



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### The Evaluation of Perception and Approaches to Violence Against Women in Law Faculty Students

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#### Abstract:

**Objective:** It is known that violence against women is an important health problem. The aim of this study is to investigate the awareness, knowledge and attitudes of law faculty students about violence against women and offer solutions to this problem.

**Materials and Methods:** 192 students from Maltepe University Faculty of Law attended the study. Research data were collected by a questionnaire prepared by the researchers. The age range of students who participated in this study is 18-38 and the average age is 21.6.

**Results:** In the study, egalitarian views on social gender roles and equality vary between 70.9% and 90.7% of responses given to the propositions. The rate of students agreeing with the proposition of "In some cases women deserve to be beaten by their partners" is 9.9%. The rate of women who agreed with egalitarian propositions are significantly higher than in men ( $p<0.005$ ). The awareness of physical, economic and sexual violence is significantly higher in women than men. Gender equality point of view among respondents whose mother is either a high school or university graduate and working has been found significantly higher. 52.1% of the participants stated that they knew "The Law of Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women". Many disciplines act together, including lawyers, in the determination of violence against women, their treatment and rehabilitation, prevention of violence, protection of women's rights in the judicial process.

**Conclusion:** In this study, which was conducted with the students of the Faculty of Law, the rate of opinions defending social equality is high due to the high proportion of female students agreeing with the equitable approaches. It is very important to carry out studies that will raise awareness in this field, include courses related to all violence cases in the education program, keep the topic on the agenda and support it through in-service trainings.

**Keywords:** Woman, Violence, Awareness, Law, Violence Against Woman

#### Öz:

**Amaç:** Kadına yönelik şiddetin önemli bir sağlık sorunu olduğu bilinmektedir. Çalışmada hukuk fakültesi öğrencilerinin kadına yönelik şiddet hakkında farkındalıklarının, bilgi düzeylerinin ve tutumlarının araştırılması ve buna yönelik çözüm önerilerinin sunulması amaçlanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Araştırmaya Maltepe Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi'nde okuyan 192 öğrenci katılmıştır. Araştırma verisi araştırmacılar tarafından literatür taranarak hazırlanan anket formu ile toplanmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya katılan öğrencilerin yaşları 18-38 arasında olup ortalama yaş 21,6'dır. Çalışmada toplumsal cinsiyet rolleri ve eşitliğine ilişkin önermelere verilen yanıtlarda eşitlikçi görüşler %70,9 ile %90,7 arasındadır. Öğrencilerin "Bazı durumlarda kadınlar eşleri tarafından dayak yemeyi hak eder" önermesine katılma oranları %9,9'dur. Kadınların erkeklere göre eşitlikçi önermelere katılma oranları daha yüksek bulunmuştur ( $p<0.005$ ). Fiziksel, ekonomik, cinsel şiddet ile ilgili farkındalık kadınlarda erkeklere göre daha yüksek bulunmuştur. Annesi lise ve üniversite mezunu olanlarda ve annesi bir işte çalışanlarda toplumsal cinsiyete yönelik eşitlikçi bakış açısı daha yüksek bulunmuştur. Katılımcıların %52,1'i "Ailenin Korunması ve Kadına Yönelik Şiddetin Önlenmesine Dair Kanun'u" bildiklerini ifade etmiştir.

**Sonuç:** Kadına yönelik şiddet olgularının saptanması, tedavisi ve rehabilitasyonu, şiddeti önleyici önlemlerin alınması, kadınların yargı sürecinde haklarının korunması sürecinde hukukçuların da içinde olduğu pek çok disiplin görev almaktadır. Hukuk fakültesi öğrencilerine yönelik yapılan bu çalışmada toplumsal eşitliği savunan görüşler yüksek oranlarda olsa da bu bulgu kadın öğrencilerin çok yüksek oranlarda eşitlikçi yaklaşımlara katılmaları ile ilgilidir. Bu alanla ilgili farkındalığı artıracak çalışmaların yapılması, üniversite eğitim programına bu alanla ilgili derslerin konulması, konunun gündemde tutulması, meslek içi eğitimlerle de desteklenmesi çok önemlidir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Kadın, Şiddet, Farkındalık, Hukuk, Kadına yönelik şiddet

DOI: 10.17986/blm.1291

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#### Acknowledgement:

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#### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests regarding content of this article.

