

Violence in the home

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Introduction

As our society becoming gradually more democratic, the traditional values of respecting elders, cherishing family members, and upholding the sanctity of life are eroding. As a result, personality disorders arise, leading to stress and violence.

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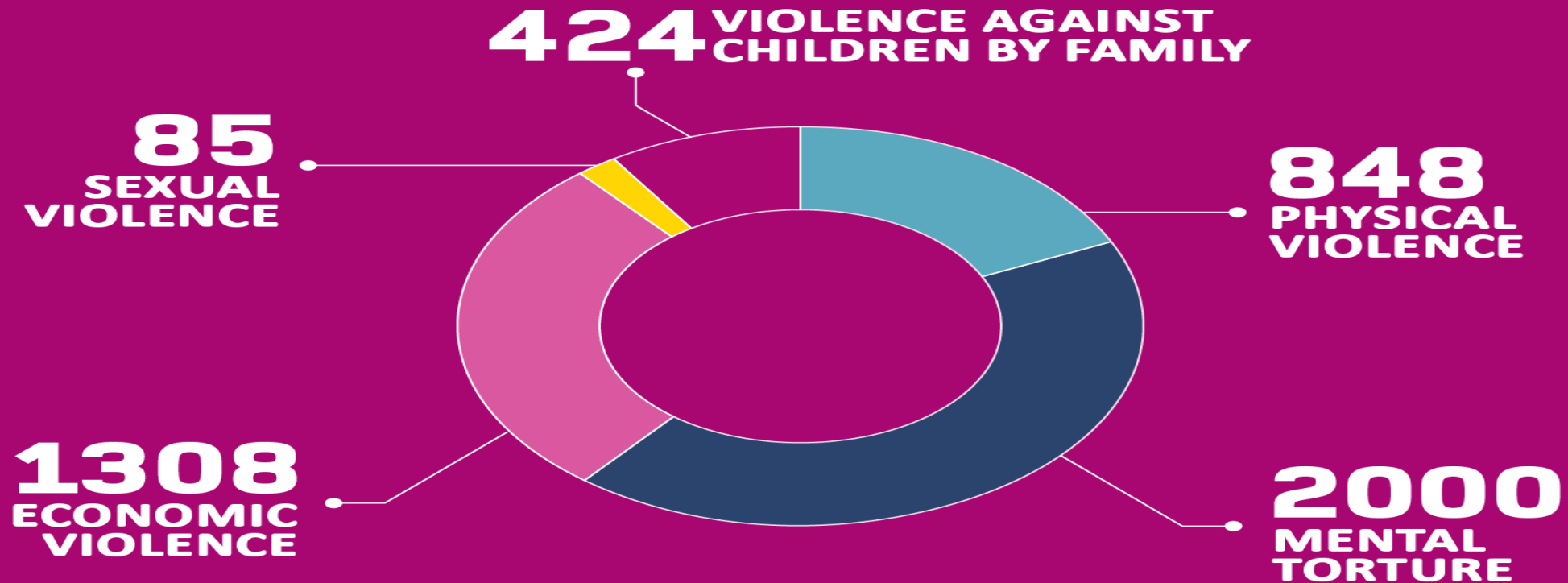
- The principal victims of this changing attitude pattern of life are children, wives, and the elderly
- The common pathology of all types of non-accidental violence in the family are multiple injuries of varying age & etiology
- Various terms attached with are: battered baby, battered wives, battered elderly, etc.

- A 2020 study titled 'Criminal justice system: Status quo and recommendations for domestic violence victims in Bangladesh' revealed that **87%** women of Bangladesh faced domestic violence--physical, mental, economic or sexual.

Bangladesh ranks 4th in violence against women by intimate partner

- Bangladesh has become one of the top ranking countries in violence against women (VAW) by intimate partner. Fifty per cent of women aged between 15 and 49 of the country have experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners during their lifetime, according to a report of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The report was prepared after analyzing the data on violence against women in 61 countries and areas between the years 2000 and 2018. According to WHO, one in three women worldwide is subjected to physical or sexual violence during her lifetime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN APRIL DURING THE NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN



The survey was done by MANUSHER JONNO FOUNDATION in the 27 districts where they are active. Actual numbers are assumed to be much higher.

- According to a national survey conducted by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), around 95.8 % of children experience violence in their homes, which is higher than the percentage of violations that occur in schools or communities.
- Survey conducted between May 2020 and June 2021, Integrated Community & Industrial Development Initiative in **Bangladesh** (INCIDIN) and the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) found that 55% of children in Bangladesh experience sexual harassment from their families. Of those, boys are more likely to be victims than girls, with the figures being 60% and 50%, respectively.

- BMRF (Bangladesh Men's Rights Foundation) was founded in 2016
- In 2020 a survey by (BMRF) stated that 80% of married men are victims of psychological torture by the wives (or their family members) in our country.
- The victims do not want to reveal their identities for fear of social embarrassment.

Punishment

- Domestic abuse is not specifically defined as a crime in Bangladesh's Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).
- Domestic violence is not included in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Act-2000. The victim can file a case against her husband or in-laws under a section of the law (Section 11) only when the crime is connected to dowry-related violence like injuries and murder.

Punishment

- The criminal court, though, has the jurisdiction regarding the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, the act mostly provides civil law solutions.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010

- Domestic violence.- For the purpose of this Act, domestic violence means physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse or economic abuse against a woman or a child of a family by any other person of that family with whom victim is, or has been, in family relationship.

