

Letter to Editor**Suicide in Women; a study on one year attempted suicides in Isfahan****To the Editor**

Suicide Prevention is now a health priority in many countries. For this purpose, risk and protective factors associated with suicidal attempts in different cultures and genders must be identified for a better approach to this problem.

This is a descriptive and retrospective study on the hospital and psychiatric records of 1519 hospitalized women due to suicidal attempt in poisoning department of Noor hospital and Imam Musa Kazem burning center of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences among one year from April of 2001 until March of 2002).

In our study, 992 women (61.5%) had been hospitalized due to poisoning or self burning in form of suicide, and 6.4% of them died because of this attempt. Most common age for an attempt to suicide was between 15 to 19 years.

Most patients were under diploma regarded to their educational level (65.9%), most patients were married (55%) and housewives (45.7%). This finding is important since employees with a stable salary had least common suicidal attempts (8.5%).

Most common cause for attempted suicides in married women was marital problems (73.2%) including: conflicts with husband, physical and emotional abuses and addiction of husband. Perhaps, lack of official supportive systems for women and general attitude of society toward divorce as a taboo are causes that push these women toward such helplessness to attempt suicide as a way for escaping intolerable marital situations.

The history of established psychiatric disorders was positive in 25.6% of the cases and 62.4% of these cases irregularly were under psychiatric treatment, possibly due to general attitude of our society toward psychiatric disorder and seeking help of psychiatrist and psychologists.

In the end, we suggest, according to our finding, official supportive systems and consultation centers providing psychological and forensic supports, can be useful in the prevention of suicide, especially in married women.

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