

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(research summary)

Гэр бүлийн хүчирхийлэл нь социалист нийгэмд гэр бүлийн дотоод хэрэг, хувийн асуудал гэж үзэгддэгээс далд, нуугдмал оршиж байсан бол зах зээлийн чөлөөт нийгэмд гэр бүлийн хүрэнээс хальж нийгмийн асуудал болох нь хүлээн зөвшөөрөгдөж, төрийн зохицуулалт шаардагдах болтлоо ил гарч, олон тооны таагүй үр дагавруудыг авчирч байна. Хэдийгээр гэр бүлийн хүчирхийллийн талаар олон арван судалгаа хийгдсэн байдаг хэдий ч хүчирхийллийн улмаас эрүүл мэндэд учруулсан хор уршгийн үнэ өртөг, хүчирхийллийн эдийн засагт учруулах нөлөөллийг тооцох чиглэлээр хийсэн судалгаа байхгүй байсан юм. Гэр бүлийн хүчирхийлэл нь гэр бүлийн гишүүд хооронд гардаг хувийн шинжтэй харилцаа мэт боловч нийгмийн олох асуудалтай харилцан хамааралтай, нийгэмд үзүүлэх нөлөөлөл, хор уршиг ихтэй асуудал байдаг. Тиймээс гэр бүлийн хүчирхийллийн хохирогчдын эрүүл мэндэд учирсан хор уршиг, эдийн засгийн өртгийг судалж, түүний бодит хор хохирол, өртөг зардлыг мөнгөн дүнд шилжүүлэн тооцох, шалтгаан, үр дагаврыг тодорхойлох зорилгоор гэр бүлийн хүчирхийлэлд өртсөн эмэгтэйчүүдийн бодит байдалд тулгуурлан энэхүү судалгааг хийсэн болно.

Түлхүүр ойлголтууд: Гэр бүлийн хүчирхийлэл, бие махбодийн хүчирхийлэл, сэтгэл санааны хүчирхийлэл, эдийн засгийн хүчирхийлэл, бэлгийн хүчирхийлэл, хүчирхийллийн нийгэм, эдийн засгийн болон эрүүл мэндийн өртөг.

Key words: Domestic violence, physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, social, financial and health cost of domestic violence.

This study of social and economic cost of domestic violence was conducted by a team of researchers from the School of Social Science of the Mongolian National University. The study was funded by UNESCO and was supported by the Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES).

Research frame: A total of 125 women-victims of domestic violence participated in this research. 17.6% of the total number of participants were from Ulaanbaatar, 4.8% from soum centers and 77.6% from aimag centers, 4.8% of them women were 18-24 years old, 5.6% were 25-29 years old, 24% were 30-34 years old, 38.4% were 35-44 years old, 25.6% were 45-54 years old and 1.6% were of age over 60.

Research aim and objectives: The aim of this research was to study the social and economic costs of domestic violence, to analyze its range and depth, and to develop policy recommendations to improve the struggle against domestic violence. The objectives of the research were :

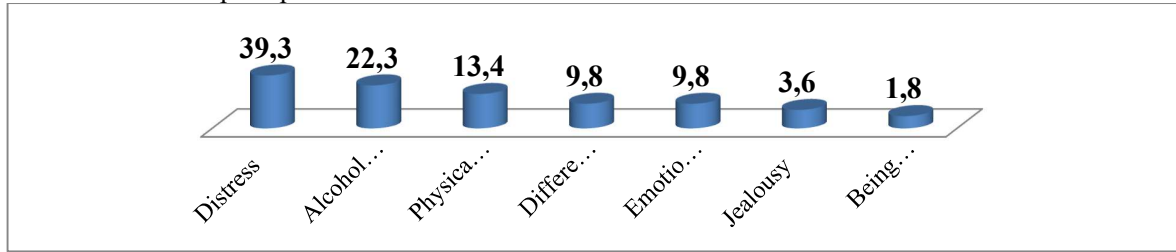
- To identify the current situation with domestic violence, to understand its causes and consequences, and to reveal the situation of the women-victims
- To identify social and economic costs of domestic violence
- To identify cost of health-related damages of the women-victims
- To identify some issues related to the legal environment of domestic violence

Research subject: Women-victims of domestic violence are the subject of this research

Research methods: Desk research, questionnaire, expert interviews, focus group discussions, individual interviews, case studies.

