywords: *Domestic violence, economic cost, abused woman*

Introduction

Domestic violence is a growing concern for Albanian society. The profound social and economic transformation after the 90s, brought significant changes not only in the structure of the economy, standard of living, but also in the change of gender balance in Albanian society. Gender balance within the family is severely damaged by the presence of violence in the couple's relationship. This relationship, severely damaged by violence, has health, social and economic consequences for the family. The country has come a long way in isolating itself until it has completed a framework with an Anti-Domestic Violence Law (which entered into force in June 2007), a National Strategy and an Action Plan to combat it (2007-2012), and also numerous programs and projects against violence which have been implemented and have partially combated many aspects of domestic violence.

According to the Albanian legislation "Domestic violence" is any action or inaction exercised between persons who are or have been in family relations, which results in violation of physical, moral, psychological, sexual, social, economic integrity. Domestic violence is a crime that is often hidden. In Albanian society it is seen as a private matter, with little or no attention to prevention, mainly by various non-governmental organizations.

However, studies show that domestic violence is widespread in Albanian society. Gender-based violence-oriented studies have focused on physical, sexual, and psychological manifestations or their consequences. There is still no study to refer to the socio-economic cost of violence against women in Albania. Knowledge of the economic causes and consequences of the problem is important to enable society to deal with it constructively and correctly. It should be noted that the financial / economic costs that accompany the phenomenon

of domestic violence, result as one of the factors that lead the family to deepen poverty and also limit women's opportunities for development.

The purpose of this study is to describe the economic cost of violence against women. This study seeks to draw attention to the economic aspect of this phenomenon - the economic cost of violence experienced by women. Although the socio-economic cost of domestic violence requires a very complex and advanced study and especially an efficient statistical system (administrative resources), it is important to clarify that this study is an attempt to present how much it costs a family, violence against women in marital relationships. The gaps that appear in statistical information, especially towards gender indicators, make it difficult to build a complete quantitative model from which specific costs of violence can be calculated.

Although many difficulties arise, the analysis can never be more than a careful statistical assessment, in which some calculations are still more uncertain than others and some aspects have not been possible to include. This does not mean that there is no possibility of making some cost assumptions.

Research questions are:

- How is the behavior of abused women towards the various services they can access?
- How do they perceive the right to have services, are there insecurities and do they tend to leave such concerns within the family.
- How can the economic impact of violence on their families be measured?

Literature review

Domestic violence has consequences for both the victim and society. It consumes public and voluntary services as well as causes considerable pain and suffering to the individuals on whom it is exercised. While considerations based on the principles of respect for human rights provide a solid basis for public intervention in domestic violence, a better understanding of the full costs of domestic violence provides the basis for intervention with a policy-making aid system, that on the financial side. Adding a financial dimension to violence expands the range of ways in which strategic interventions can be articulated, measured and evaluated. In particular, the inclusion of the financial dimension can help address priorities in the policy-making structure.

Calculating the cost of violence is a useful strategy to increase policymakers' sensitivity to the importance and effectiveness of intervention. Understanding

the economic dimensions of interpersonal violence is very necessary not only to assess the economic damage it brings to the family and society, the economy in general, but also to determine the complete platforms of intervention, support of this category at risk. Violence is often considered a phenomenon that should receive proper attention, as a phenomenon that has its roots in an individual psychological problem or psycho-social relationship that does not work. So it is also a structural and complex social phenomenon.

Violence costs and its types

Cost, in a socio-economic analysis is divided into direct costs which result directly as related to the provision of health care and the costs of the judicial system, and indirect costs. The division of costs into direct and indirect is problematic. The impact of violence has short-term and long-term effects which are of a social and economic nature among individuals and communities. So far, many of these effects have been categorized together as indirect, a dark box which has rarely been opened and evaluated.

