THESIS

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Domestic Violence Issue In China

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1 Introduction

With the rapid growth of GDP in China, the house, the work, the family, the marriage, the health conditions are rapidly changing simultaneously. People's living standards are continually improving, it seems like people's life is pretty good now, but under this appearance, we must also see the sensitive side of people.

In 2002, a TV series called "Do not talk to strangers" became popular in the whole China, at the same time a social problem is involved: family violence. The hero named An Jiahe, he can not stand his wife has too much communication with other men, in appearance he is integrative and a good husband, but when he returns home, he beats his wife always, but his wife only dare to anger even she is maltreated at home. Art is higher than life, but it comes from life. So we cannot help, but we want to ask, how many families in China has got this social problem of domestic violence?

According to a survey showed by China women's federation, from 270 million Chinese families, there are 81 million families have different degrees of domestic violence, which accounts for more than 30% of the total, and 90% of perpetrators are men. (He Yong & Zhuo Zhiqing, 2004) From these data, we can see that domestic violence is not only a problem of family, but it also needs the attention of the whole society, it should rise to the national responsibility.

Domestic violence refers to the abuse, injury, insult, abandonment, and mental torture among family members and their close relatives. Domestic violence is not only a general family problem but a severe social problem. It has become a social problem that prevails in many countries in the world. This phenomenon exists to varying degrees in both developed and developing countries. Domestic violence is continually growing, it has endangered the victims' physical and mental health, violates the legitimate rights and interests of victims, let social stability and development destroyed, and has aroused widespread concern in the society. A family is the basic unit of society, the development of the family, it is an organic part of population development, and it is also the basis and
premise of social harmony and happiness. I think there are three important things if people want happiness, that is healthy body, harmonious family and a happy marriage. Chinese people are so traditional, in many Chinese people's mind, the family is the most important thing in one's whole life since ancient times. Chinese people always pay attention to the sense of happiness of the family. Every family hopes that their home can be happy and enjoyable. But there are also many unfortunate families, in reality, many families used to have the experience of domestic violence, and many families are still suffering the domestic violence now. To provide more comprehensive and appropriate assistance to victims of domestic violence, we still have a long way to go. In my thesis, I will discuss its current situation, causes, and countermeasures, and mainly focus on female victims. I hope that Chinese people can make full use of the conditions created by economic development and social development, make full use of legal resources, and resolutely fight against any form of domestic violence, reducing family violence to a minimum level.

First, I would like to talk about the definition of domestic violence. Not only the official interpretation but also what people think. What is domestic violence? What kind of situation can we call "domestic violence"? The answer to this question is the basis of the whole thesis; if we don't know what is domestic violence, we can not continue the process. I think the answer can be offered by interview and questionnaire and show people's opinions. From it, we can also try to understand the current situation about domestic violence in Chinese families. Then we need to figure out the reason why. It should include different points of view. Psychological, economic, health, social position, ability and so on. How do Chinese people think about "domestic violence"? How do people define domestic violence? In my point of view, domestic violence in China is widespread. But is my opinion correct? We can check it during the research and survey.

Then, what is the effect based on domestic violence? I want to know people’s opinion, for example, the development of the society? The economic part? The impact on family happiness? On the other hand, if the violence happens less, what is the effect? Will
people feel happier? Will we have a better society?

After the effect part, another important issue is how to change the situation, how to protect these victims. I hope this thesis can help some victims began to fight for their rights, even just a few people. At last, I will write a conclusion to cover the whole thesis.

2 Literature Review

2.1 The definition of the domestic violence.

Society is composed of several involved groups, and family is the basic unit of society. Domestic violence may occur because of some historical tradition. The discrimination of women and patriarchal culture is the origin of violence. The level of education is no longer the key point of beat wife. A primary factor is a man as a husband still keep the idea that fist first or not. In other words, it's tough for a man to do not hurt his wife if the gender discrimination and patriarchal thinking are full of his mind. “Family Harmony” has a close relationship with the society. Domestic violence is a common issue for everyone all over the world, it has nothing to do with gender, race, religion, class and so on. To study domestic violence is undoubted, in addition to this, we also have to figure out how to solve this severe issue. Here we firstly clear the definition of domestic violence.

