Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies
Volume 12 · Issue 4 · e160198

OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Impact of Domestic Violence Against Men on Their Children's Social Adjustment, Aggression, and Mental Health: The Mediating Role of Fathers' Mental Health; Structural Equation Modeling

Sekine Barati, Yazdan Naderi Rajeh, Maedeh Bagheri

SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
5 Feb 2025	3 Jun 2025	1 Jul 2025	10.5812/mejrh-160198

About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

More about open peer review: brieflands.com/knowledgebase/opr

Contents

1 **Original submission** Referee 1, Nader Molavi, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 2
2 **Revision 1** Referee 1, Referee 2, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 9
3 **Revision 2** Referee 2, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 10
Authors' reply to reviewers 11
Reviewer and editor comments 12

1 Original submission

4 comments · 17 Feb 2025 – 5 Apr 2025

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 17 Feb 2025

Please see the attached file.

Nader Molavi Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 30 Mar 2025

This article is going to be published in Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies, which is an appropriate journal for the study done. With a limited search in Google Scholar, I did not find similar research. It is novel research, and the content matches the title. There were no abbreviations in the title and those in the body are explained, although one may be wrong (DOC - obsessive-compulsive). The abstract is well structured, and the four keywords are selected from MESH.
The study objective, whether the mental health of fathers can serve as a mediating variable for the impact of domestic violence against men on their children's social adjustment, aggression, and mental health, is well stated. It also states what is known and what is not known.
In materials and methods, the selection process is clearly described, and the sample size is calculated. The number of study subjects is well above the calculated sample size. The inclusion and exclusion criteria are clearly described, and appropriate statistical analysis is utilized.
The results section is a different beast. The written part is sparse and makes references to the tables and figures. I think the tables can be designed better and table 3 will benefit from a header row. Also, figure 2 needs to be translated into English.
The results and analysis support the conclusion and the conclusion is justified. The references of this article are rather up to date; about 65% of them are from the last five years.
The formatting had minor problems. There were no page numbers and in some areas the text direction was from right to left. Also, the direction of table 3 is right to left. Figure 1 would benefit from putting it in a canvas so all the elements would easily stay together.

Overall, this is very good work but needs a few edits as outlined.

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 30 Mar 2025

Thanks for submitting your valuable manuscript to the journal. As a result of this, we would like to inform you that the review of your manuscript is finished, and based on the editorial decision, you need to make a "Major Revision" to your manuscript. Even though this manuscript is of sufficient quality to enter the review process, it needs some significant (Major) revisions in some respects.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 5 Apr 2025

Dear Authors
According to the reviewers' and associate editor's comments, your article requires major revision. When revising your manuscript, please consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments carefully: please outline every change made in response to their comments and submit the required files.

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

1- The results section is a different beast. The written part is sparse and makes references to the tables and figures.

Descriptive information and the correlation between the main variables of the study represent a significant correlation among all main variables of the study at a level of $p < 0.01$. The skewness and kurtosis of the data fall within the specified range, and the normality assumption of the data is confirmed according to the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (Table 1). Information related to the model fit indices were declared acceptable and confirmed (Table 2). The results of the path analysis and its coefficients demonstrated domestic violence against men has a direct effect on children's aggression, adaptability, and mental health. However, after considering men's mental health as a mediating variable, the impact of domestic violence against men on children's aggression, adaptability, and mental health is reduced but remains significant, confirming the mediating role of adult mental health in the effect of domestic violence against men on children's aggression, adaptability, and mental health ($p < 0.05$) (Figure 2 and Table 3) (page 7)

2- I think the tables can be designed better and tables 3 will benefit from header row. Also, figure 2 needs to be translated to English. *The formatting had minor problems. There were no page numbers and in some area the text direction was from right to left. Also, table 3 direction is right to left. Figure 1 would benefit from putting it in a canvas so all the elements would easily stay together*

Table 3: The Standardized Effects of domestic violence against men on their children's social adjustment, aggression, and mental health