Explanation: For the purpose of this section-

(a) "Physical abuse"- that is, any act or conduct which is of such a nature as to cause bodily pain, harm, or danger to life, limb, or health or impair the health or development of the victim and includes assault, criminal intimidation and criminal force;

ব্যাখ্যা : এই ধারার উদ্দেশ্য পূরণকল্পে—

(ক) “শারীরিক নির্যাতন” অর্থে এমন কোন কাজ বা আচরণ করা, যাহা দ্বারা সংস্কৃত ব্যক্তির জীবন, স্বাস্থ্য, নিরাপত্তা বা শরীরের কোন অঙ্গ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয় অথবা ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইবার সম্ভাবনা থাকে এবং সংস্কৃত ব্যক্তিকে অপরাধমূলক কাজ করিতে বাধ্য করা বা প্ররোচনা প্রদান করা বা বলপ্রয়োগও ইহার অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে;

Contd.

- (b) "Psychological abuse" - that includes but is not limited to:-
- (i) verbal abuse including insults, ridicule, humiliation, insults or threats of any nature;
 - (ii) harassment; or
 - (iii) controlling behaviour, such as restrictions on mobility, communication or self-expression;

(খ) "মানসিক নিৰ্ধাতন" অৰ্থে নিম্নবৰ্ণিত বিষয়সমূহও অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত হইবে, যথা ঃ—

(অ) মৌখিক নিৰ্ধাতন, অপমান, অবজ্ঞা, জীতি প্ৰদৰ্শন বা এমন কোন উক্তি কৰা, যাহা দ্বাৰা সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তিৰ-মানসিকভাবে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হয়;

(আ) হয়ৱানি; অথবা

(ই) ব্যক্তি স্বাধীনতায় হস্তক্ষেপ অৰ্থাৎ স্বাভাৱিক চলাচল, যোগাযোগ বা ব্যক্তিগত ইচ্ছা বা মতামত প্ৰকাশৰ উপৰ হস্তক্ষেপ;

Contd.

(c) "Sexual abuse"- that is, any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of the victim;

(গ) “যৌন নির্যাতন” অর্থে যৌন প্রকৃতির এমন আচরণও অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে, যাহা দ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির সম্মান, সম্মান বা সুনামের ক্ষতি হয়;

Contd.

(d) "Economic abuse" that includes but is not limited to:-

(i) deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources or property to which

the victim is entitled under any law or custom whether payable under any law or

custom or an order of a court or any other competent authority;

(ঘ) “আর্থিক ক্ষতি” অর্থে নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহও অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে, যথা :—

(অ) আইন বা প্রথা অনুসারে বা কোন আদালত বা উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত আদেশ অনুযায়ী সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি যে সকল আর্থিক সুযোগ-সুবিধা, সম্পদ বা সম্পত্তি লাভের অধিকারী উহা হইতে তাহাকে বঞ্চিত করা অথবা উহার উপর তাহার বৈধ অধিকার প্রয়োগে বাধা প্রদান;

Contd.

(ii) not allow to use the articles of daily necessities to the victim;

(iii) deprivation or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to her stridhan or dower or alimony or any consideration for marriage or any property owned by the victim;

(আ) সংযুক্ত ব্যক্তিকে নিত্যব্যবহার্য জিনিসপত্র প্রদান না করা;

(ই) বিবাহের সময় প্রাপ্ত উপহার বা স্ত্রীধন বা অন্য কোন দান বা উপহার হিসাবে প্রাপ্ত কোন সম্পদ হইতে সংযুক্ত ব্যক্তিকে বঞ্চিত করা বা উপহার উপর তাহার বৈধ অধিকার প্রয়োগে বাধা প্রদান;

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(iv) transferring without consent of the victim or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to any assets whether movable or immovable owned by her;

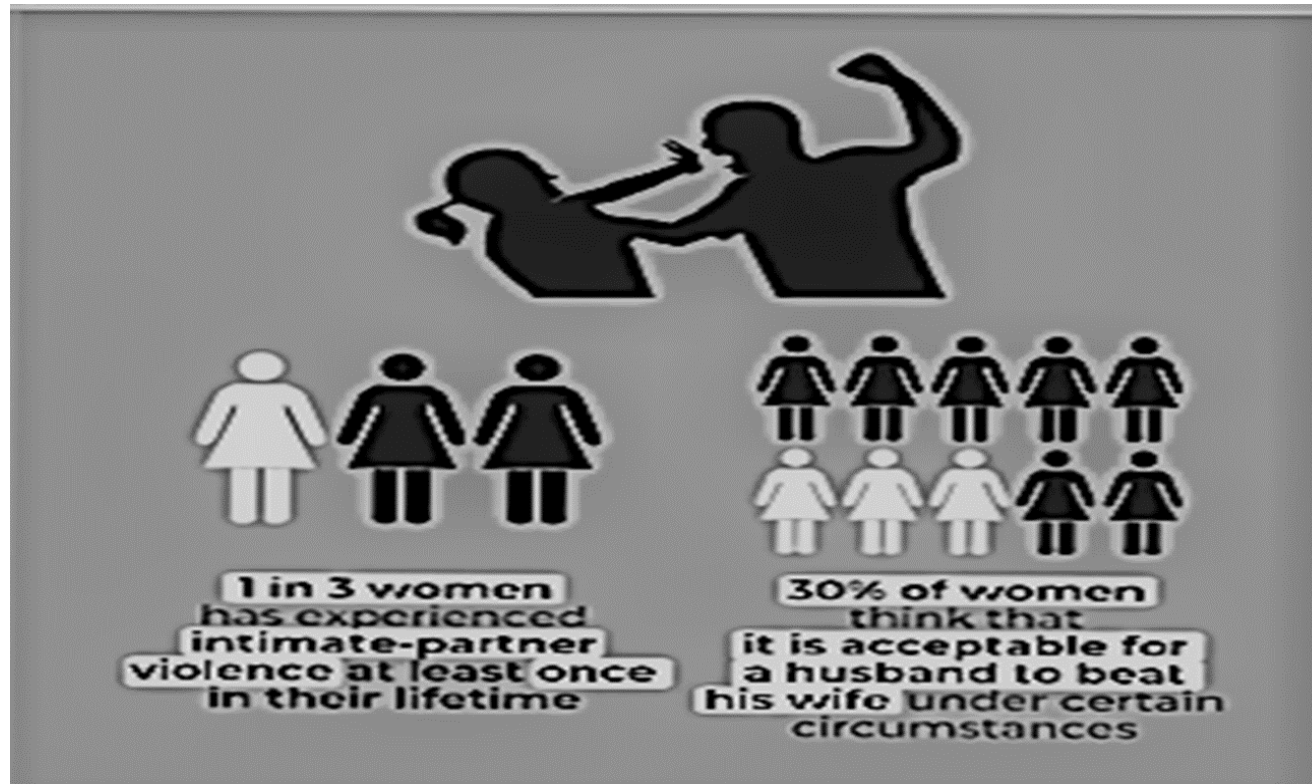
(v) deprivation or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to continued access to resources or facilities which the victim is entitled to use or enjoy by virtue of the family relationship.