Domestic violence refers to the objective violence form one family member to another one within a particular family range. Including beatings, corporal punishment, abusiveness, mutilation, restrictions on personal liberty, cold violence, etc. (He Yinsong, 2000, p35). Basically, we can divide this into four parts: physical abuse, mental violence, sexual violence. And the last one is a new form of violence in nowadays -- cold violence. In this modern society, the most typical domestic violence form is couples violence, however this couples violence mainly refers to the violence from husband to wife. In a WHO (World Health Organization) study, 30% of women experienced violence from an
intimate partner. In the same WHO study, 7.2% of women reported the non-partner sexual assault. (Barbara Krahé, 2018, p6) According to the degree of harm, we usually divide it into terrible violence and general violence.

JR Soc Med analysed that domestic violence is prevalent worldwide, the victims always and first arise health problems. The rate of suffering sexual violence and physical violence will increase with the increasing age. (JR Soc Med, 2002, p308) Violence is a public health problem, it is necessary to find a way to provide psychological and legal support for the victim. (Ramazan Tetikcok et al., 2016, p157)

2.2 Theories explaining domestic violence

2.2.1 Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs Theory

Domestic violence can be a factor which makes the society unstable, hinder social development. Nowadays, the solution to reduce domestic violence usually focuses on how to remedy after violence happened. But this is not the best significant way to remove domestic violence, cut off the violence in the source is much more helpful. As a human being, we all have the needs of being respected and self-fulfilling, and when the needs can not be satisfied, some people will try to prove themselves. (Zhou Xiaqing & Dong Hong, 2015, p6 ) For example, creating a career is one of the best ways to prove oneself, someone does a thriving business somehow equal to respect and affirmation. This theory will help us to analyze and prevent domestic violence.

There are five different levels of Maslow's hierarchy of need theory: physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs and self-actualisation. Connecting with domestic violence, one common thing in these 5 different stages is some of the needs of perpetrators and victims have not been met, even the problem which should be solved is different in every stage, and there's no doubt that we should consider different people's situation and their needs, then give them unequal solution or advice. Those victims' needs are still at a low level. They do not have the energy to
think about other things, the society as a group, can not develop without individual's development. And violence also hinders victims' development, because only the person achieved his or her low-level needs, he or she will start to consider a higher level needs. (doorwayblogguest, 2010)

2.2.2 The Cycle Theory Of Violence & Social Learning Theory

Basically, in the framework of The Cycle Theory of Violence, Lenore E. Walker described three violence phases in 1979: Tension-building Phase, Acute Battering Incident, Loving contrition. (Eric Hickey, 2003) Abusers' anger, accusations, quarrels and pressure increased in phase, and this phases range can be several minutes or a couple of months. When the abuser has nowhere to vent his or her pressure, the tense relationship between abuser and victim will constantly be rising. Then they will turn to the acute or crisis phase. It includes the physical abuse, sexual abuse, speaking threats, emotional abuse. It usually happens because of small things. Once this phase breaks out, the abuser is difficult to stop the violence. The victim can only accept it passively, disbelief and avoid it, at the same time he or she will desalinate of the degree of injury. Emotional collapse may happen after the violence, and then comes a heavy feeling of helplessness, melancholy, isolation, delayed seeking help, some of them may try to change the state of affairs. In the third stage, calm or honeymoon phase, visualise three words to describe this stage, it can be peace, love and disavow. On the one hand, the abuser may show his or her regret, desalinate the degree of injury, ask the forgive from victim and promise he or she will never do it again. The abuser needs the reception from victim to prove themselves. They may have a different feeling. On the other hand, the victim will be persuaded, feeling that the abuser needs him or her, and finally believe the abuser. And then back to the first phase, but in some cases, the calm or honeymoon phase might be skipped. Abuser's sense of guilt will be lower than before, with the time past, abuser even thinks violence is a thing which is natural. "Because I'm drunk ... . Because you didn't cook ... ." (Lenore E. Walker, 1979)

The best and most important time to cut down the violence is in tension-building phase,
once the violence happened, the frequency of violence will increase faster and faster. When the violence rate increased, the honeymoon phase will decrease. The more violence cycle, the stronger severity of violent abuse.