#### Support Resources

The Authors report no financial support regarding content of this article

#### Ethical Declaration

Permission letter dated 06/04/2017 and number 2017-6/2 was obtained from Acıbadem research ethics committee and Helsinki Declaration rules were followed to conduct this study.

This article is English version of the manuscript entitled as "Hukuk Fakültesi Öğrencilerinde Kadına Yönelik Şiddet Algısı ve Yaklaşımlarının Değerlendirilmesi"

Geliş: 12.03.2019

Düzeltilme: 16.05.2019

Kabul: 21.04.2020

## 1. Introduction

Violence against women is one of the most common types of violence encountered at increasing levels in the world today (1). Violence against women was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20th, 1993 as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women in public and private life (2).

Violence against women is a human rights violation crossing cultural, geographical, religious, social and economic frontiers that not only affects women but also men, children, family and society. All women in the world face the risk of being subjected to gender-based violence, regardless of country, ethnicity, class, religion, economic and/or social status (3-6). This problem not only negatively affects a woman physically, emotionally, psychosocially and economically, but also legally, socially, politically and economically (7).

Violence against women is known to be a major health issue. According to a 2013 report by the World Health Organization, approximately one in three women is reported to have suffered physical or sexual violence (8). When examining the level of violence against women in Turkey and looking at the results of the Domestic Violence Against Women survey conducted in Turkey in 2008 it reveals that four out of ten women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence (9). In the last 15 to 20 years, there has been a great deal of research on intimate partner violence all over the world. According to the data obtained from demographic and health surveys of 9 countries, intimate partner violence against women between the ages 15-49 varies between 18-48% whereas according to another study done in 48 countries physical violence against women inflicted by their partners varies between 10-69 % (10,11).

Violence is one of the major problems of today's society. Violence constitutes a major obstacle to the formation of healthy societies. In order to protect victims of violence and prevent violence against women in Turkey, some legal arrangements have been made and the necessary steps taken to fight against it through studies and projects, however violence against women still remains a major problem. The awareness, level of knowledge and attitude of those working in the field of law are very important for the recognition of this phenomenon and the protection of women's rights in the judicial process. Therefore, the aim of the study is to investigate the awareness, knowledge and attitudes of Law School students about violence against women and to offer solutions.

## 2. Materials and Methods

This descriptive study was prepared for students studying at Maltepe University Faculty of Law. 192 students from Maltepe University Faculty of Law participated in the study. The research data was collected via a questionnaire form prepared by the researchers by scanning the literature.

The participants were informed about the purpose and method of the research, their consent was obtained and they were asked to fill out the questionnaire forms. The questionnaire consists of three sections. In the first section, the age, gender, school class, place of residence until age 12, education status of the parents, monthly income of the family, whether the mother worked in an income-generating job, whether her income was higher than the father's if she worked, the number of individuals living at home were questioned. In the second section, propositions on the perspective and awareness of violence against women were included. The second section consists of 19 propositions concerning violence against women, which were prepared using the 5-Point Likert Scale. Students were asked to respond to the propositions by marking one of the following: "1: absolutely agree, 2: agree, 3: have no idea, 4: disagree, 5: absolutely disagree". Studies and reviews related to the subject were examined before the formation of propositions. A questionnaire was prepared containing propositions measuring awareness of emotional, physical and economic violence. The third section consists of questions about the methods and laws to apply when subjected to violence. SPSS version 18 was used to evaluate the data. Descriptive statistics and Chi Square were used in the data analysis and the statistical significance level was accepted as  $p < 0.05$ .

### Ethical Declaration

Permission letter dated 06/04/2017 and number 2017-6/2 was obtained from Acıbadem research ethics committee and Helsinki Declaration rules were followed to conduct this study.