(ই) সংযুক্ত ব্যক্তির মালিকানাধীন যে কোন স্থাবর বা অস্থাবর সম্পত্তি তাহার অনুমতি ব্যতিরেকে হস্তান্তর করা বা উহার উপর তাহার বৈধ অধিকার প্রয়োগে বাধা প্রদান; অথবা

(এ) পারিবারিক সম্পর্কের কারণে যে সকল সম্পদ বা সুযোগ-সুবিধাদিতে সংযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবহার বা ভোগদখলের অধিকার রহিয়াছে উহা হইতে তাহাকে বঞ্চিত করা বা উহার উপর তাহার বৈধ অধিকার প্রয়োগে বাধা প্রদান ।

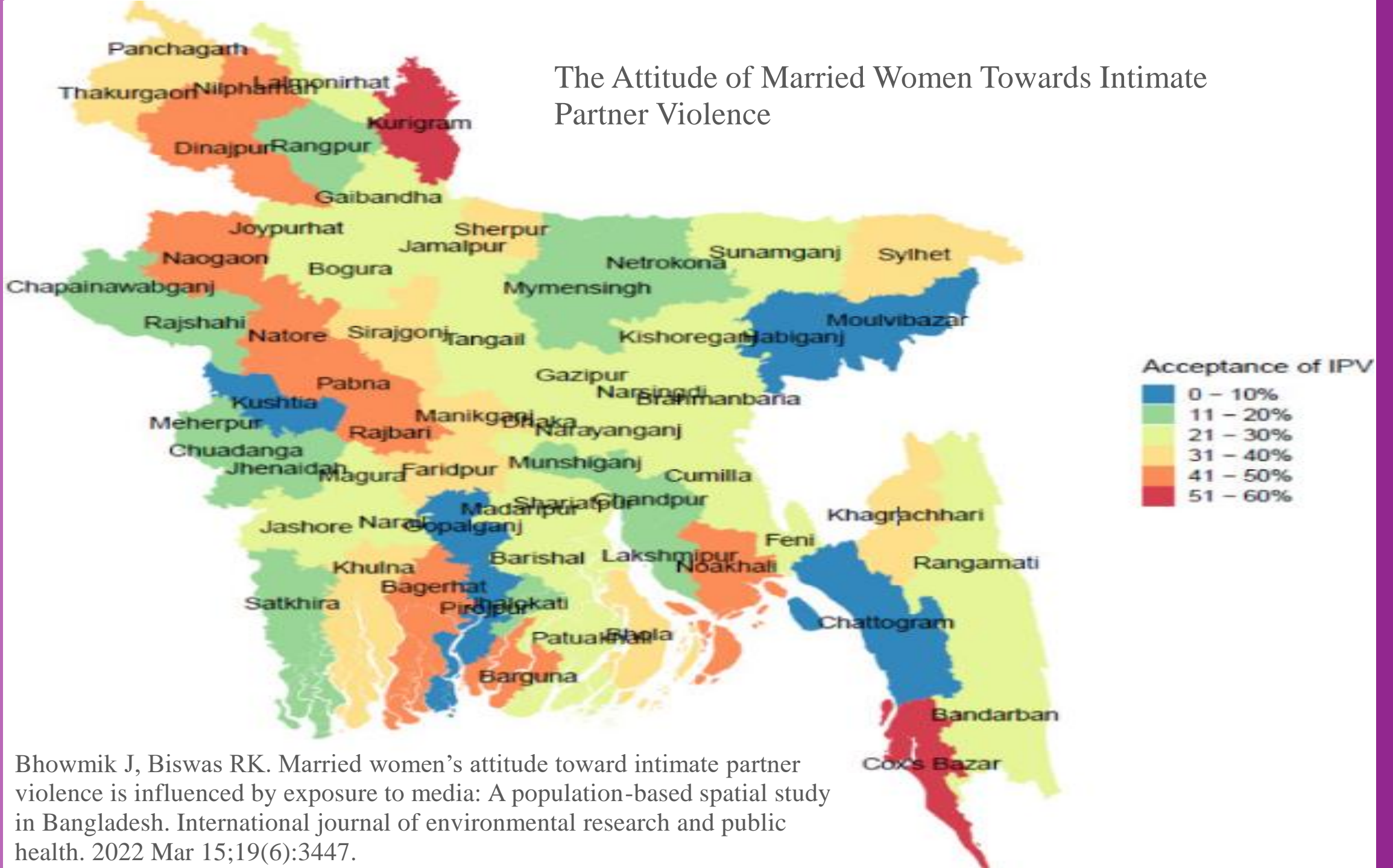
Battered Wives

Battered wife is a woman who has suffered **demonstrable & repeated physical injuries** by the man with whom she lives or the father of one of her children