1. Impact of domestic violence

Domestic violence perception



Picture 1. Domestic violence perception

39.3% of all participants in the survey reported that they perceive any kind of pressure and force as domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a serious violation of basic rights and freedoms such as a right to life and security, physical and emotional health, education, work, property, participation in life of community, etc. of family members, particularly, of women and children. Thus, irreparable harm is done to women’s health and well-being.

Causes, factors and consequences of domestic violence

68.5% of age group from 35-54 of the research participants consider alcoholism as one of the key factors causing domestic violence. It shows how much this widely-spread, negative phenomenon affects family well-being. This also, demonstrates a need to study in more depth the correlation between alcoholism and domestic violence. The findings indicating that 30.5% of the participants had suffered health consequences, 22.4% emotional and 17.9% financial consequences reveal that women are the ones who bear the gravest impacts from domestic violence.

Duration of domestic violence abuse, place of occurrence, number of years in abusive relationship

Two in five women lived in abusive relationship for 1-3 years, one in seven women for 7-10 years. This indicates that domestic violence has hidden and recurring characteristics. 83.0% of those women are 30-54 years old and 17.0% are 18-24 years old. 92.0% of all respondents stated that domestic violence usually takes place at home. 35.1% of those were women with higher education. More than a half of the women (55.6%) revealed that they are abused in the evening time, and 1 in every 5 women in day time. Although, we defined four main parts of day-morning, day, evening and night-to specify time when the abuse happens 13.7% of the women gave “in any time” as an answer.

Forms of domestic violence

Family members can be subjected to many forms of domestic violence in their home environment. Generally, domestic violence can take the form of physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuses¹. If the survey responses are listed from the most frequent to the least frequent by forms of violence we can observe the following situation. More than one-half of the women suffered emotional abuse and every third women was beaten, which shows that emotional abuse is the most common form of domestic violence with other forms being next. In addition, physical abuse causes emotional distress. And. The women-respondents have been subjugated to physical abuse during the last year it can be concluded that this form of violence is most common.

Social and economic cost of domestic violence

88 out of 125 women-participants (70.4%) suffered damages related to work or property. In this study we aimed to look at negative consequences of domestic violence on women at micro level rather than at societal or macro level.

№	Consequences	Number	%
1.	Injuries and health problems	68	30.5
2.	Financial losses	40	17.9

¹ Physical abuse is when one person is attacking another person with force to impose own interests and authority. Emotional abuse is when one person is using vocabulary or language to threaten and to lessen another person’s wishes and hopes. Financial abuse is when one person is limiting another person’s financial capacity to keep him/her under own control. Sexual abuse is when one person is disrespectful to another person’s immunity and by force, deceit, threat, accusation, insult or pressure raped or had an intention of rape. NCAV “influence of gender on family relations” Ulaanbaatar, 2005.

3.	Job losses	5	2.2
4.	Family separation/ divorce	23	10.3
5.	Mental distress	50	22,4
6.	Sentencing	12	5.4
7.	Isolation from friends and colleagues	12	5.4
8.	Inability to continue education	3	1.3
9.	Suicidal thoughts	7	3.1
10.	Children's problems	8	3.6
11.	Other	5	2.2
	Total	223	100

Table 1. Consequences of domestic violence

Damages caused by domestic violence and types of damages

28.8% of the survey respondents stated that **they were unable to go to work for a certain period** of time due to consequences of domestic violence. More than a half of these lost income of 1,500-10,000 Tugriks per each time-off whereas the one-fifth lost income of 11,000-57,500 Tugriks. This calculates to a total loss of 1,882,850 Tugriks with an average of 52,301 Tugriks of loss per each time-off.

The participants regarded **job loss** as one of the most serious consequences of domestic violence. 5 women (3.2%) were fired during the past year with 1 women being fired once, 3 women two times and one women being fired 3 times. The total loss of these women is equal to 2,150,000 Tugriks and the job loss cost victims an average of 430,000 Tugriks each time.

9.6% of the participants noted that they were **temporarily unable to continue their self-employed work** such as tailoring, running petty shops, trading. 75% of the women were unable to work 1-30 times a year, and 25% more than 30 times a year. The total lose was equal to 889,500 Tugriks with an average of 80,863 Tugriks of loss per each time.