## 3. Results

The students who participated in the study were between the ages 18-38 and the average age was 21.6 The monthly income of the family was between 800-60000 TL and the average income was 11353 TL. 48.4% (93) of respondents answered the question of the family's monthly income. 50% (96) of the respondents stated that their mother was working in an income-generating job. 12.5% (24) of the respondents stated that their mother's income was more than their father's. The number of individuals living at home is between 1-12 and the average number of individuals is 4. The students' sociodemographic characteristics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of students

	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	133	69.3
Men	59	30.7
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	9	4.7
Single	183	95.3
<b>Class</b>		
1	64	33.3
2	38	19.8
3	30	15.6
4	48	25.0
<b>Place of residence until the age of 12</b>		
Village	6	3.1
District	46	24
Province	135	70.3
Abroad	3	1.6
<b>Educational Status of Mother</b>		
Elementary School	40	20.8
Junior High School Graduate	25	13
High School Graduate	66	34.4
University Graduate	51	26.6
Master's degree and above	9	4.7
<b>Educational Status of Father</b>		
Elementary School	27	14.1
Junior High School Graduate	31	16.1
High School Graduate	45	23.4
University Graduate	75	39.1
Master's degree and above	12	8.3

When the participants were asked whom they would contact when exposed to violence, 38% said a police station, 33.3% family elders and 17.7% friends. When they saw that a person had been subjected to violence, they stated they would first contact a police station with 68.8%, family elders with 14.1% and friends with 7.3%. 4.2% said they would not do anything. The participants answered the question of where they first learned about their legal rights with school by 56.8% and books by 15.6%. Other responses to this question were internet at 7.3%, media at 5.7%, family at 5.2%, and people talking

at 1.6%. The question about the institution that cares most about personal rights was answered with 23.4% the courts, 13% police, 13% non-governmental organizations, 11.5% lawyers, 10.4% prosecutors, 0.5% politicians, 17.2% no one. 52.1% of respondents said they knew about the "Law on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women", while 39.6% said they did not know it and 8.3% did not answer this question. Participants' responses to the propositions on domestic violence are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Participants' responses to the propositions on domestic violence

	I absolutely agree	I agree	I have no idea	I disagree	I absolutely disagree
Depriving a woman of her economic needs constitutes violence against women	149 (77.6%)	18 (9.4%)	6 (3.1%)	7 (3.6%)	8 (4.2%)
Intimidation, humiliation and degradation constitute violent behavior	160 (83.3%)	15 (7.8%)	1 (0.5)	-	13 (6.8%)
Domestic violence against women is an issue that should not be told anyone	18 (9.4%)	2 (1%)	7 (3.6%)	22 (11.5%)	138 (71.9%)
A woman deserves to be treated badly if she doesn't listen to her partner	17 (8.9%)	4 (2.1)	5 (2.6%)	12 (6.3%)	150 (78.1%)
A woman deserves to be treated badly if she comes home late at night	12 (6.3%)	8 (4.2%)	8 (4.2%)	20 (10.4%)	141 (73.4%)
If a woman spends too much money, she deserves to be treated badly	11 (5.7%)	6 (3.1%)	5 (2.6%)	23 (12%)	143 (74.5%)
In some cases women deserve to be beaten by their partner	16 (8.3%)	3 (1.6%)	4 (2.1%)	10 (5.2%)	155 (80.7%)
There is no justification for physical violence against women (beatings)	158 (82.3%)	10 (5.2%)	1 (0.5%)	5 (2.6%)	14 (7.3%)
Domestic violence against women occurs in low socioeconomic families	21 (10.9%)	31 (16.1%)	45 (23.4%)	41 (21.4%)	48 (25%)
Victims of violence experience mental disorders such as depression	126 (65.6%)	35 (18.2%)	11 (5.7%)	2 (1%)	12 (6.3%)
Women, men, children are equally likely to be exposed to domestic violence	25 (13%)	28 (14.6%)	43 (22.4%)	45 (23.4%)	39 (20.3%)

Respondents' responses to propositions on gender roles are given in Table 3.

The agreement rate with the propositions 'Depriving women of their economic needs is violence against women', 'Intimidation, humiliation, degradation constitute violent behavior', 'a woman's choice of clothing is an issue for her to decide and not to be interfered with', 'household chores must be shared equally between husband and wife', 'Women can work in any job they want',

'Women can spend the money they have according to their own preferences', 'nothing can justify physical violence against women (beatings)', 'girls must complete compulsory basic education (4+4+4=12 years)', 'if all of the 12 years of basic education were compulsory formal education for boys this requirement should apply to girls as well' was higher in female students than male students. (p:0.000, p:0.003, p:0.000,p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000,p:0.000,p:0.004, p:0.000). (Table 4)