Country	Value in Percentage
Afghanistan	50.8 %
Bangladesh	54.2 %
Bhutan	14.9 %
Cambodia	20.9 %
Cook Islands	33.0 %
Fiji	64.1 %
India	28.8 %
Indonesia	18.3 %
Kiribati	61.0 %
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15.3 %
Maldives	16.3 %
Marshall Islands, Republic of	50.9 %
Micronesia, Federated States of	32.8 %
Mongolia	31.2 %
Myanmar	17.3 %
Nauru	48.1 %
Nepal	25.0 %
Pakistan	24.5 %
Palau	25.2 %
Papua New Guinea	58.3 %
Philippines	14.8 %
Samoa	46.1 %
Solomon Islands	63.5 %
Sri Lanka	20.4 %
Timor-Leste, Democratic Republic of	58.8 %
Tonga	39.6 %
Tuvalu	36.8 %
Vanuatu	60.0 %
Viet Nam	32.0 %

The Attitude of Married Women Towards Intimate Partner Violence



Bhowmik J, Biswas RK. Married women's attitude toward intimate partner violence is influenced by exposure to media: A population-based spatial study in Bangladesh. *International journal of environmental research and public health*. 2022 Mar 15;19(6):3447.

Violence Against Women (Domestic Violence) January- December 2023

Documentation Unit

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

	Age	7-18	19-24	25-30	30+	Age not mentioned	Total	Cases filed	No information on case filing
Tortured by husband			3	2	7	23	35	14	21
Tortured by husband's family			2	2	2	7	13	6	7
Murdered by husband		6	42	42	46	71	207	109	97
Murdered by husband's family members		7	14	9	9	14	53	26	27
Murdered by own family			2	1	23	6	32	18	14
Tortured by own family		1			18	6	25	10	16
Suicide		18	46	27	12	39	142	40	102
Total		32	109	83	117	166	507	223	284

Source: Prothom Alo, Ittefaq, Samakal, Sangbad, Janakantha, Naya Diganta, Daily Star, New Age, Dhaka Tribune(include their epapers), some online news portals and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

Contd.

- Generally the women accepted the ill-treatment at the hands of men they live with as they are **reluctant to disclose it for fear of shame & disgrace**
- **But some prefer just to leave home**
- Whilst others indulge in **self-hurt, poisoning, or committing suicide by hanging, burning, drowning or poisoning**

Contd.

- The offence comes to light when the victim requires treatment or dies under suspicious circumstances
- In Bangladesh battering & torture are common in certain communities where customs of bride to bring dowry amount being considered inadequate
- **The government have enacted special legislation to counter this problem**

Common findings

- Multiple bruises on exposed parts, viz, **the face, arms, etc.**
- But may involve breasts & the vulva specially in **husband's suspicion of the wife's fidelity**



Contd.

- Trivial unexplained injury during examination
- When a woman complaining of unendurable behavior at the hands of husband seeking help from a doctor
- Here the examining doctor should include an assessment of injury to her health by physical or other means in his report

Contd.

- Time is changing recently
- Marriage is now considered as a partnership of equals & not merely a holy life long alliance
- The battered woman syndrome cites instances where a cycle of abuse can eventually lead a woman to kill an abusive husband to escape his continuous threats & torture

Battered Baby Syndrome (Caffey's Syndrome)

- A battered child is one who has received repetitive physical injuries as a result of non-accidental violence, produced by a parent or guardian.

In addition to physical injury there may be non accidental deprivation of nutrition, care and affection.

Six patterns of child abuse are recognized as follows :

- Physical abuse
- Nutritional deprivation
- Sexual abuse
- Intentional drugging
- Neglect of medical care, safety, etc. and
- Emotional abuse

The common victims

- Unwanted child
- Illegitimate child
- A child whose father's paternity is doubted

Precipitating factors

- Cry which interfere with either a parent's sleep or the outing or their television program
- Battering is sometimes the result of sudden loss of temper under such & allied circumstances

The type of persons involved

- The persons frequently have a low I.Q
- Some have the history of family discord
- Some have long standing emotional problems
- Some have financial stress
- Others have criminal background
- Recent reports suggesting that such parents had received similar treatment from their parents in childhood

Characteristics injuries

- Both clinically & radio logically it should be proved that the injuries have occurred at different times.
- Usually Multiple, Not necessarily severe
- Usually follow the pattern with one or more localized bruises on the head quite inconsistent with a simple fall
- Tear in the frenum of upper lip & alveolar margin of gums to stifle cries are common

Recognition of the battered child

Certain clinical and pathological features assist doctor when child presented with injury.

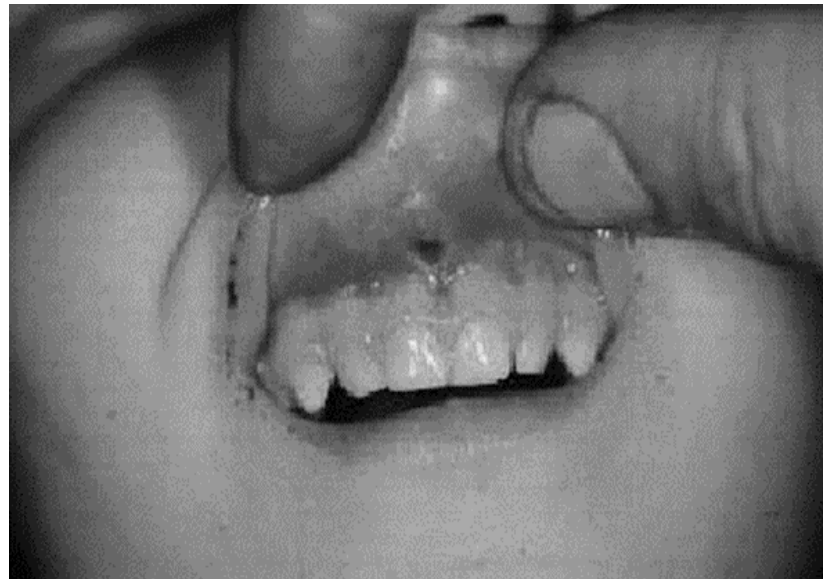
Surface injuries are highly suspicious

Bruises — around distal part of the limbs where the child has been gripped and shaken.