One in eight women (12%) used their savings to eliminate the consequences of violence and abuse. During the past year 86.7% of these women spent their savings once, 6.7% spent their savings 2-4 times, and 6.7% spent it 5-10 times. The total amount of spent savings constitutes 6,440,000 Tugriks with an average of 429,333 Tugriks per each time. Damaging the home inventory is the most common consequence of domestic violence, 52 women or 41.6% of the participants reported damage of home inventory in the past year. 48.1% of these happened 1-2 times, 23.1% at least 3 times and 28.7% more than 4 times. The damages totaled in 8,087,100 Tugriks with 155,521 Tugriks of damage each time.

4% of the participants or 5 women reported than besides damaging their home inventory husbands also sell it as well as take a credit on it which similarly reduces family budget. Total of 2,348,000 Tugriks were lost with 1-5 times of such cases.

7.2% of the participants reported that they had experienced tearing up and burning their documents. Of these women 66.7% had their documents destroyed once for the year, 22.2% twice and 0.8% three times. The damages were 1,123,000 Tugriks.

18.4% of the women-participants had their clothes torn and other belongings destroyed. Almost half of the women suffered it once, 21.7% 2-3 times, 21.7% 4-5 times and 8.7% over 10 times. Total amount of losses due to such abuse is 1,423,000 Tugriks and depending on a cost and type of clothes an average amount of loss per damage is 67,761 Tugriks.

Below is a summary of monetary amounts of job and property-related losses and damages suffered by the survey participants for the past year.

70.4% or 88 women of the participants had experienced either job-or property-related damages or losses which totals in 24,343,450 Tugriks in one year only.

One of the common consequences of domestic violence is being forced out of home and spending overnights in different places. 76% of the participants suffered expelling from home and staying in different places. 52.8% of the women had to stay in other's homes in the past year and 68.2% of these stayed for as long as 1-7 days. 63.9% of these women live in gers (traditional felt dwelling) and have household income of 51.000-100.000 Tugriks a month.

	Loss / Damage	Amt (TG)	Times	%	Average amt
1.	Fired from work	2.150.000	5	4	430.000
2.	Temporary time off from work	1.882.850	36	28.8	52.301
3.	Temporary inability to work (for	889,500	12	9.6	80.863

	self-employed)				
4.	Spent savings	6.440.000	15	12	429.333
5.	Inventory damaged	8.087.100	52	41.6	155.521
6.	Documents destroyed	1.123.000	9	7.2	160.128
7.	Clothes damaged	1.423.000	23	18.4	67.761
8.	Transfer of property rights to others (by husband)	0	0	0	0
9.	Other	2.348.000	5	4	469.600

Table 2. Cost in Tugriks.

73.8% of the women had mostly spent 1,000-10,000 Tugriks to stay in other's home for 1-7 days, 55% had spent 11,000-40,000 Tugriks to stay in shelter house¹, 51% spent 11,000-70,000 Tugriks to stay in hotel, 75% spent 11,000-100,000 Tugriks to rent a room or apartment, 22,500 Tugriks were spent for police detention centers, and 1,000-50,000 Tugriks went to sleep in entrance hall or on the street. 2.4% of all participants had spent 3-6 months and 1.6% more than a year in other than home places. Total of 5,459,100 Tugriks had been spent by the women for staying out of home with their children.

When the women were asked if they **were able to access social welfare services when affected by domestic violence** 85.6% of them responded "no" and 14.4% responded "yes". According to the Law on Social welfare adopted in 2005 victims of domestic violence are included in a list of welfare recipients. The same law defines new types of social services such as rehabilitation, counseling and shelter housing. Yet, the fact that the majority of the survey participants were not able to access social welfare services shows that professional responsible for enforcing this law still focus on traditional types of welfare services. Those who succeeded in accessing the services reported that they received an allowance, psychological and legal counseling, stayed in a shelter house, were supported by volunteers and local administration.

If we look at the situation with access to social welfare services it can be observed that 87% of the women received psychological and legal counseling and only 13% received other types of services. 14.4% of the women-participants accessed the social welfare services which can be calculated as 598,026 Tugriks of expenses for one year only.

95% of the respondents reported that they noticed changes in their communication behavior. For instance, one in three women had cut their relations with friends, one in four women felt embarrassed in front of their neighbors, one in five women distanced themselves from their relatives.

While 14.4% of the women responded that they didn't lose a sense of security 85.6% of the women replied that they lost their security. Of those who reported about lose of security one in three women explained it by nothing that lived in emotionally distressful and abusive situations and over 60% of them feared risk of being killed or injured.

