

## Attacking Domestic Abuse

### **Definition**

In line with the relevant scenarios and laws in the modern society, domestic abuse refers to a pattern of foul behavior in a relationship. The perpetrators of these actions perceive it as effective approaches of attaining and maintaining control over their intimate partners. The behaviors categorized under this social vice can be emotional, sexual, psychological, or economic threats or actions (Meyer, 2015).

The physical form of domestic abuse includes pulling of hair, grabbing, shoving, slapping, hitting, biting, or punching one's spouse. This type of behavior also entails forcing one to use drugs or alcohol or denying him or her medical care. Moreover, the common forms of sexual abuse comprise treating someone in a sexually belittling manner, marital rape, forcing a spouse to engage in sexual intercourse after the occurrence of physical violence, or attacking one's sexual organs (Firth, 2008). Similarly, emotional abuse involves undermining a person's self-esteem through constant criticism, damaging the existing relations with his or her family members, name-calling, or diminishing their mental capabilities.

Economic abuse is also a common form of domestic violence in the modern society. In an attempt to ensure that their partners are financially dependent on them, abusive spouses withhold their victims' access to finances or forbid them to seek employment or attend an institution that may result in economic empowerment (Meyer, 2015). Furthermore, the common forms of psychological abuse in intimate relationships include threatening to physically harm self, spouse, children, or the victim's friends or family members, instilling fear through intimidation, forcefully isolating one's partner from his or her allies, relatives, occupation, or school (Firth, 2008). Destroying a person's property and killing pets with the main intent of causing fear is also a psychological version of domestic abuse.

### **Why Couples Fight**

One of the primary reasons why some people in intimate relationships fight is to gain and

maintain control over their spouses. Abusive partners believe that physical violence, ensuring that their wives or husbands are financially dependent on them, or suppressing their self-esteem are effective and valid approaches of dominating the relationship. Moreover, in the modern era, certain cultures still support domestic violence as the approach to save marriage (Skaine, 2015). In fact, in such scenarios, it is unheard for a female to accuse her husband of marital rape, physical violence, economic abuse, or emotional mistreatment. Distrust and jealousy are also possible reasons why couples fight.

### **Domestic Violence among Superstars vs. Everyday People**

Notably, celebrities and ordinary people may become victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. One of the key similarities between domestic violence among celebrities and ordinary individuals is the adverse impacts of these cruel deeds on the victims' mental and physical well-being. Moreover, a significant percentage of the affected persons stay in the abusive relationships for a relatively long period before finally deciding to open up about their predicaments (Firth, 2008). Nonetheless, due to their social status and financial resources, there is a notable difference between the approaches used by celebrities and ordinary persons to deal with the experienced cruelty in a relationship. For instance, due to the economic advantage enjoyed by famous personalities, they are able to seek protection through their lawyers. For instance, it is easy for such an individual to acquire a restraining order against the abusive partner. Moreover, celebrities can easily access psychiatrist programs (Skaine, 2015). Such medical interventions are helpful in dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of domestic violence in time. In contrast, most ordinary people who become victims of domestic abuse suffer from physical, emotional, and mental health issues (Firth, 2008).

Besides, superstars often have a hard time dealing with the emotional, physical, and mental issues triggered by domestic violence due to the aspect of publicity. Their private lives are constantly scrutinized by the public. As a result, it is common for famous individuals to use social media platforms to convey hurtful messages to the affected personalities (Meyer, 2015). This is one of the advantages of not being in the lime light. In scenarios related to domestic abuse, ordinary people have

the opportunity to deal with the arising issues without interference from strangers. The involved parties also differ between superstars and the ordinary populace. On one hand, a celebrity's business manager, agent, coach, and parents are likely to use their resources and influence to assist him or her in tackling the psychological and emotional turmoil triggered by domestic abuse. The offered help may also entail using legal means to reprimand the perpetrator of this social vice (Skaine, 2015).

In comparison, the assistance offered to the poor average citizens who have experienced a particular mode of domestic violence often originates from charity organizations, government authorities, or relatives. For instance, women who leave their matrimonial homes due to domestic abuse can benefit from project-based rental assistance, food stamps, free or reduced lunch, and free childcare. The Medicaid program also assists such females in acquiring physical and mental healthcare services (Skaine, 2015). Furthermore, unlike celebrities who have the finances needed to hire security guards, most ordinary individuals are not in a position to protect themselves from their abusive spouses. In fact, some of these hostile partners track down their victims and kill them or assault them further.