Bruising of scalp — detected by palpation and tenderness.

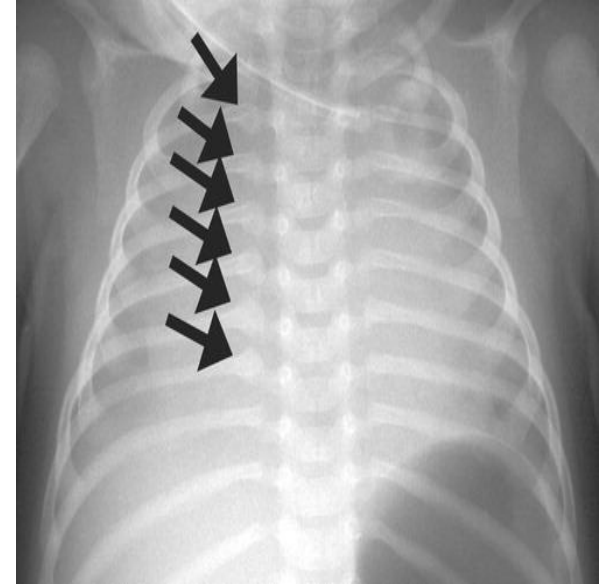
Bruising of face extremely common, around mouth .

- **Laceration of frenum** inside upper lip is characteristic, this injury separate inner of lip from the base of the gums. It indicate striking on the mouth owing to attempt to stop continuous crying of child



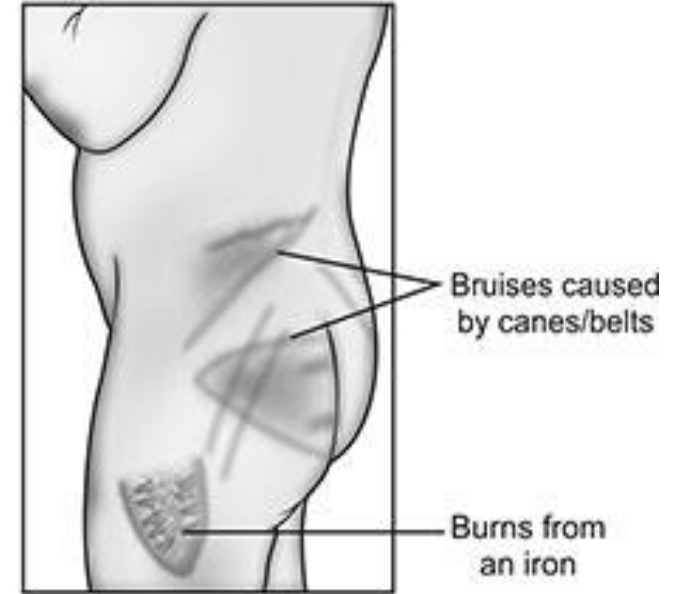
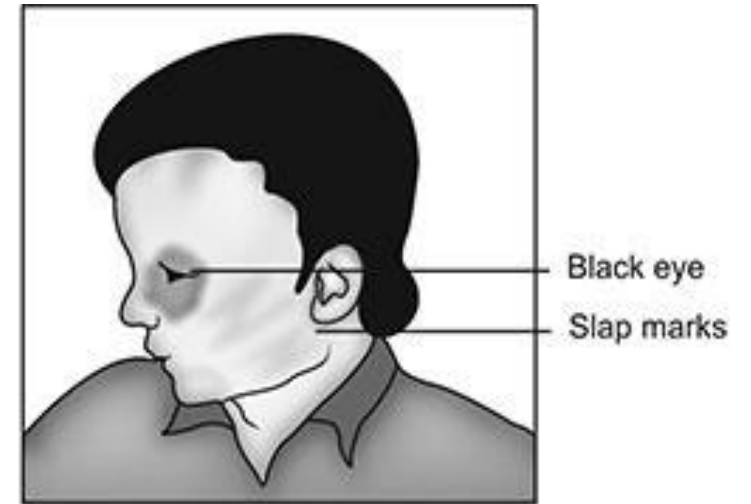
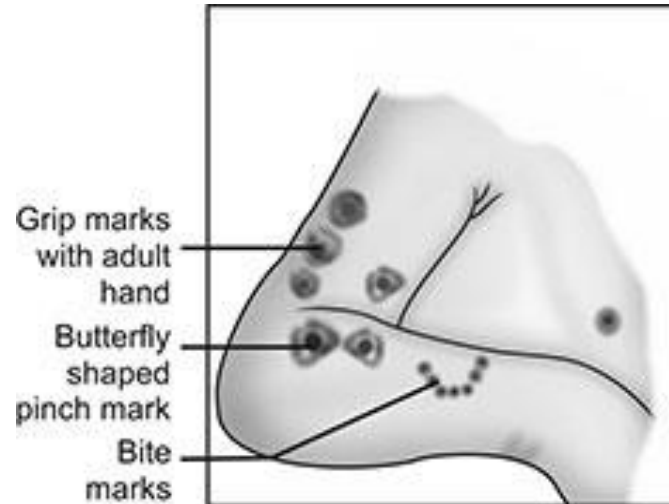
- **Bites mark** common on face and upper limbs.
- **Vitreous hge , lens dislocation , retinal damage** may be detected , examination by ophthalmologist is recommended in all suspected cases.
- **Circular bruises in neck, chest and abdomen** due to poking or prodding
- **Rib fractures , fracture of long bone common at epiphyses.**