Table 3. Respondents' responses to propositions on gender roles

	I absolutely agree	I agree	I have no idea	I disagree	I absolutely disagree
Women's choice of clothing is a matter of their own decision and is not an issue that can be interfered with	126 (65.6%)	22 (11.5%)	12 (6.3%)	12 (6.3%)	17 (8.9%)
Household chores should be shared equally between husband and wife	127 (66.1%)	34 (17.7%)	9 (4.7%)	6 (3.1%)	11 (5.7%)
Women can work whatever job they want	126 (65.5%)	28 (14.6%)	8 (4.2%)	13 (6.8%)	10 (5.2%)
Women can spend their money according to their preferences	121 (63%)	35 (18.2%)	12 (6.3%)	10 (5.2%)	9 (4.7%)
Girls must also complete their compulsory basic education (4+4+4 = 12 years)	171 (89.1%)	3 (1.6%)	2 (1%)	-	11 (5.7%)
If all of the basic education for boys (12 years) is compulsory formal education, this requirement should also apply to girls	163 (84.9%)	11 (5.7%)	-	-	12 (6.3%)
Women should seek permission from their partner/boyfriend when going out	17 (8.9%)	22 (11.5%)	12 (6.3%)	36 (18.8%)	100 (52.1%)
A married woman should have sexual intercourse with her partner when he wants to, even if she doesn't want to	12 (6.3%)	2 (1%)	10 (5.2%)	18 (9.4%)	144 (75%)

The disagreement rate with the propositions 'Domestic violence against women is an issue that should not be told anyone', 'a woman deserves to be treated badly if she does not listen to her husband', 'a woman deserves to be treated badly if she comes home late at night', 'a woman deserves to be treated badly if she spends too much money', 'women in some cases deserve to be beaten by their partners', 'women should seek permission from their partners/boyfriends when they go out', 'a married woman should have sexual intercourse with her partner when he wants to, even if she does not want to' has been higher in female than male students. (p:0.001, p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000).

The agreement rate with the propositions 'Domestic violence against women is an issue that should not be told anyone', 'a woman deserves to be treated badly if she does not listen to her partner', 'in some cases women deserve to be beaten by their partner', 'a married woman should have sexual intercourse with her partner when he

wants to, even if she does not want to' is higher in those who lived in the village until 12 years of age (p:0,001, p:0,000, p:0,000, p:0,000).

The agreement rate with the propositions 'Domestic work should be shared equally between husband and wife', 'women can work whatever job they want', 'if all basic education for boys (12 years) is compulsory formal education, this must also apply to girls' is higher in those who lived in provinces and districts until the age of 12 (p:0.000, p:0.000, p:0.000).

The rate of agreement with the proposition 'women can work whatever job they want' is higher in those whose mother has graduated from high school and university. (p: 0.004).

The agreement rate with the proposition 'if all basic education for boys (12 years) is compulsory formal education, this requirement should also apply to girls' is higher in participants whose mothers work in income-generating jobs. (p.0,002).

Table 4. Distribution of female and male participants' agreement with some propositions concerning violence and egalitarian attitudes