Direct costs represent the value of goods and services used in response to domestic violence. Direct costs are defined as “the value of goods and services used to treat and prevent domestic violence” (A. Morrison and M. Bihel). Another definition treats direct costs as “costs associated with interpersonal violence” (CDC 2003). Most direct cost studies have been addressed to various sectors including legal services, justice, health and social services. To determine the distribution of cost sharing through different agents of society some of the studies distinguish between services provided by society, the private sector and a combination of the two (Graves 1995). Some other studies have included individual costs.

Indirect costs are “total costs that are not incurred as a direct consequence of domestic violence. Indirect costs include salary losses and psychological costs (Hornick, Paetch and Bertrant, 2002) The calculation of psychological costs has been a normal practice in court cases which required the measurement of monetary values of the compensation of raped victims. The psychological costs were much greater than the direct economic losses that were inflicted on the victims (Miller, Cohen and Rossman 1993). Some studies have attempted to assess the negative effects of violence on housing costs, a cost to society. In the US, for example, a doubling of the suicide rate was accompanied by a 12.5% drop in real estate values (IADB, 2002).

So far, efforts to assess the human and emotional costs of fear, pain and suffering have been based on methodologies built from the application of

costing methods in road accidents, crimes and health situations, and this remains a privilege of developed countries which have established systems of stable information.

Indirect cost is very difficult to calculate and most studies are oriented towards the top of indirect costs such as loss of income from job loss and increase of job leave (Stanko, Crisp et al. 1998; Yodanis and Godenzi 1999; Walby 2004). However, losses in labor productivity also include non-monetary costs, becoming the basis for a multiplier effect that generates declining incomes, reduced labor participation, and a contraction in investment and savings. Women who worked while having violence in their relationships stated that “they were not able to share the trauma they had suffered in their personal lives with their daily work, thus causing low performance at work or loss of days of work” (KPMG 1994).

A useful typology which shows the indirect costs of violence is suggested by Buvinic et al. (1999). This typology presents a cost estimation scheme which shows the impact of violence. This structure allows the division between social and economic costs, monetary costs or those that have an imputable value, those non-monetary costs as well as those costs which it is not possible to present through a monetary value.

TABLE 1. A typology Socio-economic costs of violence¹:

Type of cost	The impact
Direct costs: Value of goods and services used to treat and prevent violence	• Medical
Non-monetary costs: Pain and suffering	
• Criminal justice system	
Multiple social effects: Impact on interpersonal relationships and quality of life	Intergenerational transmission of violence Reducing the quality of life Erosion of social capital Reduction in participation in democratic processes

Definitions that serve for measurement

Many studies in the literature try to determine the parameters of domestic violence even for those who experience violence perpetrated by the current or former spouse / partner, or by “someone known to the victim”.

¹ (Source: Buvinic et al, 1999)

The national definition defines that, “Domestic violence” is any act of violence, according to point 1 of this article, exercised between persons who are or have been in family relations.

In many developing countries this is the definition that applies as it refers to the type of relationship between the two sexes - engagement, cohabitation and marriage. For this analyze it is important to start with the definition (definition) of violence. One of the reasons for this is that the literature contains a range of concepts on violence, ranging from interpersonal violence, domestic violence, domestic violence or couple violence. The definition within each concept refers to the size of the population experiencing violence. These changes are significant as the prevalence rate often determines the basis of the methodological formula that will be used to make the cost estimate.

DHNP is multifaceted and includes sexual, psychological, physical and economic abuse. There is a broad consensus in the literature regarding the set of behaviors that refer to any form of violence.

Physical violence includes behaviors such as beating, pushing and burning

Psychological abuse includes: bullying, swearing, isolation and abandonment behavior.

Sexual violence includes sexual problems, refusal to use a condom, sexual harassment and rape.

While financial abuse includes deprivation of material goods, control of money and control of assets that the family has.

Studies related to cost surveys focus on physical, sexual and psychological abuse within an intimate / couple relationship. Of course, defining definitions on types of costs is of great importance for this study and they are presented in more detail when describing application methodologies.

