

Men and
Families
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**“Am I Always the Perpetrator?”
Revisiting the Cycle of Violence Through the
Lens of Male Victimization in the context of
Bangladesh**

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Format of the Presentation



Context and questions
of the study



Method



Findings



Summary and
recommendatio
n

Context of the Present Study

Domestic abuse is 'normal' behavior in a relationship (M 26%, F 9%)

Domestic violence is a private family matter (M 12%, F 13%)

Alcohol and drug use 'cause' abuse and violence (M 38%, F 25%)

Strong religious beliefs can prevent or cure domestic abuse (M 30%, F 21%)

Male and Female partners are equally violent and their violence is the same (F 21%, M 26%)

Domestic abuse occurs primarily among the low-income, unsuccessful, uneducated, young or minorities (M 22%, F 8%)

Women provoke the abuse (M 20%, F 8%)

Women can leave anytime they want to (M 24%, F 31)

Abused women are emotionally unstable or mentally ill (M 48%, F 37%)

(Awal & Khatun, 2018)

Professionals' perspective

There is a rare possibility of male victimization

Male victimization comes from the sense of responsibility

Male are not supposed to cry. They do not even know if they can share their emotion to anybody else and seek support.

No platform of support dedicated to male is available in Bangladesh

Conceptualization of IPV: Male as a Perpetrator

- IPV is described as a behavioural pattern including forms of physical, emotional, financial, sexual, or psychological abuse (WHO, 2004)
- High prevalence of intimate partner violence against women all over the world (Devries et al., 2013)
- Male vs female victimisation in the US were 1.3 and 3.8 in 1,000 (almost four times) respectively (Hines & Douglas, 2009)
- An outcome of these findings is interventions such as the Duluth model, which is the most widespread IPV intervention program practised all over the US and in many other countries (Pence, 1993)

Male as a Victim

- IPV perpetration among males and females are roughly equal (Dutton et al., 2005)
- More women than men reported using violence in intimate relationships (Magdol et al., 1997)
- 14% of men overall and 39% of multiracial males have experienced severe physical violence (CDC, 2010)
- Strong correlation between perpetration and victimization in Asian-American men (Prospero & Kim, 2001)

Scenario of IPV in Bangladesh

- Domestic violence is defined as any act of abuse committed against a woman or a child by a family member (Domestic Violence Act, 2010)
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics suggests that almost two thirds (72.6%) of ever-married women experienced one or more forms of violence by their husband at least once in their lifetime
- About 55% of women had experienced violence during the last 12 months. The prevalence of IPV was found to be more widespread in rural areas (74.8%) while it was less in urban areas (54.4%) (BBS, 2015)