Indeed, we can explain the cycle theory of violence in another way. A person who lives in a family which had violence experience before will learn violence by following parents' or other elder's behaviour. A child who witnessed violence happening once, he or she can be a potential abuser, the effect will appear in the future. This is the violence transfer among generations, creating a cycle of violence. In this kind of version, a way to reduce violence is separating children from domestic violence environment. (Huang Lie, 2002, p60) In other words, it belongs to Bandura's Social Learning Theory. What will this bring to children? They will begin to accept the stereotypical gender role that man keep the control power and woman is appurtenant. Violence is short of law and public opinion sanction, thereby let domestic violence keep happening.

2.2.3 Resource Theory
Resources and rights are correlated with each other, more sources mean more power and rights, here including the violence. In Liao Jiayang's view, resources are limited and also unevenly distributed. (Rao Wenci, 2009) For example, a working husband and a full-time housewife, wife spends more time on housework than her husband. It means, husband earns money and uses this to get the right to do less housework. Here we have to highlight that a person with fewer resources doesn't mean he or she will not be the abuser. For example, the husband with low social status may use violence to gain respect in his family.

2.2.4 Feminist Theory
This view argues that domestic violence is fundamentally a product of patriarchy and one of the way for men to control women. Violent marital relations reflect men's domination of women. Feminism analysis of "why men violent his wife." from a gender perspective, a man violence toward a woman who is in close relationships with him is a
way to show the superiority of men, maintain their authority and control women. Gender discrimination and prejudice caused by gender inequality exist in large numbers in social and family settings, and men keep the leading position in society, making it possible for women to experience violence based gender inequality at all stages of the life cycle and it also reflects the inequality power relationship between men and women in history and reality.

Feminists generally think women are the direct violence behaviour's victims in a family, the origin is inequality, discrimination and prejudice in gender. (Yin Fang, 2014) Patriarchy and emphasises have led from men, the gender role that men take the responsibility of earn money and women take care of a family. They think women can give birth, at the same time they can extend this ability to take care of all other family members. However, men as the breadwinner, they can arrange things, they are stronger so that people think men are better than women, from this point, to be obedient to man has become a woman's virtue.

I used to hear someone saying that a woman violated by a man is because she has a problem. Once domestic violence happens, people sometimes put the reason on the victim, and this is a fallacy of violence. Law protects personal rights and no one can violate the rights of others by violence. Invincible accused the victim, in fact, is the secondary harm to a victim so that victims feel helpless and disappointed without the support of society. Traditional Chinese culture's attitude towards to violence is quite good-tempered. In traditional culture, the family is a private area, and domestic violence belongs to housework, others shouldn't intervene it. Criticize victim and even ask a victim to endure it, these thinking and attitude create difficulties for a victim to seek support and help. Contemporary women, even those with high-level education, are still profoundly influenced by the traditional gender culture. Patience with domestic violence will not ease or disappear domestic violence and will only escalate it.
2.2.5 Psychology view: Learned Helplessness Theory

Why can a part of victims not leave the domestic violence and abuser? Martin Seligman (Christopher Peterson et al., 1993, p17-18) created Learned Helplessness Theory and explained this issue. He uses some dogs to experiment then he got the result that when an animal or a person feel helpless, it/ he /she tries to avoid a negative situation. "Seligman described their condition as learned helplessness, or not trying to get out of a negative situation because the past has taught you that you are helpless." (Natalie Boyd, n.d, n.p) Seligman's Learned Helplessness Theory Applies to Human, in other words, if someone feels helpless, he/ she will give up to get rid of the current dilemma. A victim experienced the violence, it will let her know that she can not change the situation even she tries very hard. So the victim will feel upset or anxious, this kind of psychological disposition will make the detrimental effect on the victim, make her more difficult to do something and save herself. In this case, the victim stays in the violated relationship for a long time. She will be alienated from other family and friends, gradually starts to rely on the abuser regarding finance or psychology. So this is why many victims cannot leave that violence family.