Costs of violence in developing countries

While existing studies emphasize the selection of costs to be observed and by what methods, few of them are applicable in most developing countries due to different social norms regarding the acceptability of violence, lack of a policy-making structure and information systems, as well as differences in the economic structure that subsequently affect the ways in which violence is assessed.

In many developing countries, domestic violence is perceived as a private matter and to be recognized as a social issue that requires a political and social response which reflects the high rate of acceptance of violence against women. Lack of will especially translates into minimal services from public structures at national, regional or local levels. Also, the use of services by abused women

is limited due to socio-cultural norms, the distraction of service providers and the fear of retaliation. Given this lack of response, assessing the costs of violence may remain a secondary priority for developing country governments. Seeking to measure violence means first getting to know it well. The methodology for conducting the study is limited by the lack of a coherent and reliable information system through which the prevalence of violence can be assessed, especially as long as law enforcement, shelter and other sectors do not perceive domestic violence as a problem. They do not record information or maintain an information system on the extent of use of services related to the mitigation and prevention of violence. All of these information gaps intertwined with the limited knowledge of the consequences of violence make it difficult to build a database from which average unit costs can be calculated.

As noted in the citations above, most cost studies refer to western industrialized countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Finland, and Australia, where the information and services system is highly developed. And yet few of them are really valid and applicable to the reality of countries that are still developing.

A study made in the year 1999 by the Inter-American Development Bank in Chile and Nicaragua (Morrison and Orlando 1999) examined the impact of DHP on a household's capacity to provide income. In Chile, all types of DHP reduce women's incomes by 1.56 billion (more than 2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1996). Abused women earn much less than those who are not subject to violence. Beyond the effects on income, the study in Nicaragua found that 63.1% of child victims and women have to repeat their school years and also tend to drop out of school on average four years earlier than other children. Of course, these children who are present or victims of abuse tend to imitate this behavior and repeat its cycle. In the context of public health there have been attempts to assess losses in terms of morbidity and mortality. A World Bank study showed that the annual rate of rape and domestic violence was equal to 9 million years of life with a physical disability, including years lost from premature death as well as time lost from disability caused or illness as a cause. of violence (World Bank 1993). Other studies of the cost of violence have estimated losses due to premature death (Pispa and Heiskanen 2001; CDC 2003).

Conceiving a cost analysis

What has been emphasized above in this study is that domestic violence is a widespread and disturbing social phenomenon which is often treated by qualitative studies conducted in the country, or as a social and legal problem being a crime against a person. or as a health problem affecting women and

their children. If we want to address the issue of economic tension that it causes for the family and society as a whole in the form of various socio-economic costs, the creation of a conceptual basis is what helps analysis. There are seven essential cost-focusing steps that are usually required to follow a study of the phenomenon of violence from an economic point of view:

1. Define clear objectives for practicing costing methods.
2. Identify the level of aggregation in accordance with these objectives.
3. Develop an operational definition of Couple Violence, which summarizes the experiences of most women.
4. Describe the behaviors of requesting assistance from women who are victims of violence to determine the appropriate services to be considered in the costing method.
5. Design the services that are available to victims of violence.
6. Determine which methods or combinations of methods are most appropriate.

Factors to consider in measuring violence

In all studies on the economic cost of domestic violence, there are several key factors that are important against cost estimation as well as the methodologies used for these estimates. These factors are:

- a. definition of domestic violence,
- b. measurement of violence,
- c. conceptualization of opportunities / services to seek help in cases of experiencing violence.
- d. cost categorization,
- e. methodological challenges such as time frame or unit of analysis and
- f. data collection methods

Many studies in this field have shown that it is difficult to find a model that can be applied to all types of violence and its effects. The one most used by researchers is the “comprehensive” model which is based on the understanding of the interaction between individual, situational and socio-cultural factors. According to this model, there is not a single factor that causes violence but a number of converging factors. The process of estimating the costs of domestic violence requires an observation of the impact of domestic violence on both the victim and a range of social institutions. This requires knowledge of the degree of injury

to people both physically and mentally as well as knowledge of the consequences and deteriorations in the lives of injured and individuals related to them. These damages are addressed by a large number of social agencies and institutions that need to be identified. The literature on the cost of domestic violence shows that there is a higher diversity of responsible institutions than there is in the literature on costs in general. In a broader context, the areas where measurement should be oriented are the criminal justice system, the health care system, social housing and migration services, as well as legal and civil services. Within each area, there are a number of specific institutions that operate and provide these services.