Research Questions

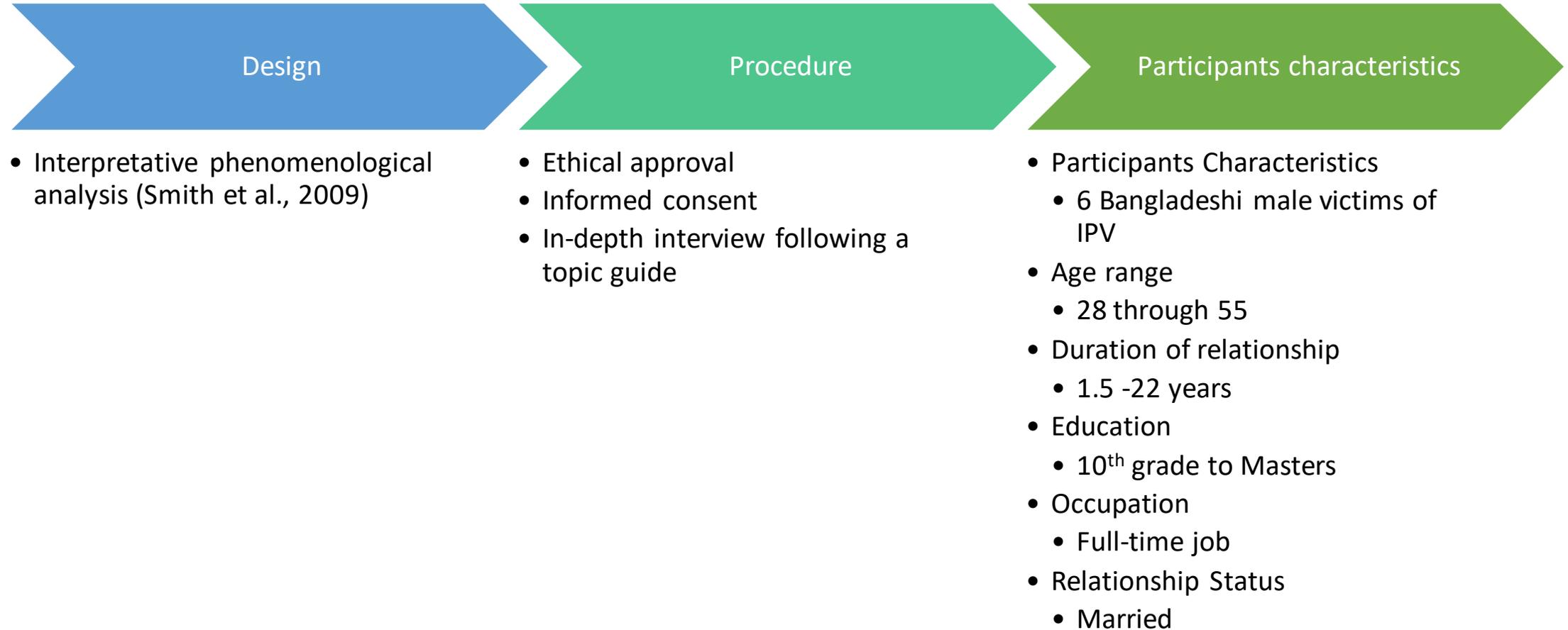
How do male partners perceive and experience IPV in the Bangladeshi context?

How do they experience the cycle of violence in their intimate relationship?

What do male victims do when they feel the need to get support from external agencies?

What are the barriers they are facing in receiving help?

Method



Data Analysis

Reflexive reading and highlighting the main claims

A light orange downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the first step to the second.

Preliminary clustering of statements including sub-themes individually

A light grey downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the second step to the third.

Finalise themes and sub-themes across cases

Findings

Main Theme and Sub-themes

Forms of Abuse

Impact of Abuse

Enduring the Abuse

Burden of responsibility

Reluctance towards seeking support

Disguise the relational abuse

Theme one: Forms of Abuse

Physical (3/6)

- Throwing things
- Pulling hair
- Biting
- Beating with objects

Emotional (6/6)

- Avoidance,
- Neglect,
- Lack of respect, Abuse of power and independence,
- Showing non-verbal aggression

'She did everything to make the situation toxic. She did to make me wander around the street'

Behavioral (5/6)