2.2.6 Conflict Theory

The next relevant approach is conflict theory. Conflict theory argues that society is an organised unit, but the conflict is universal and inevitable in society. The origin of conflict is power and wealth and so on, the family organisation always fight with other social organisations. Deqiong Dong has given us an example of it: "more and more women have to leave their family and go to work if economic organisation want to increase profits. It makes both husband and wife in a family stay in the workforce, at the same time, they have to meet the needs of family education and entertainment. Then family's function and other organisation's function have a conflict somehow. And the conflict on the role of husband and wife is also emerging within the family. Ultimately, the family has become a hotbed of family and domestic violence." (Dong Deqiong, 2015, p214)
In conflict theory, domestic violence usually is the way of catharsis for men in social conflict and family conflict, the female victims became men's "vent outlet". In addition to this, in the family with more intimate relationships and more emotional engagement, the violence might be a very dangerous behaviour once conflict emotions break out, once erupted, can be extreme domestic violence. (David L. Weis et al., 2005, p187)

High competitiveness is an important characteristics of modern society, both men and women are under pressure. They often suffer setbacks in society and thus generate social anger. In particular, men's work pressure, social pressure and family pressure are continually rising, based on those pressure, men are easy to bring about some psychological problems, like frustration, anxiety and depression. They can not show this anger to the origin which makes them feel angry, because society is powerful and authoritative. They need to find a chance to catharsis if they cannot be enlightened rightly, then women as a weak group become the victim. Or I can give another example, this is a real story, in some Chinese family, when parents feel upset or frustrated, they may find some reason and scold their children to catharsis, it is the same in a couple of relationships.

Abuser's domestic violence (parents or some other relative) and social defects can be one of the reasons that why domestic violence happens. If the abuser's family has some problem or a broken family, his childhood was experienced in his parents' violent behaviour. It will bring him several negative effects. He can not learn the normal family relationship and the way that how to get along with other people. Also, when he is an adult, but he has not finished the socialization. He does not know how to play the role of a husband and a father. Some people may incorrectly think there's nothing wrong with domestic violence. So domestic violence experience can be another origin that violence happens.
2.3 Research status

2.3.1 Domestic violence from the perspective of sociology

Functionalism regards the family as an organization that performs the functions required by society and emphasises the positive roles that families play in maintaining the stability of social order. Talcott Parsons thinks: "as society changes, the type of family that ‘fits' that society, and the functions it performs the change. The primary family type has changed from the extended family to the nuclear family. The nuclear family fits the more complex industrial society better, but it performs a reduced number of functions."(ReviseSociology, 2014)

Family's function in politics, economy, culture and religion is weaker and weaker. "According to William Fielding Ogburn's view, traditional family at least take the duty of economic, education, protection, amusement, religion and give birth." But with the appear the all kinds of social organizations and the completion of the security system, family's harmony has been broken. (Dong Deqion, 2015, p214) For example, the school takes the place of family and takes the responsibility of the education. Police and prison take the place of family and take the responsibility of protection and punitive function.

According to Social Exchange Theory, when people communicate with others, they always consider the price he/ she may pay or the revenues he/she can get. "When the risks outweigh the rewards, people will terminate or abandon that relationship." (Kendra Cherry, 2018) In China, when someone suffers from domestic violence, the victim usually submits to humiliation, they will tell no one and ask the help from society or some related organizations. Not only women can be the victims, but also men. I think humiliation is one of the reasons that many male victims are more reluctant to tell others. On the other hand, violence is hard to determine in law, so the domestic violence seems like a private crime behaviour. A violent family member may feel that violent behaviour can bring him more benefits. Because he can not only vent his anger but also establish the authority and control family member in this way. Especially those people who keep lower status in society, earn less money, and can't get the respect from
other people. They will more likely want to control family member to balance his mood. So to say the violence bring abusers a lot of benefits, and they wouldn't get the punishment in law.

2.4 The present situation of domestic violence in China

Domestic violence may originate from some economic inequality or social status inequality. In Chinese feudal society, men are the producer in a family, and women are proletariats, women rely on men to make a living. This is how class which between man and woman appeared, and a man is more likely to be violent against his wife when he keeps more sources and greater power.

Let us talk about domestic violence from the perspective of law. All sectors of our society are actively taking various measures to intervene, however, judging from the current situation of China's domestic violence, our intervention in domestic violence is not very effective. Of course, this is due to various reasons. The most important of these is that no specific legislation in China opposing domestic violence. In addition to inadequate legal provisions, insufficient evidence is also a major hurdle. The reason why this happens is that on the one hand, the parties are not sufficiently aware of the evidence and do not pay sufficient attention to the collection of evidence, but more importantly, the current rules of evidence fail to adequately consider the characteristics of domestic violence cases in the collection and confirmation of evidence.