Source of Data and Methodology applied

The research methodology is based on different approaches. First of all, the reviewed literature that refers to the issues addressed in this study - emphasizes the great importance of not only the analysis of quantitative but also qualitative information presented through specific interviews. The main part of the statistical information used to conduct this analysis is a part of the data detached from the central set of data from the survey “Domestic Violence” conducted by INSTAT during 2007. The purpose of this analysis is to focus on the economic cost of domestic violence (against women) and to provide a measurement approach in the case of Albania.

One of the objectives of the survey itself was to identify some of the direct and indirect costs of domestic violence. Data for this national survey were collected from 2699 households and the target group are women aged 15-49 years. In each family selected through a probabilistic sampling process, only one woman in this age group was interviewed.

Among others, the questionnaire used in this survey has collected information on these variables (which are the ones that are of interest for this thesis):

- Women who have experienced violence and who have sought help from persons or services
- The reason that no medical, legal or social assistance was requested
- Categories of persons or services that may require assistance from abused women.
- Value in money paid for services
- Were women absent from work due to the violence, and for how many days?

Also, for the case studies, there were used other official data produced by other surveys of households conducted by INSTAT, related to the level of income.

The sampling is done according to the specifics of the costs of violence and the possibilities to measure it. One of them is the Household Cost Model. Within households, the main costs to be considered are personal expenses, income reduction, loss of family work and loss of productivity.

The cost estimate presented in this study refers mainly to the individual cost and the primary unit of analysis is the household and in each household a woman is interviewed. For this have served the data collected in the framework of the national survey mentioned above, and exactly a part of the data selected by it. The selected data refers to the variable that collects information on the cases of women who have experienced violence and who have sought help somewhere because of violence. There are 193 cases (women interviewed) that will be analyzed in this study, who answered “Yes” to the question if they asked for help somewhere due to the violence.

Attempts to measure the cost of violence in Albania

The referencing situation in Albania remains a difficult task. Supportive literature is very scarce and studies on violence as a social phenomenon are very limited. Quantitative studies at the national level are also almost non-existent. In such an unexplored field, it is still difficult to analyze the aspect of economic cost in the Albanian context. In Albania, as in other countries, it is assumed that the family has the necessary support from the state and the law, to prevent and protect its members from ill-treatment and to maintain its stability. Although the state has made progress in this regard, again the relationship between the service seeker (the abused) and the service provider (public and private and health and legal services) is still fragile and unorganized and any damage it suffers tends to be fixed within “House walls”. Individuals do not always seek specialized help, it is necessary to know how much potential service is used.

For the reasons mentioned above, the international literature was the only literature served to this paper. This literature really provides a lot of information in this regard but again the effort remains difficult. In developing countries which have similar characteristics to Albania, such studies are also very limited.

Analysis of a case study: expenses in the family affected by the phenomenon of violence

Having explained theoretically and empirically what this phenomenon is and how the financial effect it has on the family can be measured, and after arguing

some of the trends through literature review and study, it is important to go deeper into this issue through two case studies. The case studies are based on data collected from official sources but also from a population selected for this purpose. It aims to confirm the main hypotheses of this study which aim to measure that domestic violence has a cost to the Albanian family which should not be ignored.

The case studies presented are based on these two scenarios

The baseline scenario is oriented towards measuring direct costs, where costs are calculated based on the type and number of services required by abused women multiplied by the unit cost per service. And a revenue loss scenario, which imputes the cost of employment income that the family is supposed to lose due to the presence of Domestic Violence.