Domestic violence against men	fathers' mental health	- 0.35	0.00	-0.35	-0.35	0.44
	Children’s aggression	0.45	0.10	0.55	0.45	0.068
	children's social adjustment	-0.18	-0.091	-0.27	-0.18	0.049
	Children’s mental health	0.24	0.13	0.37	0.24	0.068
fathers' mental health	Children’s aggression	-.29	0.00	-0.29	-0.29	0.103
	children's social adjustment	0.26	0.00	0.26	0.26	0.075
	Children’s mental	-0.37	0.00	-0.37	-0.37	0.10

health	3

P<0/05

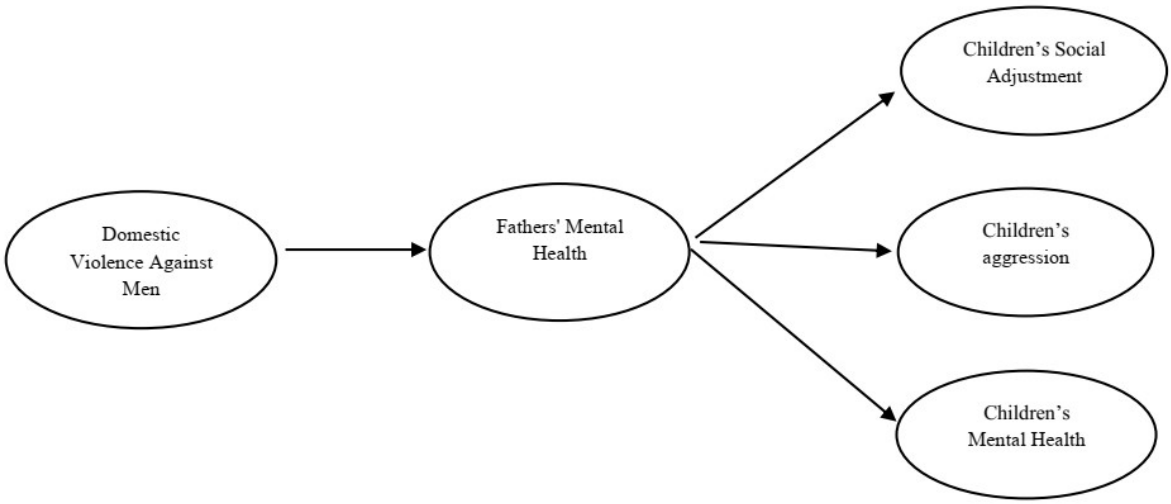


Figure1: conceptual model for the effect of domestic violence against men

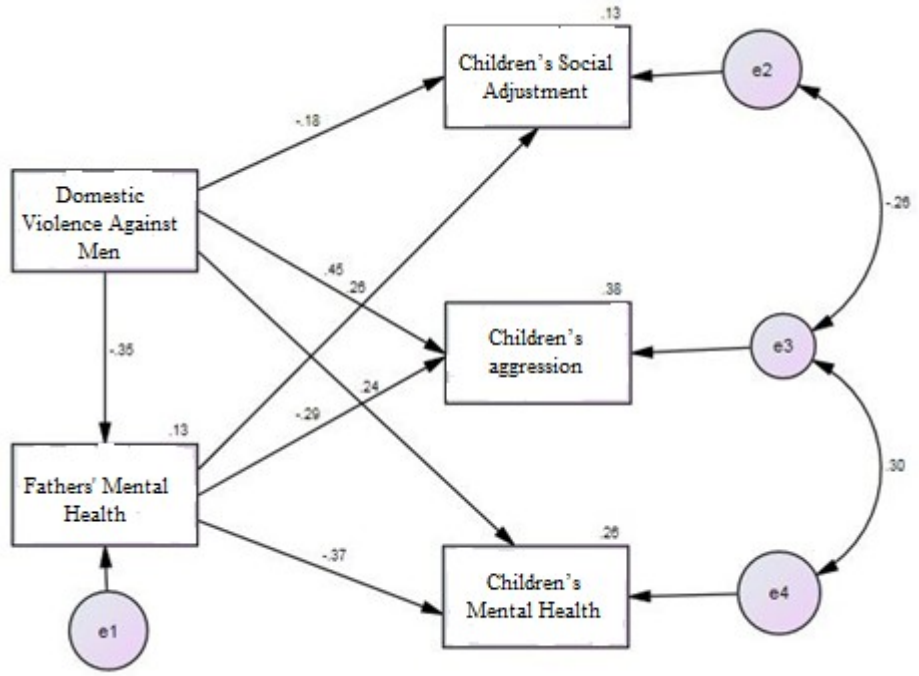


Figure 2: The model of the impact of domestic violence against men on their children's social adjustment, aggression, and mental health (page 11 & 12)

. **Major Comments:**

3- The study design and methodology are clearly stated, but the abstract lacks detailed information on the statistical methods used in the analysis.

Statistical analyses, including the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and box plots, were employed to assess data integrity. Goodness of fit and model validity were evaluated using various indices, while structural equation modeling was applied to test research hypotheses, with data analyzed using Amos 22. (page1)

4- The selection criteria for participants are not fully detailed, which could affect the generalizability of the findings.