- **Characteristic radiological picture-** metaphyseal chipping and calcification beneath sheath of long bones. Multiple rib fractures due to squeezing of chest ,callus formation after a week produce characteristic radiological appearance or a 'string of beads' in para-vertebral gutter
- **Shaken baby syndrome-**subdural heamatoma & intraocular bleeding
- **Ruptured viscera-** slip from hand, from bed
- **Scalding** with hot fluid, burn from cigarette



Contd.

- Bruises on the face, trunk & extremities consistent with marks of grip



Major injuries which prove fatal

- Fractured skull
- Subdural hematoma (SDH)
- Visceral injuries- ruptured liver, mesenteric hemorrhages.

Suspicion of Battered Baby Syndrome may arise in

Diagnosis of the syndrome must be considered in any child:

- When degree and type of injury is at variance with the history given
- When injuries of different stages of healing are seen
- When purposeful delay of seeking medical attention despite serious injury. Who exhibits fracture of bone, SDH, failure to thrive, soft tissue swelling or bruise in the skin
- Who dies suddenly

Postmortem Examination

- History may be misleading and the examination must be thorough and supportive measures, like- sketches, photographs, x-rays, histology of tissues & toxicological analysis should be done
- Photograph should be of whole body, close up views of lesion showing their details, color photograph show different age of bruise in particular

Contd.

- Deep incisions adequately needed to see the damage to the soft tissue, extent of bleeding, deep scarring, etc. are suggestive of prolonged maltreatment
- Incisions on sole of feet reveal unexpected haematomas

Examination of Baby-External

- **If there is any injury, consider its size, shape. Color, position, degree of healing**
- Injury in frenum of lip, burn scars, fresh burn by flame, hot substances or cigarette, swelling of the joints & congenital deformities should be looked at
- Radiology can exclude fractures of bones even in different healing stages & of characteristically as fissure fractures, green stick fractures, ribs fractures, etc.

Examination of Baby-Internal

At autopsy trachea contains a small amount of edematous fluid, sometimes blood stained petechial hemorrhages are found on the visceral surface of pleura ,pericardium and thymus.

Laboratory data

- Routine histology of immune system & gastrointestinal system to rule out the possible underlying obscure, constitutional or debilitating disease
- DNA testing if available becomes a routine examination
- Bacteriological cultures of blood, lungs & CSF to exclude infectious disease or in death
- Adequate specimen taken out for chemical analysis