A model of household expenditure estimation

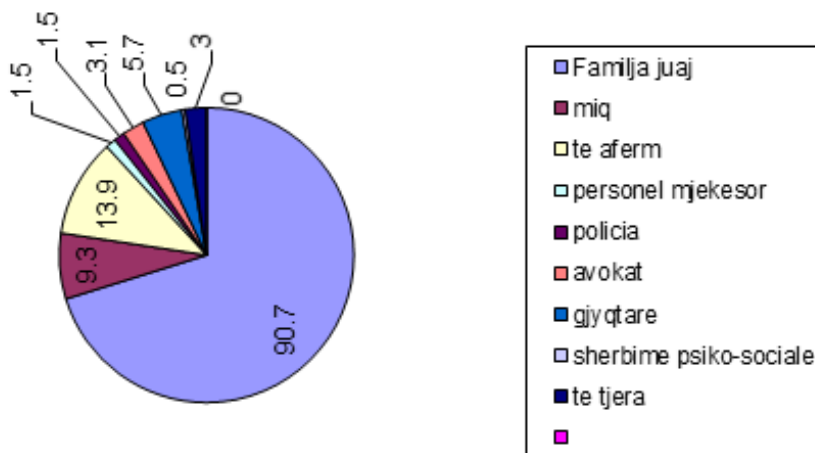
As mentioned above in the methodology section, the unit of analysis is the family and in each family a woman is interviewed. An abused woman may or may not seek specialized help to end the ongoing pain in her life. The directed question on which it was conducted and the selection of “my population for study” was:

“Have you ever tried to ask for help?” and Where did you seek help?

The basic (initial) scenario applied is based on the costs of households, in which women admit to having suffered some form of violence, as a result of which they have turned to legal services, police or medical services. According to this scenario, if this woman has received services / assistance five times at the medical services, then this request made five times during the last 12 months, multiplies the direct cost of the initial circumstance by 5 times for the given period. The income lost in this case is related not only to the type of services that women have requested but also their number, within a given period of time.

The data show (see graph) that the number of women seeking help in legal and specialized services is very limited, however we will try to concretize the model with this small number of cases.

CHART 1. Where do abused women seek help?



If we refer to the description given above where: Health service costs include (costs of emergency, medical visits, medications, surgeries, mental health care, dental), the analysis would be more complete if in addition to the percentages of service delivery to have all the amounts of money spent on each of these services.

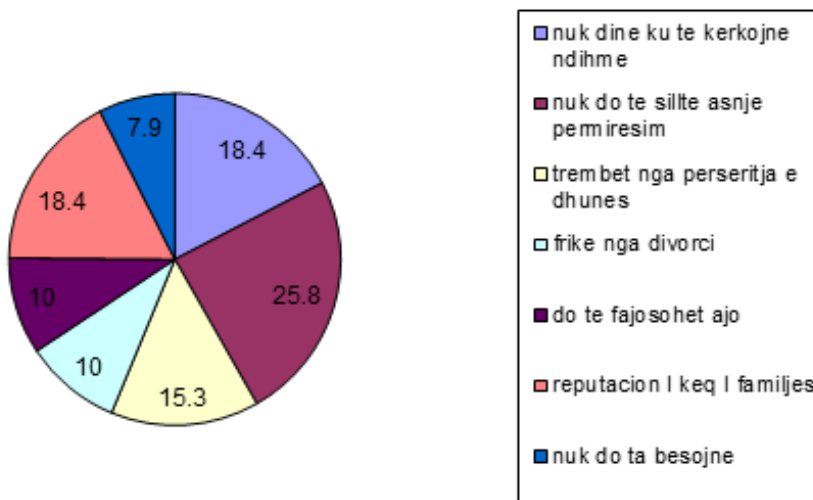
Women have reported that they seek help to family, friends, medical staff, police etc. for services received but the reported value belongs to a large range and refers to a large grouping of services. For this reason we can set an approximate monetary value that refers to the formalized (approved) payment measure to make possible estimates.