The sample comprised married men (aged between 30 to 60 years) with children aged 5 to 12 years visiting health centers in Semnan city in 2023, they were required to provide informed consent, possess at least 8 years of education, and have no visual or auditory

impairments. excluding those with psychiatric disorders or substance abuse histories (based on medication history). (page 3 &4)

Minor Comments:

5- The abstract could benefit from a more detailed explanation of the scales used for measurement.

Data collection tools included Demographic Checklist, the Domestic Violence Against Men Questionnaire by Ghahari (2005), the Social Adjustment Scale by Pickle and Weissman (1999), the Aggression Scale for Children and Adolescents by Nelson et al. (2000), the Mental Health Assessment for Children and Adolescents by Najarian and Davoodi (2001), and the Adult Mental Health Scale by Keyes (2002). (page 1)

6- The implications of the findings could be expanded to include specific recommendations for health professionals and policymakers.

Health professionals should incorporate screening for domestic violence against men and policymakers should increase awareness and education in society regarding domestic violence against men and its components. (page 1)

The Durbin-Watson statistic ranges from 0 to 4. Given that the value of this statistic was 2.14, the assumption of independence of errors is met and regression analysis can be performed. Collinearity indices of table 4 indicate that there is no collinearity between the predictor variables and the results are .reliable

Table…. : Multilinear test in regression analysis

Collinearity Statistics		.Sig		Standardized Coefficients	Unstandardized Coefficients		model
VIF	Tolerance	Sig	t	Beta	Std. Error	B	
		000.	9.963		1.270	12.651	Constant
1.000	1.000	000.	4.671	315.	028.	129.	Domestic violence
1.182	846.	001.	3.394	243.	200.	679.	Father's mental health

Dependent Variable: children's social adjustment, children's aggression, children's mental health

Please pay attention to the following points in the results section of the article and do them:

Assumptions	result in your draft
Appropriate scale of variables	checked and Observed
Linearity of relationships	Not checked and Uncertain
Normality of data confirmed	Observed
Independence of errors	Not checked Uncertain
Multiple noncollinearity	checked and Observed
Sufficient sample size	checked and Observed
Adequate model fit	confirmed Observed
Total conclusion for this draft:	Most of the assumptions of path analysis have been met, but the independence of errors and linearity of relationships have not been checked. If these issues are checked, the accuracy of the paper's results can be more assured.
Recommendations for improving the model:	Use the Durbin-Watson test to check for independence of errors ✔ Draw a scatterplot between variables to check for linearity of relationships ✔ Use bootstrapping to confirm mediation effects ✔

7-

2 Revision 1

4 comments · 17 May 2025 – 26 May 2025

Referee 1 Reviewer — ACCEPT — 17 May 2025

No comment.

Referee 2 Reviewer — MINOR REVISION — 26 May 2025

Minor changes are needed.

Associate Editor — MINOR REVISION — 26 May 2025

First, we appreciate your time and effort in writing and submitting your valuable manuscript. It is unclear what the numbers in Table 3 are. Please add a header row. Also, the direction of Table 3 (not the text direction) is right to left. Table direction can be changed in table properties.

Editor-in-Chief — MINOR REVISION — 26 May 2025

Dear Authors
According to the reviewers and associate editor's comments, your article needs minor revision. When revising your manuscript, please consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments carefully: please outline every change made in response to their comments and submit the required files.

3

Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

First, we appreciate your time and effort in writing and submitting your valuable mentioned manuscript. It is unclear what the numbers are in Tables 3. Please add a header row. Also, Table 3 direction (not the text direction) is right to left. Table direction can be changed in table .properties

Table 3: The Standardized Effects of domestic violence against men on their children's social adjustment, aggression, and mental health

Independents	dependents	direct	indirect	total	sig
Domestic violence against men	fathers' mental health	0.35 -	0.00	0.35-	0.44
	Children’s aggression	0.45	0.10	0.55	0.068
	children's social adjustment	0.18-	0.091-	0.27-	0.049
	Children’s mental health	0.24	0.13	0.37	0.068
fathers' mental health	Children’s aggression	29.-	0.00	0.29-	0.103
	children's social adjustment	0.26	0.00	0.26	0.075
	Children’s mental health	0.37-	0.00	0.37-	0.103

P<0/05

3 Revision 2

3 comments · 29 Jun 2025 – 1 Jul 2025

Referee 2 Reviewer — ACCEPT 29 Jun 2025

No comments on this revision.

Associate Editor — ACCEPT 30 Jun 2025

No Comment.

Editor-in-Chief — ACCEPT 1 Jul 2025

Dear Authors
We are pleased to inform you that your article is accepted for publication in the MEJRHS. We hope to receive other suitable articles from your group.