A Review of Gender stereotypes in domestic violence

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Abstract. Gender stereotypes have always been prevalent in human society, and even affect the public's views and opinions on some thing in many ways, which may cause some negative effects. In terms of intimate relationship violence, the public may have a stubborn view of the perpetrator and the victim that cannot be reversed due to the fixed thinking of gender stereotypes, which leads to a lack of rigor and justice. This article mainly through literature review, summarizes the influence of gender stereotype in the combination of heterosexual, same-sex and transgender in domestic violence. This article can provide a relatively comprehensive summary for the following specific research and learning as a reference.

Keywords: Gender stereotypes; domestic violence; romantic relationship.

1. Introduction

With the popularization of the anti-domestic violence law, coupled with the development and enrichment of the Internet, more and more people realize that domestic violence is no longer just a "family affair" and should be severely cracked down on and firmly rejected. According to the Third Survey on Women's Social Status conducted by the All-China Women's Federation, 24.7 percent of women and 22.8 percent of men have experienced domestic violence. This data makes us realize that domestic violence is not far away from us, and we should pay more attention to preventing the such situation.

The data also reflect the fact that men and women are almost equally likely to be victims of domestic abuse. This is very much at odds with the stereotype. In real life, the existence of the stereotype that men have an advantage in physiological and gender rights weakens the situation that men suffer from domestic violence. In other words, people do not think that men will suffer from domestic violence or think that the number of victims is small.. However, boys can also be abused by domestic violence, from the so-called "perpetrators" in the eyes of onlookers to real victims. Gender stereotypes are a very concerning topic in today's society and also aroused a lot of people's research interest. Since ancient times, gender stereotypes have always been an enduring issue worthy of exploration and discussion. In recent years, the issue of domestic violence has been constantly mentioned, and more and more people have begun to stop such violent behavior. For example, some people advocate for victims, while others advocate for greater legal punishment for abusers. Therefore, this article will discuss the gender stereotype in domestic violence.

Existed studies like ockTV has conducted a street experiment to observe the behavior of bystanders by simulating the situation of a male who abused a female on the street and a female who abused a male on the street after gender transition and concluded that because of the public stereotype when men abuse women, they would choose to stop the behavior and show anger. Nevertheless, when a woman abused a man, they chose to stand on the sidelines and even gloat. Their subconscious thought that the man must have done something terrible. The public unconsciously justifies women's violent behavior by assuming that they are vulnerable. Predecessors have discussed and analyzed gender combinations in different intimate relationships in view of this problem. But throughout, there is still a lack of a review to sort out this problem.

2. Method

An extensive literature search was conducted using the academic database Web of Knowledge and Google Scholar. The following search terms, as well as their derivatives were entered: gender stereotype(s), domestic violence, intimate relationship violence, and romantic relationship. Studies were included if they: (1) included the key variables of both gender stereotype(s) and violence; (2) made reference to the violence in various relationships; (3) published in English and under peer reviews; (4) objective and valuable for reference. A total of 16 empirical studies were identified from the literature.

3. Literature Review

Gender stereotype is a generalized view or perspective about in people's minds, the role that is or should be possessed by, or women or men must be, always a kind of characteristics. It is harmful because it limits women's and men's freedom to develop their personalities and personal ability and prevents them from pursuing the meaning of their life.

Domestic violence can also be domestic abuse, in which the intimate partner tries to use a pattern of behavior to gain or keep power to control their partner. Abuse includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, threats, stalking, cyberstalking, and so forth.