	I absolutely agree	I agree	I have no idea	I disagree	I absolutely disagree	p
	Depriving women of her economic needs constitutes violence against women					
Women	116 (88.5%)	8 (6.1%)	2 (1.5%)	1 (0.8%)	4 (3.1%)	0.000
Men	33 (57.9%)	10 (17.5%)	4 (7%)	6 (10.5%)	4 (7%)	
	Intimidation, humiliation and degradation constitute violent behavior					
Women	120 (90.9%)	6 (4.5%)	0	0	6 (4.5%)	0.003
Men	40 (70.2%)	9 (15.8%)	1 (1.8%)	0	7 (12.3%)	
	Women's choice of clothing is a matter of their own decision and is not an issue that can be interfered with					
Women	105 (79.5%)	10 (7.6%)	1 (0.8%)	5 (3.8%)	11 (8.3%)	0.000
Men	21 (36.8%)	12 (21.1%)	11 (15.3%)	7 (12.3%)	6 (10.5%)	
	Household chores should be shared equally between husband and wife					
Women	103 (79.2%)	19 (14.6%)	2 (1.5%)	2 (1.5%)	4 (3.1%)	0.000
Men	24 (42.1%)	15 (26.3%)	7 (12.3%)	4 (7%)	7 (12.3%)	
	Women can work whatever job they want					
Women	104 (80.6%)	14 (10.9%)	4 (3.1%)	2 (1.6%)	5 (3.9%)	0.000
Men	22 (39.3%)	14 (25%)	4 (7.1%)	11 (19.6%)	5 (8.9%)	
	Women can spend their money according to their preferences					
Women	101 (77.7%)	16 (12.3%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	5 (3.8%)	0.000
Men	20 (35.1%)	19 (33.3%)	7 (12.3%)	7 (12.3%)	4 (7%)	
	There is no justification for physical violence against women (beatings)					
Women	121 (92.4%)	3 (2.3%)	0	0	7 (5.3%)	0.000
Men	37 (64.9%)	7 (12.3%)	1 (1.8%)	5 (8.8%)	7 (12.3%)	
	Girls must also complete their compulsory basic education (4+4+4 = 12 years)					
Women	125 (96.2%)	1 (0.8)	0	0	4 (3.1%)	0.004
Men	46 (80.7%)	2 (3.5%)	2 (3.5%)	0	7 (12.3%)	
	If all of the basic education for boys (12 years) is compulsory formal education, this requirement should also apply to girls					
Women	122 (94.6%)	2 (1.6%)	0	0	5 (3.9%)	0.000
Men	41 (71.9%)	9 (15.8%)	0	0	7 (12.3%)	

#### 4. Discussion

Violence against women is increasing every day both in the world and in Turkey. In Turkey, violence against women in the family can have serious consequences such as women's inability to participate effectively in social life, hindering the education of girls, women behaving violently toward their children, injury and even death (1).

Exposure to and witnessing violence as a child is reported to double the likelihood of women being exposed to violence and men subjecting violence. This so-called cycle of violence demonstrates the importance of socialization in a non-violent environment (12).

Preventing violence and combating violence is a far-reaching area. This problem can only be tackled by the co-operation of a large number of professional groups

and organizations. Professional groups that are likely to encounter cases of violence against women in their fields of practice and profession who are aware and know about it will guide the person who is subjected to violence correctly. The awareness, level of knowledge and attitude of those working in the field of law are very important for the recognition of this phenomenon and the protection of women's rights in the judicial process.

Looking at responses to propositions on gender roles and equality in the study (Table 3), egalitarian views vary between 70.9% and 90.7%. In Altınay and Arat's study on married women, the rates obtained are between 80-86% (12). Güneri's study of university students found that the attitudes of students towards violence against women tend to be modern (6). In the research carried out by Kap-

lan et al. it was determined that the attitudes of nursing students towards domestic violence against women and gender roles tend to be more traditional (13). In the study by Kanbay et al. 64.9% of the students stated that they believed in equality between women and men, while 66.5% said that women should seek permission from their partner when going somewhere, 44.1% said that women should come home before their husband, 61.2% said that caring for the children is the duty of the woman rather than the man, and 26.1% said that women should be controlled by men (14). Egalitarian views in the study were higher than in Kanbay's study. However, the high level of these views is more related to the fact that female students approve of egalitarian approaches at very high rates. In the study, agreement rates with the propositions concerning gender roles and equality such as 'women's choice of clothing is their own decision and not an issue that can be interfered with', 'household chores must be shared equally between husband and wife', 'women can work in any job they want', 'women can spend the money they have according to their own preferences', 'girls must complete compulsory basic education (4+4+4=12 years)', 'if all of basic education (12 years) for boys is compulsory formal education, then this requirement has to be valid for girls, too' in female students were higher than in male students ( $P < 0.005$ ). This finding also suggests that women in the study adopt a more egalitarian view than men. In many studies on women's and men's views on gender roles, it is stated that women adopt more egalitarian views than men (15-18). It was emphasized that this phenomenon may be related to women's desire to have equal rights with men in social life and to change existing inequalities (19). It was also stated that women adapt more quickly to changes in gender roles and have a more positive attitude toward egalitarian roles than men (20,21). In their research Yılmaz et al. stated that male students have a more traditional perspective in areas related to work life, social life, marriage and family life (22). The fact that men have more traditional views on their gender roles can be explained by the fact that society supports this view and that it also benefits men (23,24).