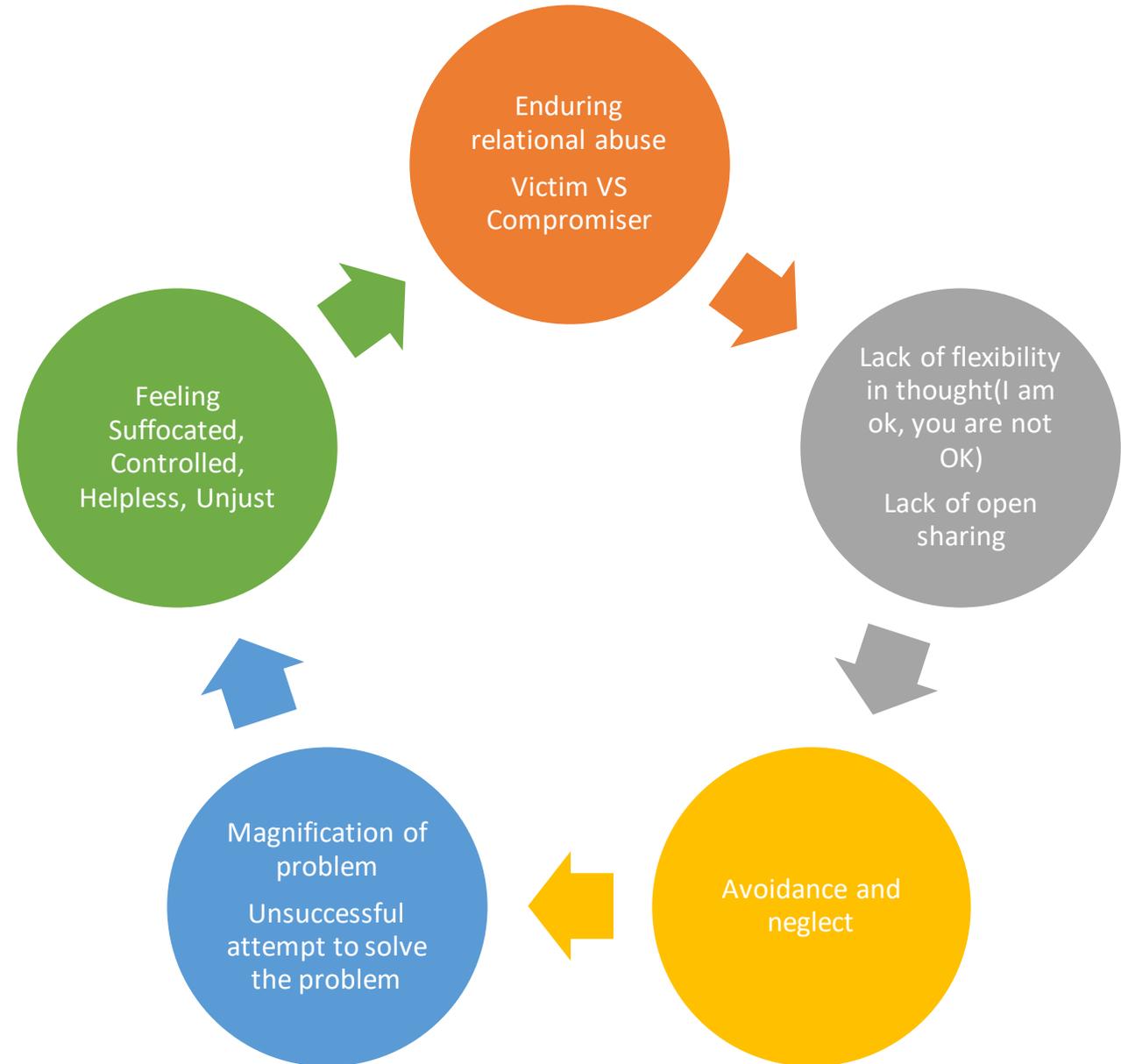
- Snatching mobile phone
- Checking call list

Theme-two: Impact of Abuse

Physical	Psychological	Functional	Social	Impact on children
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inadequate sleep• Inappropriate meal• Significant hair fall• Weight loss• Lost brightness in appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negative emotions such as tortured, suffocated, frustrated, inadequate, fearful, tensed, lack of understanding, lack of empathy <p>'She tortured me mentally which is 100 times more severe than physical torture'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No relaxed mood,• Difficulty in concentration,• Barriers to further education and professional growth,• Addicted to drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty in maintaining relationship with female friends, colleagues, other family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children gets scared, vulnerable, victim of triangulation

Theme-Three: Enduring the Abusive Relationship	Theme Four: Burden of Responsibility	Theme Five: Reluctance towards Seeking Support	Theme Six: Disguise the Relational Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking unsuccessful attempt to resolve the problem • Wishful thought to overcome the problem • Emotionally reactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Taken as granted’ by the society: Financial responsibility • No recognition in return, criticism in failure • Facing extreme consequences(e.g. suicidal ideation, depression, drug addiction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form of Weakness: Men have to be strong (shame culture) • Unavailability of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Male Victim’ VS Compromiser ‘You, the professional should reject the word ‘perpetrator and/or victim for men’. Perpetration always comes as an end product. You should look back to the roots’

Cycle of violence: experienced by male



Limitations

Lack of variation in participants

Changes of meaning in translating the theme from Bengali to English

Summary and Recommendation

Having no statistics in the context of Bangladesh, we are unable to state clearly if the violence-victim rate is higher/lower/same in male population as in female.

Men are experiencing the same abuse having the same impact as women.

As the phenomena is significantly unrecognised and unreported, this violence is not being addressed too.

Additionally, the social perception towards 'male-role' made it more complex to accept help when necessary.

Deconstructing the 'societal taken as granted policy' is important to reduce the burden.

Acknowledging the problem as it is rather than disguising might facilitate support seeking behavior



Questions and/or Reflections