According to the survey respondents 92% of all violence takes place at home with children witnessing it in every second case, so that children are not only subjected to abuse, but also witness it. 39.8% of the women state that children suffer emotional stress and depression, flee home and live on the street. Moreover, they become resentful, stop caring for others, swear, experience rapid decline at school, and are at risk of engaging in crime.

Those respondents who reported that their children were involved in crimes during the past year constituted 1.9% of all participants. And the expenses related to it resulted in 980,000 Tugriks.

2. Health cost of domestic violence

One of the goals of our research was to attract public attention to health consequences that women suffer because of domestic violence and to estimate related expenses. 70.5% of the women who encountered health problems were 30-44 years old with 2-3 children.

Nearly half of the women reported that they received bruises and scars on faces. 7 out of 125 women-participants received serious injuries that left permanent marks such as broken nose, eyebrow cut, broken teeth, worsened sight due to hitting by fist with rings, burn scars, etc. 54 women reported that they had received bruises.

Emotional damage

¹ The expenses are paid from women's pockets exclusively. It does not include expenses by NCAV shelter house.

Mental health is indicative of person's emotional well-being¹. But 28.3% of the women in the survey reported that they have not only suffered health damage but constantly live **with emotional distress**, and don't know the way out of psychological shock, 8.9% have insomnia which is the first sign of emotional crisis. The women shared that because of continuous emotional problems and insomnia they feel chronic tiredness and various pains that can't diagnosed. 2 women reported spending 110,000-200,000 Tugriks to get insomnia and depression treatments, and 3 women have paid up to 12,000 Tugriks each for sleeping and calming medication. 76 women out of 125 reported that they feel miserable about their life. 16 of these women had spent 110,000-200,000 Tugriks on health treatments. 35.2% of the survey participants have suffered health consequences and spent 60,000-250,000 Tugriks on treatments. The women reported about multiple effects of domestic violence **on their health such as bruises and discolorations, physical and emotional scars, serious illnesses** which resulted in 184 answers. If result is compared to a total of 122 respondents who reported health consequences it is obvious that each women suffers at least 2 types of health damage.

№	Type	Number of answers	Average amount per person	Total
1.	Medication	79	36937	2918025
2.	Hospital expenses	10	85059	3997800
3.	Diagnosis	43	66327	2852100
4.	Transportation expenses	25	101849	2546230
5.	Chiropractic and acupuncture expenses	28	5992	167800
6.	Outpatient clinic expenses	13	28007	364100
7.	Emergency room expenses	7	40142	281000
8.	Caretaker expenses	2	115000	230000
9.	Other	3	15000	45000

Table 3. Health expenses, by types

96 out of 125 women-participants or 76.8% of all participants had spent altogether 17,935,900 Tugriks on the above medical treatments with average of 186,811 Tugriks per person. **The expenses on hospital and diagnosis were the most expensive among all.** Based on responses of 48 women (38.4%) that hospitalization and other treatments were necessary because of abuse it is apparent that the average cost of hospitalization was 12,000-50,000 which was the most expensive type, followed by 31,000-100,000 Tugriks for transportation and 12,000-50,000 Tugriks for diagnosis and treatments.

Serious illnesses, expenses

Women victims of regular domestic violence are susceptible to long-term stress, get accustomed to physical and emotional damages, feel passive toward the situation which, altogether, usually results in a serious illness. 75.2% or 94 women-participants expressed that they had got serious illnesses. These women explained the origination of such illness in all types of abuse and pressure (90.4%), alcohol-related issues (37.2%), injuries due to beatings (13.8%), emotional distress, lack of respect and jealousy (12.7%). Also, the survey results showed that the women with serious illnesses pay the highest expenses.

The number of women with head, eye and ear problems the number of women who received medical help for treatment of head, eye and ear illnesses which shows that this type of health problem is perceived by women as the most acute and requires immediate assistance. 3 out of 94 women who reported serious illnesses had eye and ear problems and each had spent 60,000-250,000 Tugriks on medical care. 23 of 26 women with head and brain-related illnesses had spent 110,000-250,000 Tugriks on medical help. Although, only 9 women reported kidney and bladder illnesses the number of women who received medical help to treat such illnesses is twice as much which shows that beatings and hitting led to escalation of this type of health problem. There is a discrepancy between the number of women who reported illnesses of internal organs such as heart, liver, gall bladder and stomach, and the number of women who received treatment which was considered to be related to specifics of such illnesses.

Conclusions

¹ According to WHO: Mental health is more than the absence of mental disorders,... it is a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.