TABLE 2 . Economic costs according to services for family

Type of service	Average number of times for each type of service Assumed value per unit of service Imputed cost	Average number of times for each type of service Assumed value per unit of service Imputed cost	Average number of times for each type of service Assumed value per unit of service Imputed cost
Medical staff	3	2,500 ALL	10,500 ALL
police	1	500	500
Lawyer	1	10.000 ALL	10,000 ALL
JUDGE	1	1.000 ALL	1,000 ALL
psycho-social	2	-	-
TOTAL			22,000 ALL

In our case study if in a family, it has to spend an amount of 10,500 ALL only for medical services this means that 2.5% of its annual income is lost for “unnecessary” expenses that are added to other expenses which the family needs to live. These expenses go only for health services but if we add to them the other costs of legal services such as police, lawyer, judge then 19.6% of the annual income of the family would go to the mentioned expenses. As it can be seen, the number of reports is very small and in this case we can not leave without mentioning that in our country, where culture is a strong limiting and orienting factor for women’s behavior, being closed to itself is inevitable. The woman tends to seek help within the family (around the circle of acquaintances, more than in specialized structures. This also affects the reports made during family surveys. This is clearly explained by the analysis we do of the reasons why women do not ask specialized help, where concern for the bad reputation of the family ranks third.

CHART 3. Distribution of reasons why women do not seek help



From this graph we understand that women do not seek specialized help because they either do not know where to seek it or because their trust in services is quite low.

Case Study: Regarding the income scenario that the family loses but is unavoidable, an estimated frequency for leaving / leaving work is applied and compared to the average monthly salary of the woman

Number of women who were not allowed to go to work as a result of the violence, according to the level of employment

The consequences did not allow you to go to work	YES	NO	Total
Cases	74	119	193
%	38	62	100

The data show that the percentage of women who had experienced one of the types of violence and who had sought legalized help or service somewhere, did not go to work as a result of the violence, during the last 12 months (about 38% out of 193 women). 48.5% of them lived in the countryside and 52% in the city. Almost all women (99%) have attended even one of the levels of education, which means that education is not an influential factor. To calculate how much the family loses, in this case we study the case with the highest frequency of occurrence. The data show (see table below) that women are most often reported to have been absent for 3 days from work and this is a direct financial loss for the family.

Percentage of women who did not go to work as a result of violence, according to the days of absence

No of days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	14	15	TOT
Cases	6	14	20	10	6	5	7	3	1	2	74
Percentage (%)	8.10	18.9	27	13.5	8	6.8	9.5	4.1	1.4	2.4	100

Because she experiences frequent physical and sexual violence, she quits her job and has no chance of returning to work, as in a market economy where unemployment is high, this chance is even more limited. If we assume that this woman belongs to the lower social strata, which tends to be affected and tolerate more violence as a phenomenon. Income from her work refers to a minimum monthly salary of 14,000 lek. With a simple calculation we can say that the family within a year will be missing 168,000 lek from its budget.

In an Albanian family where the average income turns out to be about 36,000 ALL per month and the average annual income can be estimated at a value of 432,000 ALL per year, we can say that the financial loss caused to the family is about 40% of income its annual. While it should not be forgotten without mention, the loss of productivity that represents the difference between what is produced and what could be produced if interpersonal violence, which in addition to temporary effects, can also have long-term effects.

Further, we assume that this unemployed woman will seek to be supported by the social scheme - unemployment benefit, which is given to the person for a period of 2 years when he declares that he is unemployed and can not find a job, in this case we have a double cost. The monthly unemployment payment has a

measure of 5, 240 lek per month, for a year the cost of a person covered by this social scheme is 62,280 lek and this is a cost for the economy of a country.

In an analysis of real economic costs it would be good to include the contribution to the loss caused to society and the economy. This first contribution from the aspect of losing an active labor force (paid work) but also unpaid work.