More and more evidence shows that the violent behaviour still in an unshaken position even in the country where formulated relevant laws were introduced to address violence against women. Katherine Brickell mentioned another reason in her journal that why some women victims don not tell the police, they are suffering the domestic violence or ask the policemen to release of these abusers. Because some women have to face the financial difficulties issue without their husband, they have no choice. On the other side, the old and their other family members often force them to forgive the abuser, those
people think men are easy to make mistakes, and violence is men's nature. (Katherine Brickell, 2017, p1367)

According to recent years' reports, around 30% family have different levels of domestic violence. Based on relevant department statistics, compared with the 1980s, domestic violence in China increased by 25.14% in the 1990s. Information from the National People's Congress, some provincial and municipal courts, women's federations shows that 30% marriage cases are due to domestic violence. "The White Paper on Chinese Women" pointed out that the divorce rate is 1.59% in 267 million families in nationwide and based on this data, 25.8% are because of domestic violence. In Taiwan, about 20% to 30% of the top class families have violent incidents. (Zhang Kechun & Ye Dongqing, 2004, p570)

3 Methodology
In my study of domestic violence issue in China, I have used two kinds of methods. One is the individual interview, and another one is the questionnaire.

3.1 Questionnaire
Firstly, about the questionnaire. Questionnaires save time and human resources, that's also the reason why the method of questionnaire is often used. The result of questionnaire is easy to quantify. The form of survey questions, the order of questions, and the methods and methods of answers are all fixed. The survey results are convenient for statistical processing and analysis. There are a large number of related statistical analysis software that can help us conduct data analysis. The questionnaire is useful for me to be familiar with the general situation of domestic violence in China and how people think about domestic violence. The questionnaire can not give me in-depth feedback, but it is an excellent way to understand what is people's general thinking.

I've made two questionnaires, and I sent them by we-chat (a Chinese multi-purpose
messaging and social media app) and email, most of them are strangers. The survey is not representative. The first questionnaire contains 29 questions and 100 people filled it in. It only asks people some basic questions, for example: "Do you gain any information about family violence?" "Which of the following actions do you think belongs to domestic violence?"..... The second questionnaire asks people to choose the frequency of a given experience related to domestic violence. 105 people filled the questionnaire. The options are: never, rarely, sometimes and frequently. This questionnaire is copied form S.A.F.E (SUPPORT IN ABUSIVE FAMILY EMERGENCIES. https://www.safeservices.org/lethality-questionaire/, is from THE FAMILY SECRET, by William A. Stacey and Anson Shupe, Center for Social Research Abuse Index.) And the original questionnaire is from THE FAMILY SECRET, by William A. Stacey and Anson Shupe, Center for Social Research Abuse Index. The data collected from the questionnaire, I will use them to describe the current general domestic violence situation among the respondents reached by the questionnaire.

Questionnaire surveys often fail to meet researcher's needs if a researcher wants to know the user's intentions, motivations, and thinking. In other words, problematic design?? is more difficult and open-ended. For methodology, I think we need to do a lot of other survey activities beyond the questionnaire, such as interviews, observations. Second, the past and present behaviours of the questionnaire survey are more appropriate and cannot be expected to obtain more through questionnaires. Questionnaires are often wide-ranging but not profound. It is a method of using words to conduct dialogues. If there are too many questions, the respondent will feel bored. Therefore, the general questionnaires are relatively brief, and it is impossible to further investigate a certain problem and its causes. Besides, the quality of the survey results is often not guaranteed. Because when the respondent fills in the questionnaire, it is difficult for us to know his or her investigation process. Is this the real respondent we need to investigate? (Sometimes someone pretends to be involved in the survey in order to get rewards and rewards for participating in the survey.) How was the respondent's mood at the time? Does anyone else influence the respondent's answer? Is it to discuss
with others to answer? Is the respondent feel free to fill in the questionnaire? The result is the respondent's real situation or not? Researchers do not know. That's why I have the second research method ---- Interview. (Raymond Opdenakker, 2006)