- The issue of domestic violence remains one of the most urgent problems. It negatively impacts human health, aging, development, active participation in public life, work productivity, capacity, decreases life safety and security, develops harmful habits, creates emotional stress. Furthermore, it stagnates social development and affects the economy.
- Estimated total amount of damages endured by 125 women-participants of this study for a period of one year is equal to 51,839,176 Tugriks with an average amount of 414,713 Tugriks per person.

Awareness on domestic violence, influencing factors, its forms and recurrence

39.3% of the participants stated that they consider any abuse or pressure as domestic violence. 68.5% of the women saw alcoholism as the key factor that sets off domestic violence. Two in every five women reported living in abusive relationships for 1-3 years, one in seven women for 7-10 years. This shows that domestic violence has a hidden and recurring form. In terms of forms of domestic violence the emotional abuse has the highest rate and the physical abuse has the most recurrence.

Social and economic cost of domestic violence

Estimated economic cost of domestic violence is 31.380.576 Tugriks :

- 70.4% or 88 women of all women-participants of the survey suffered work or property-related damages and losses which came up to 24.343.450 Tugriks in one year. / This does not include lost opportunity of wage, only direct expenses/
- Over 80% of the women-participants were forced out of or fled their homes along with their children in the past year and spent total of 5.459.100 Tugriks on living elsewhere
- 14.4% of the women-participants were able to access social welfare services in the past year that has a total cost of 598.026 Tugriks
- Estimated expenses of the women-participants due to their children's involvement in criminal activities in the past year is equal to 980.000 Tugriks.

Estimated cost of health consequences

69.2% of 125 women-participants in the survey suffered health and emotional consequences. The total amount of the damages is 17.935.900 Tugriks with an average of 186.811 Tugriks per person

- Nearly half of the participants (49.1%) suffered soft tissue injuries such as bruising and discoloration as well as more serious injuries such as broken nose, cut eyebrow, broken teeth, burns, etc.
- 76 out of 125 women-participants noted that they feel miserable about their life. However, there are no cases of contacting professionals such as psychologists, social workers and mental disorder doctors for help.
- 76.8% or 96 women of the participants reported serious illnesses that originated in domestic violence. This fact should rightfully become a matter of concern for health care policy-makers.
- It should be noted that expenses of all these women on their damaged by domestic violence health is extremely high. The reason for such warning is that a study of health cost alone on women-victims of domestic violence has been done before and the results showed high level of expenses. However, health care policy-makers haven't taken any steps since..

Recommendations by the research team :

- To develop and adopt a consolidated methodology and criteria for evaluation of domestic violence situation and assessment of risk and threat conditions assessment of domestic violence.
- To amend the Law against Domestic Violence and other related laws to insert the terminology of "cost of domestic violence", to define the mechanism for ensuring compensation of damages suffered as a result of domestic violence, to have the calculation method approved by the Supreme Court and introduced to legal practice.
- To expand any estimation of damages caused by domestic violence beyond financial and material damages and to include life and emotional damages, to develop a consolidated calculation methodology and standards, to establish optical compensation mechanism.
- To terminate a harmful practice that punishes victims for acquiring legal protection through established payments for sobering-up station services and detention that victims pay on behalf of batterers. To pay attention to alternatives that target behavior change or make offenders experience punishment personally.

- To issue and execute a decree instructing police personnel to prioritize domestic violence calls, to connect police registration of public order violation cases to a national level electronic database network and to include registration of caused damages.
- To expend psychotherapy services by the Law on Social Welfare through introduction of new types, to increase capacity of shelters through social welfare budget and to further reflect it in the state budget.
- To develop family-based social work and services to strategically support delivery of social, psychological and legal counseling to families, to pay special attention to delivery of such services free of charge to vulnerable groups.
- The Government to ensure that each local administration unit broadly advertises the Law against Domestic Violence among the public through specialists who bear responsibility by this Law as well as through legal departments and police units, to organize a permanent and well-planned program of changing knowledge and attitude of law enforcement professionals.
- To support public reporting initiatives to detect domestic violence at early stage and to prevent it, to start a victim and witness protection program at police.
- To conduct an in-depth examination of correlation between alcoholism and domestic violence
- To develop and implement a plan of actions to prevent from and to reduce risks of injuries caused by domestic violence within a larger framework of National program on trauma prevention, to establish and run a separate room for domestic violence victims in the Trauma hospital and the district clinics
- To develop and adopt a separate law on compensation to victims of domestic violence, and to establish a separate fund.