Intimate relationship violence always exists in an intimate partner, including current and former spouses and partners with whom someone has or had a close personal relationship and may have sexual behavior.. Always a kind of behavior to harm the partner, such as physical, sexual, or psychological harm. With regard to sexual violence, people often think that it is a private matter between a couple or lovers and should not be interfered with. In people's stereotypes, it is usually believed that women are violated because of their lack of self-respect, such as scantily clad girls and drinking alcohol. Such views deviate from the original intention of protecting the victim and even encourage the wrong behavior of the abuser, on the one hand, causing a very big misleading. In addition, some patriarchal ideas also include the idea that girls should obey their husbands, and if they fail to do so, sexual violence becomes a "punishment" that women should bear for sure. Not only in isomerism but also in LGBT(Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender), as the public gradually accepts them, domestic violence situations are also evident. The public will naturally, by a physical appearance in the perception of the opposite sex combinations， result in gender discrimination, such as for more male perpetrators, accusing them of behavior, more compassion for the partial feminine victims. In later trials, in heterosexual relationships, there was a more robust reaction towards the masculine abuser and the feminine victim, arguing that the former should be severely sentenced and the latter should be protected. From this, the gender stereotype always exists in the public eye.

3.1 Dominant Party in Violent Relationship of Opposite Sex

3.1.1 The dominant party in a physiological role

In violent relationships, men with more dominant biological roles are often the perpetrators of intimate relationship violence. They often do it through their incredible strength, through acts of physical violence by female victims of domestic violence. In the past, many people in society did not think it was wrong for boys to abuse girls because they thought men had the right to do so. In terms of their perception of women, they only thought that there was something wrong with the women that prompted the men to beat them. Few people are clearly aware of the problem of male abusers. However, later, as more and more people paid attention to this problem, people began to have completely different ideas about the existence of this thing. More and more people began to oppose the behavior that men dominating and beating women and realized that everyone should be equal. It is impossible for a person to beat others at will. So when male abusers appear in the public eye, they

start to stop and oppose such behavior and completely criticize what male abusers do. At trial, the degree of domestic abuse sentence by the judge is often strictly enforced.

3.1.2 **The underdog party in a physiological role**

However, male victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be suffering both physically and psychologically because masculinity is seen as important by onlookers. Most men want to project an image of themselves as relatively strong, not weak and vulnerable. Because of the so-called dignity and face, they are likely to give up the police. Secondly, due to gender discrimination in public, most of them will show distrust after the male victims pluck up the courage to declare that they have been abused and even accuse the male victims of sacrificing their dignity in order to attract attention. Because in their eyes, men have absolute physiological advantages, when they feel their interests are threatened, they can resist with force rather than become victims. Because of this, many bystanders also become "accomplices" and contribute to the abuser's behavior.

3.2 Underdog Party in Violent Relationship of Opposite Sex

3.2.1 Weak side in physiological role

Generally speaking, women are often helpless victims in opposite-sex relationships. First of all, many of them may be because of various traditional education, such as women should love themselves, it is a shame for women to be defaced, women should follow the orders of men, and so forth. For example, the Bible has a lot of such views. As a result, female victims are afraid to seek help from others when they are in danger and hurt. Second, most women care so much about what others think of them that they will give up seeking outside help to avoid the so-called loss of face for fear of what onlookers will say about their abuse. For some female victims with low knowledge, they may be unable to realize that their rights and interests have been violated after being hurt and only listen to the "brainwashing" of the abuser so as to lose the opportunity to protect themselves. More women, who are physically disadvantaged in this intimate relationship violence, are threatened, intimidated, and even beaten by the abuser in various ways, including threats to themselves and their relatives and friends. The brutality of their abusers makes them afraid to ask for help and suffer in silence.

3.2.2 Weak side in social role

Nevertheless, there is no denying that female abusers do not exist, even in the group of abusers is not a minority. But because the public believes that women are more physically vulnerable, it will assume that female abusers must have experienced something to "force" such violent behavior. For example, the experience of being abused as a child makes them psychologically damaged and unable to control themselves, or the male does something so egregious that the female abuser acts violently. The public cannot help but find all sorts of plausible excuses for female abusers. Even if there is no evidence that the tendency to commit a crime is not motivated by external stimuli, female abusers are still referred to as victim services first in the final trial, or the punishment is reduced by the judge. It is very unfair to the victims, but it is what the public is doing.