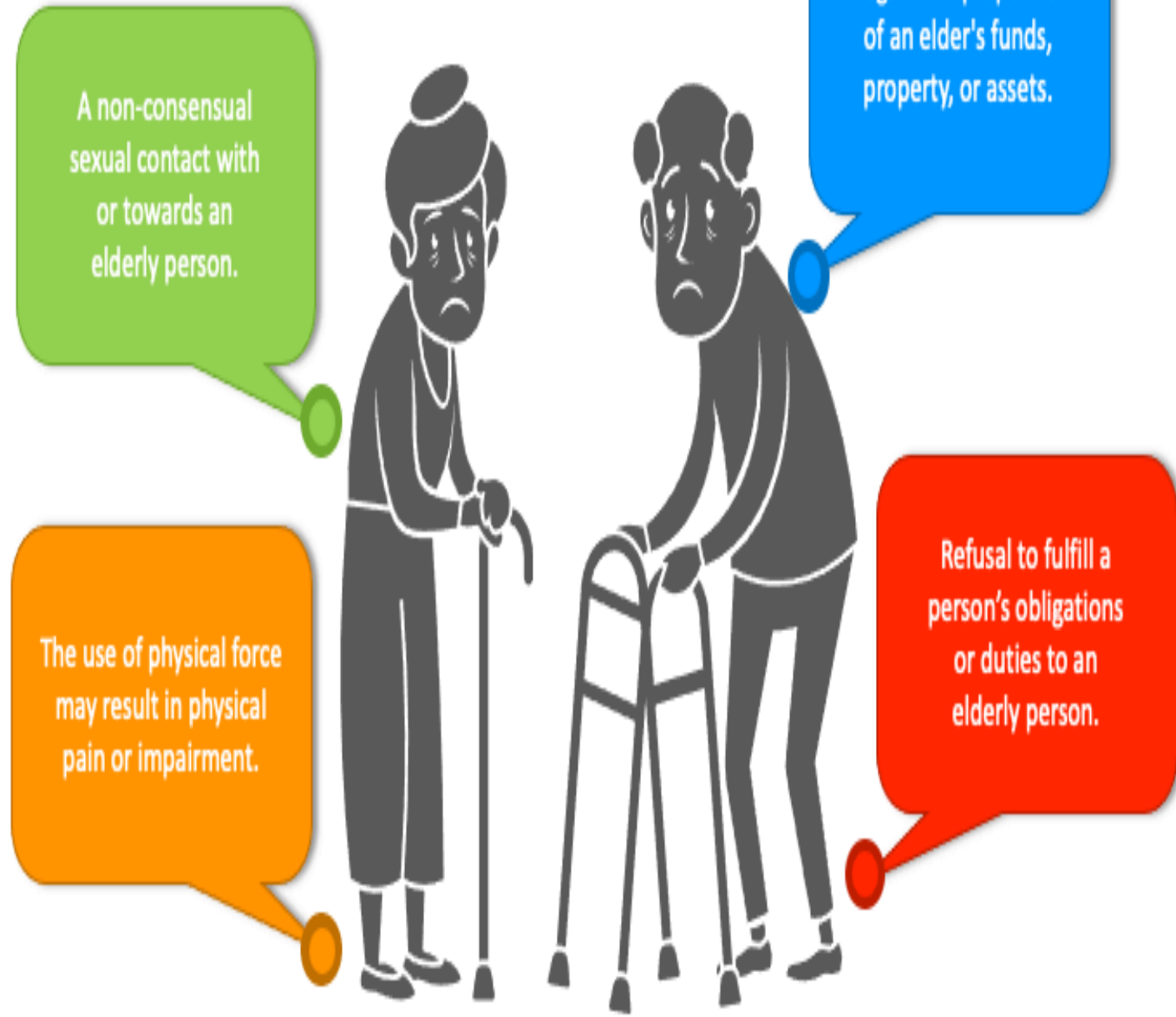
Medico legal Importance

- The history may be completely misleading as to the circumstances surrounding death.
- The external and internal examination should be vary thorough and supported by photographs, radiographs microscopic sections of all pertinent lesions and toxicological analysis
- Child abuse-
ill-treatment of young children work as domestic servants are common
- Charges of infanticide

What is Elder Abuse?

Battered Elderly

- The concept of joint families has almost disappeared now resulting with decreased respect for the elderly
- They are considered as source of burden or a interruption to the independence & privacy of young generation
- They are therefore neglected, often insulted & sometimes battered



Contd.

- However in these elderly subjects it is difficult to differentiate between non-accidental & accidental injuries
- The elderly suffer from decreased skin elasticity, loss of flesh, osteoporosis, atheromatous changes in the arteries.

In due course, the presence of elderly becomes intolerable

- There are instances where financial incentives, such as inheritance of properties, insurance claims, etc. has hastened their death

Recognition of the battered elderly

- **Physical** : unexplained fracture, dislocations, lacerations, abrasions, burns, bruises.
- **Neglect** : poor personal hygiene, weight loss, history of unexplained falls

Elder battering includes forced starvation, physical and psychological neglect, demanding for property and money, assaults, etc.

The most vital trauma may result

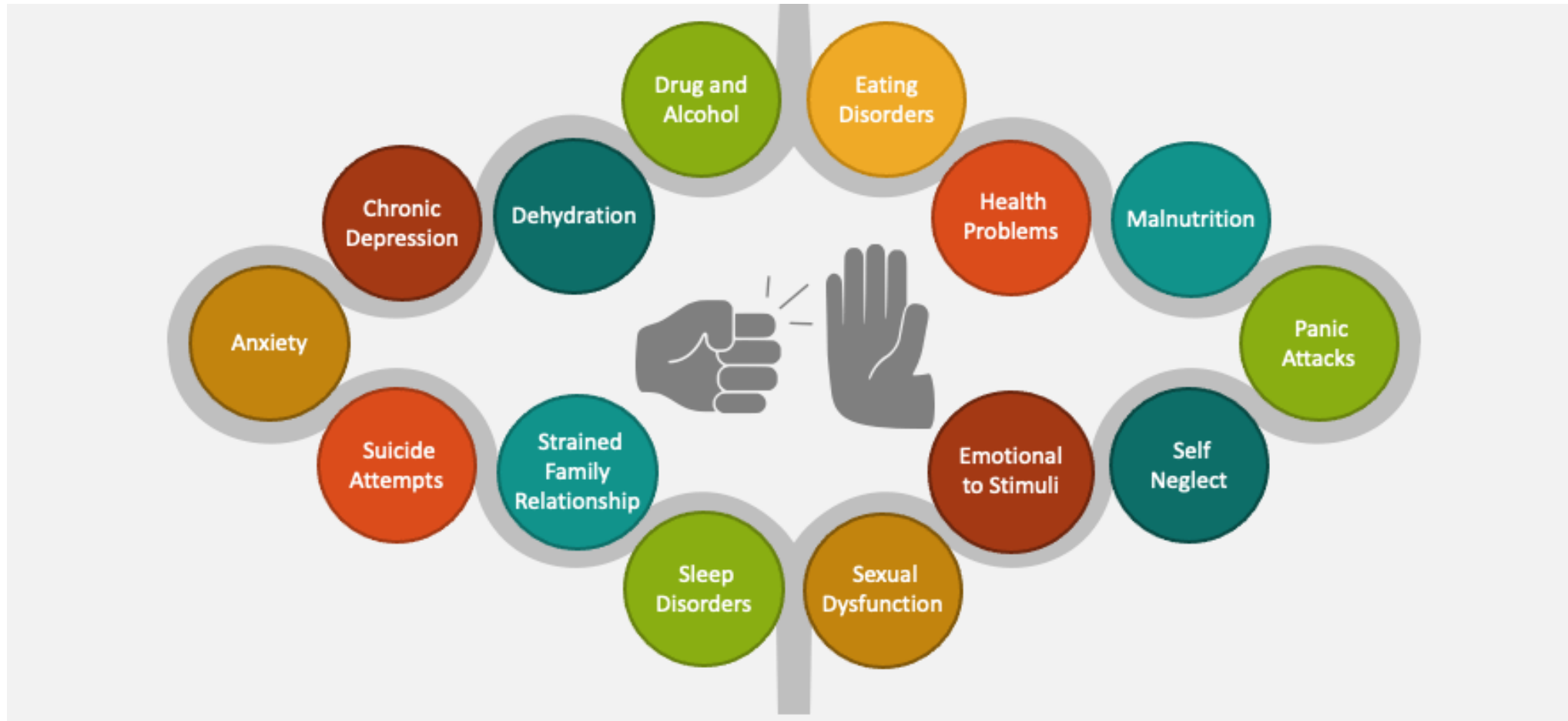
- Bruising
- Subdural hematoma
- Fracture of neck of the femur, etc. is detectable during life
- But occasionally incidental finding of such subdural hematoma is there **at autopsy**

Battered Husband

- Many financially dependent husbands and weaklings are subjected to psychological and physical torture.