In the study, the agreement rate with propositions on physical and economic violence such as 'Domestic violence against women is a topic that should not be told anyone', 'women deserve to be treated badly if they do not listen to their partner', 'women deserve to be treated badly if they come home late at night', 'women deserve to be treated badly if they spend too much money', 'in some cases women deserve to be beaten by their partners', has been found higher in male than female students. The agreement rate with propositions like 'depriving women of their economic needs is violence against women', inti-

midation, humiliation and degradation constitute violent behavior', 'there is no justification for physical violence against women (beatings)' is higher in female than male students. In the study of Kabasakal et al. 60.7% of women and 27.7% of men took the view that "there is no beating that can be justified" with regard to questions about physical violence. The proportion of women who disagree with the view that "in some cases men can beat their wives" is 62.8%, while the proportion of men is 29.8%. These rates show that men view physical violence as acceptable and feasible in higher rates (1). In his research Yiğitalp et al. observed that students were of the opinion that certain behaviors could be punished with violence (25). The Directorate General on the Status of Women (KSGM) conducted a multi-centred and comprehensive study of Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey (KYAIS) throughout the country in 2008. According to the study, 86% of women in Turkey think that physical violence is unacceptable in any way. This ratio shows a significant increase in women's awareness of violence when compared with previous years ' research results (26).

Problems experienced in the family in Turkey are considered to be private and concern of the family, so it is difficult to tell even the closest people. A woman who is subjected to violence is reluctant to tell others about the violence she has suffered and does not want the situation to be known to others. When violence is exposed, it is often advised to remain silent in the name of continuing the family unity, rather than helping the victim of violence, or the woman is blamed. According to a public opinion survey, 22% of women in Turkey were subjected to physical violence by their partners, while 45% of women who were subjected to violence did nothing against it (27). In the study of Arat and Altınay (2008), 24% of married women stated that they would not do anything when violence was inflicted (12). A very small percentage (3.9%) of the participants in the study stated that they would not do anything if violence was inflicted on them. This result was influenced by the fact that law students, who may be more sensitive to seeking their rights, formed the population of the study and awareness of violence has increased through recent studies.

While 84.0% of the students reported that domestic violence against women was not more frequent at a low socioeconomic level (28), in the focus group interviews conducted by Gömbül et al (29) with a group of nurses, nurses stated that they believed that men with low levels of education were violent to their partners, violence would decrease as education level increased, there was less violence against women in our country today and in European countries that had a higher level of education there was less intimate partner violence. In the study, 46.4% of

respondents disagreed with the proposition that ‘domestic violence against women occurs in low socioeconomic families’. 37% of emergency medical technicians in a US study and 50% of 685 healthcare workers in a UK study stated that domestic violence was not more frequent at a low socioeconomic level. (30,31). Studies have reported that a high socioeconomic level and a high education level and social support are important factors that reduce domestic violence (32).

The study found that the agreement rate with the proposition ‘*women can work whatever job they want*’ was higher in those whose mother graduated from high school and college. The agreement rate with the proposition ‘*If all basic education for boys (12 years) were compulsory formal education, this requirement should also apply to girls*’ was higher in participants whose mothers worked in income-generating jobs. There was no statistically significant association between the father’s educational status and the propositions. In line with other studies, the egalitarian view on gender increases as maternal education levels increase.

52.1% of the participants in the study stated that they knew of the “Law on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women”. Considering that the study was conducted with Law School students, this rate is low. It is especially important for this group who will provide legal support for women subjected to violence that legal arrangements related to violence against women are part of both their graduate studies and professional or in-service training.

Healthcare personnel, police force, lawyers, social workers and psychologists have a large and important role to play in the detection of cases of violence against women, in the taking of violence preventing measures, the protection of the rights of women in the judicial process and in the treatment and rehabilitation process. Although in the study conducted with jurists who have an important role in this multidisciplinary team, the rate of views advocating social equality is high, this is due to the fact that female students agree with egalitarian approaches at very high rates. The study shows that female students adopt a more egalitarian view than men. More studies are needed to raise awareness in this area and courses need to be included in the curriculum about how to approach all violence cases. However, increasing the level of awareness and knowledge alone is not enough to solve the problem. It is very important to keep the issue on the agenda and to support it with postgraduate in-service training.

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