3.3 Gender stereotypes about domestic violence in couples of the same gender

In the case of the same sex, the public's expectation of domestic violence between the same sex still follows their expectation of the gender stereotype, which changes with the sexual appearance of the perpetrator and the victim. That is, they all believe that the victim with the female image is less deserving of blame than the victim with the male image. Because men, or men in appearance, appear to have more physical advantages, they are assumed to be capable of actively defending themselves if they feel threatened; And individual women, or what appear to be women, are seen as having no way to defend themselves against violence. In addition, the public's perception of perpetrators and victims can also change depending on their gender. Female bystanders were more likely to condemn female physical abusers than male physical abusers because they were perceived as violating stereotypes of femininity and vulnerability. When the abuser appears to be a man, the woman watching will be more sympathetic to the victim and support him in his claims. But male bystanders

do not have different views of victims when it comes to sexual appearances. Perhaps because women are relatively more emotional, they bring their own situation and public opinion to bear on incidents such as domestic violence.

3.4 Gender stereotypes about domestic violence in couples of transgender

Because transgender couples and transgender individuals have always been regarded as appendages of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in traditional popular thinking, this directly leads to their continuous neglect in the context of domestic violence and becoming an "invisible group" that is not paid attention to. In addition, it is difficult for transgender groups to be directly stereotyped by the public as "male" and "female" in gender groups, so they are not widely discussed. Transgender couples are usually made up of people who are both transgender, or one partner is transgender, and the other is an average person. In the first case, due to the gender stereotype of the public, they still consider the transgender with female characteristics as the victim and the transgender with male characteristics as the perpetrator. The same is an inaccurate judgment from their physiological makeup. For the second type, the situation is even more complicated.

It is believed that transgender people are more likely to be perpetrators if they are individuals with male stereotypes. From the aspect of deprivation of rights, the perpetrators' internalized sense of inadequacy will motivate them to commit violent acts so as to satisfy their own needs for power and control. Because transgender people mostly experience a high degree of internalized inadequacy, even without any evidence, the public still thinks that it is easy for transgender people to use domestic violence to determine that their majesty has not been destroyed. And transgender people are more likely to be victims if they are individuals with female stereotypes. Because transgender people are not widely accepted by society, they can easily lose their jobs or refuse to work for fear of their identity being exposed. In such cases, they have to rely on their partner's assets and have no economic independence, making them vulnerable to male violence.

In addition, it is difficult for transgender and transgender people to obtain the rights to protect themselves in the case of domestic violence. First, most of them do not know whether they enjoy the same protected rights as normal men and women. Thereby voluntarily giving up proper means to protect themselves. Secondly, in the public view, many people believe that transgender women do not enjoy the same rights and interests as normal women, and even they are more likely to have mental defects. Some social public welfare organizations, such as women's protection organizations and legal organizations, also deliberately marginalize lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women. In such cases, even though they know they can be protected by law, they cannot get help.

4. Implications

This paper mainly reviews the possible influence of domestic violence on different gender groups in the eyes of onlookers and the public, including heterosexual groups and same-sex groups. It provides a complete data review for others to study this field in the future.

However, there are still some shortcomings. For example, in the transgender population, there is a lot of value to be studied in terms of how gender stereotypes influence which party they support or reject in the case of possible domestic violence and what kind of views they hold on domestic violence. This area is relatively empty and can be pushed forward.

5. Conclusion

Gender stereotypes have always existed in public opinion, leading them to have completely different views on the gender combination in different situations in the context of domestic violence and subjectively determine the victim and the perpetrator through gender stereotypes. A general rule is that men or men with masculine characteristics are more likely to be identified by the public as perpetrators, and women or women with feminine characteristics are more likely to be identified by

the public as victims. In addition, the gender of the bystander will also influence the bystander's views on domestic violence against same-sex couples. For example, women may bring themselves to believe that perpetrators with male characteristics should be punished more severely, while many people, among perpetrators with male characteristics and perpetrators with female characteristics, believe that perpetrators with female characteristics should be punished more because such behavior breaks the stereotype of female vulnerability in people's habitual thoughts. In the transgender group, male transsexuals are speculated by the public to be more likely to be the perpetrators of violence because they may value their rights and authority more. In contrast, female transsexuals are likely to be abused by men because they may be afraid to work and have no economic foundation.

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