The economic structure of our country becomes a challenge for estimating the costs of violence. As in many developing countries the formal labor market is less developed and informal activities are more dominant than in developed countries. According to the International Labor Organization in developing and transition economies, the informal labor sectors comprise half or three-quarters of employment outside the agricultural sector. Women perform a large amount of paid and unpaid work including reproductive work, subsistence work. The wide dimensions of informal and unpaid productivity in the family make it difficult to estimate the losses and reduced output that results from violence against women.

Conclusions

In this study, I tried to explore as much as possible to make an economic cost estimate in Albania and what are the spaces to measure it in terms of increasing the level of expenditures and reducing the level of income. In order to show properly how this impact is measured, we referred to a set of data extracted from a nationally studied sample.

The conclusions and recommendations drawn from this simple and initial effort in this new field of exploration are as follows:

- Shortcomings in the field of study. Given the wide range of methodological changes and major shortcomings in the existing literature on the economic issues of interpersonal violence, the need for real research on the costs of violence is clear. Such research should follow strict methodological principles, including direct or indirect cost, and - most importantly - allow comparisons between different countries and models. In the context of calculating the consequences of violence, the biggest shortcoming observed is the lack of a standardized methodology. Such a methodology should specify parameters for categories and types of costs - indirect and direct - as well as provide an appropriate time to calculate costs from an individual and social perspective. The methodology will apply a consistent value to future depreciation costs and benefits. Also, there is a great lack of studies and analyzes which allow to draw causal conclusions regarding

the links between interpersonal violence and economic inequality, the weakness of the security network (system), unemployment and poverty. It can be said with certainty that these factors contribute to the increase of interpersonal violence.

- Directions for future research. In addition to the individual consequences of the psycho-social cost of pain and suffering, interpersonal violence has a number of economic effects at the population level, including reduced credibility in economic, legal and social structures. The tool to compare the value of losses, caused by interpersonal violence in the country and the economy where the approach to human capital is particularly inefficient, is the need for standardized research referring to indirect costs. There are very few estimates of this kind, which, if quantified, are likely to be several times higher than the value of the direct cost of violence.
- The lack of population-based data limits our understanding of the further impact that violence has.
- Until recently, most searches were conducted by taking a non-representative sample, often women housed in women's shelters or in various centers that provide services to abused women. Indeed, these studies are important to understand the dynamics of abuse, they do not provide data on how many women are affected by this phenomenon, nor do they collect information on individuals who do not seek help. And according to estimates, the number of women who do not seek these services, significantly exceeds the number of women who seek help.
- Determining the most effective unit of study.
- A population-based search or services? This is a question that arises when you consider studying this aspect. The decision refers to the selection of the sample by the population (also called the population-based study) or by service providers, such as health centers, police posts, in an attempt to assess how many of the emergency room patients are victims of violence. In our country, based on the information deficiencies mentioned above, it is thought that the studies are oriented towards the selection of the sample by a certain population or community. A better point from which to estimate the costs of violence is the family given the importance of this cell as a place of production and reproduction. Focusing on the losses created by the cost of labor at the family level, we will have a higher attention from the community and policy makers, because this will include other implications in poverty which is a matter of high interest for this economics.

Recommendations

- It is necessary to create a clearer understanding of domestic violence.
- This attempt provided a context for understanding that this problem is significant and that it is a good reason for further work. A key area where more research can be focused is the area of labor force participation. We need to better understand how the existence of domestic violence affects work behavior. This may require further quantitative studies.
- Improving data collection - in the function of estimating the prevalence of domestic violence but also to better identify the use of services and costs incurred by the victim or family.
- Application of intervention programs using experimental models as an essential factor to perform a cost-effective or cost-benefit analysis
- Theoretical reservations for performing a complete analysis.
- Family surveys risk underestimating the true incidence of violence. It should be clear that economic analysis - or even an estimate for calculating DHNP, is a difficult task. The sources of information are really numerous and the problem of the information system is always present. On the other hand violence of the same character is not always experienced in the same way by all those who are exposed to it.
- In some cases it involves long-term and very serious abuse and in others the case is not so serious.

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