### **Laws on Domestic Abuse**

As part of the criminal proceedings associated with this deviant behavior, it is important for a victim to report the matter to the local police department immediately for assistance. Furthermore, it is vital to keep any physical evidence of the abuse and present it to the law enforcement officials involved in solving the resultant legal case (Skaine, 2015). Upon arriving at the crime scene, the police officers interview all the involved persons and arrest the abusive partner if they see that the law has been broken. Moreover, these officials assist the victim in obtaining medical aid if necessary. Besides, depending on the issues surrounding the act of abuse, the law enforcers will aid the victim in leaving their residence with their personal belongings and children and acquire an emergency protective order (EPO). This is followed by a report written to the City Attorney's Office or District Attorney's Office to report misdemeanors or felonies respectively (Firth, 2008).

There are certain legal documents that protect victims of domestic abuse from further cruelty from their abusive spouses. For example, an order of protection refers to a court order whose primary purpose is to protect the victims of domestic abuse or their relatives from further abusive mistreatment (Meyer, 2015). For one to obtain this form of defense, he or she must have experienced the alleged cruelty within the past year. Similar to an order of protection, a restraining order is issued to prohibit the alleged perpetrator of domestic abuse from getting close to his or her victim or their relatives. In contrast, an injunction is provided concurrently with divorce procedures or after court hearing under the Code of Civil Procedure Articles and Post-Separation Family Violence Relief Act (Firth, 2008).

Moreover, under the current federal and state laws of the United States, judges can deny bail to repeat offenders of domestic abuse. The existent tough penalties aim at suppressing domestic violence in the nation (Skaine, 2015). Notably, some of the aspects considered when ruling on a case of domestic abuse include the type and length of the relationship as well as the frequency of interactions between the victim and perpetrator of the purported forms of cruelty.

### **Why Women Stay in Abusive Relationships**

One of the main reasons why most women stay in abusive relationships is the lack of knowledge on the necessary legal steps to take in order to acquire justice. Some also lack the finances needed to hire a lawyer or become independent of their spouses' assistance. Furthermore, women with low self-esteem are likely to stay in an abusive relationship due to the belief that they are not worth anything better than their current situation (Meyer, 2015). Moreover, those who had signed a prenuptial agreement or depend on their husbands to meet their basic needs tend to stay in the unhealthy union in order to continue enjoying the privileged lifestyle.

### **Control: Why Women Fight Men**

Although the number of abused men is lesser than that of assaulted women, some females bully their husbands physically, psychologically, or emotional as a way of maintaining their dominance in the relationship (Meyer, 2015). This type of behavior may be explained through the obsession of their

victim's size, color, shape, or appearance.

### **Theories Related to Domestic Abuse**

One of the theories that are applicable in expounding on the factors that support domestic abuse in a society is the culture of violence theory. This approach states that in pluralistic societies, certain cultures embrace norms that do condone domestic abuse. For instance, communities with strong patriarchal principles believe domestic abuse is a suitable approach of ensuring that women respect their spouses. Similarly, the traumatic bonding theory indicates that victims of domestic abuse often stay in abusive relationships due to the lack of self-esteem (Skaine, 2015). Moreover, the affected parties believe they are not worth more than their current situation and focus on the resources offered by the dominator regardless of the constant physical, emotional, and psychological torture.

### **Signs of a Potentially Abusive Relationship**

One of the telltale signs that an intimate partner may be abusive is playing the victim in all arguments. Even in the scenarios where he is evidently wrong, he or she will find a way to blame the undesirable acts on his or her victim. For instance, when an abusive husband is found cheating on his wife, he may assert that his wife's past actions or behaviors have led him to stray. Moreover, such cruel partners tactfully isolate their victims from their family members or friends (Meyer, 2015). Initially, they assert that they love their spouses so much that they do not want to share them with other people. However, this unrealistic jealousy is bound to get out of hand with time.

### **Prevention of Domestic Abuse**

At times, it is difficult to discern the violent character of an individual before entering into an intimate relationship with him or her. One of the tactics of preventing domestic abuse in a community is to offer relief to the affected parties. It is damaging to assume that the victims have brought the predicaments on themselves (Meyer, 2015). In addition, liaising with the relevant authorities as opposed to "minding your own business" will directly or indirectly save a life and end this social vice.

### **Conclusion**

Domestic abuse is a social issue whose impacts are far-reaching. Notably, it can appear in the form of economic, psychological, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Various theorists have attempted to expound on this matter from a philosophical or practical points of view. Evidently, there are various factors that may trigger these cruel behaviors in an intimate relationship. These theories are helpful in understanding why couples fight as well as why most women tend to remain in abusive relationships. Another major aspect associated with domestic violence is the difference between the situations surrounding domestic abuse among celebrities and ordinary individuals. Evidently, the superstars' social status is influential in how they deal with domestic abuse. Additionally, it is important to understand the effective approaches of curbing this vice at an individual and community level.

## References

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