Effects of violence in the home



Prevention

- Promoting healthy family relationships
- Providing coordinated services to domestic violence victims
- Enforcing laws to hold perpetrators responsible , and
- Conducting research and data collection to monitor trends in domestic violence and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and evaluation efforts.

Conclusion

- The forensic aspect plays a crucial role in investigating and prosecuting domestic violence cases.
- Through evidence collection, crime scene analysis, medical examinations, and expert testimony, forensic experts contribute to justice for victims.
- Addressing challenges such as under reporting and biases is necessary to improve outcomes for victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Take home messages

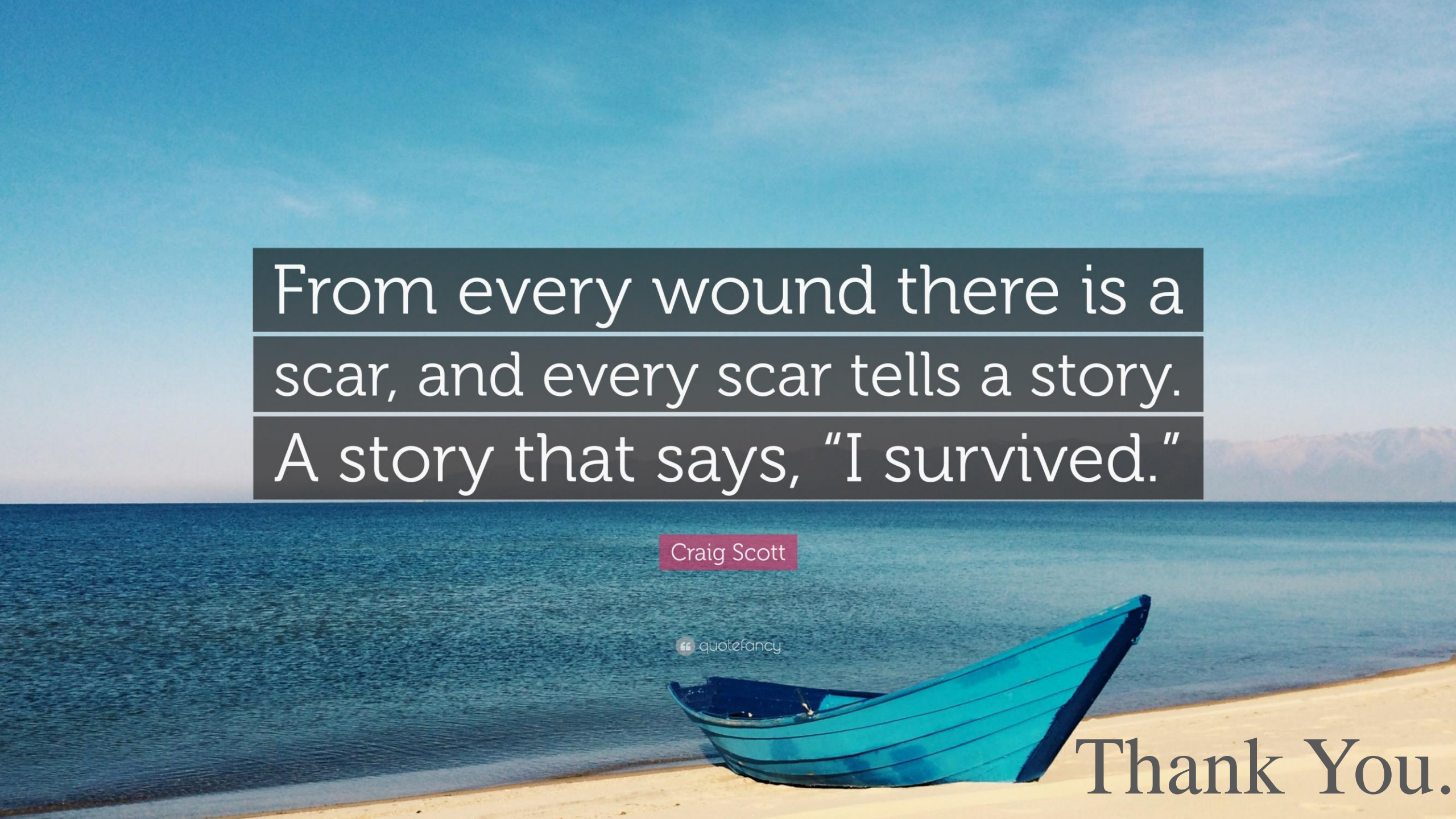
- Domestic violence has serious medical implications, affecting both physical and mental health.
- Healthcare providers play a crucial role in screening, detecting, and intervening in cases of domestic violence.
- Prevention and education are key in addressing this issue and promoting healthy relationships. It is essential to prioritize the well-being and safety of individuals experiencing violence at home.

Family Violence
only happens in
poor, uneducated or
minority families.

• *Myth*

Family Violence
occurs among all
types of families
regardless of
income, profession,
region, ethnicity,
educational level.

• *Fact*



From every wound there is a
scar, and every scar tells a story.
A story that says, "I survived."

Craig Scott

quote fancy

Thank You.