3.2 Interview

For the course called the individual and group interview in Budapest at Corvinus University, we learned some methods to do the interview. It is a good way to know people's opinion, at the same time I can catch some points and ask deeply. If I hear some interesting idea, I will add it to my thesis too. The main advantages of the interview method are its flexibility, strong reliability, and it can conduct more in-depth and extensive research (Hamza Alshenqeeti, 2014). One of the characteristics of the interview is its flexibility (Saul McLeod, 2014). We can flexibly determine the interviewing question based on the specific circumstances during the interview, we can capture emotions and behaviours, for instance, whether we need to ask further other questions related to the actual motivation of the interviewee (Susan E. DeFranzo, 2014). In addition, the flexibility also reflected that we could prepare different questions for different interviewees based on their characteristics, which makes the interview survey more adaptable than other methods. Furthermore, in the interview, I can use more complex survey questions or interview outlines to obtain more in-depth and detailed results. Interviews can also overcome various shortcomings in the questionnaire survey, such as low recovery rate, extended information feedback period, and require the respondent to have excellent writing skills. At the same time, interviewers can use a variety of methods to determine whether the respondent's response is credible and effective.

3.2.1 Interview design and process

The insufficiency of an interview is that the results of the research are susceptible to the quality of the interviewees, and it is difficult to quantify them. It is time-consuming and laborious and some issues are quite hard to find the interviewees and let them show
their story or experience. When I try to find at least ten interviewees for my research topic, I found it was so difficult. Because many people think that domestic violence is not an honourable experience, some of them even do not want to share this kind of things with their own closest friends or family members. In view of this, questionnaire makes up for a part disadvantage of an interview. On the one hand, I can get the general situation by questionnaires, and on the other side, I can get more detailed and more in-depth information by interview.

Finally, I've got ten interviewees, I know some of them for a long time, I invite them is because I know they had the domestic violence experience before. And others are strangers, I invited some people who filled the questionnaire, ask them are they willing to participate in the interview. Before the interview started, I always sent the <Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed> to every interviewee. Let them understand the basic information about the program, the topic and duration. Besides, to guarantee the privacy of their personal information and all other information they've provided is essential. During the interview, the interviewee can stop the process whenever they want, and they can also refuse to answer some questions. The interview was voluntary, and I did not force them or keep asking questions they don't want to answer. Throughout the whole process of interview, I respected all respondents 100%. Some interviewees show interesting opinion, and I usually ask them in advance whether I can quote or mention it in my thesis. I only quote these with their consent. I can get broader information about how people think of domestic violence issue, and this is very helpful for my follow-up research analysis, help me open my mind and think more in-depth at this issue.

4. Findings
Two questionnaires were released 15 days, from April 1st, 2017, until April 15th, 2017. These were passed by some social application services app (we-chat, questionnaire star) Interviews are done through telephone or voice call and spent five days. In general,
domestic violence is comparatively common in China, people's awareness of domestic violence is not insufficient. However, the gap between reality and ideal is relatively large, people have a rational attitude towards domestic violence, but they are unable to achieve this ideal state.

4.1 Basic information and characteristics of respondents and interviewees

First I would like to talk about the respondents of the questionnaires. The first questionnaire contained 29 questions and 101 people filled it in, 101 questionnaires had valid IP addresses, the effective rate was 100.0%. This questionnaire was basically asking respondents' understanding and views of domestic violence, in addition to this, also asked respondents' gender, age, job, marital status, education experience and their income level per month. More than half respondents are female, 32.67% are male. Speaking the age of these respondents, most of them are between 18 to 25 and between 41 to 50. From the results of marital status, the two most significant groups are "unmarried" (33.66%) and "there is a spouse in the first marriage" (48.51%), 67 respondents who have a spouse now or have had a spouse. In the part of inquiring about the educational level of respondents, most of them have achieved bachelor degree, but it didn't reach the half of a total number of respondents. The great majority of respondents are students and self-employed, but we also have a retired person, civil servant and so on. The option of "Personal salary per month" included the following ranges: less than 1000 RMB (equal to 130 EURO), between 1000-3000 RMB (equal to 130 EURO to 390 EURO), more than 3000 RMB but less than 5000 RMB (5000 RMB equal to 650 EURO), more than 5000 RMB. Most people choose "more than 5000 RMB" and "no fixed income. The salary level of "more than 5000 RMB" is not bad in China.

There is no related question asking respondent's personal information in the second questionnaire. The second questionnaire asks people to choose the frequency of a given experience related to domestic violence. 105 people filled it in and the effective rate was 100.0%. The options are: never, rarely, sometimes and frequently. Seven respondents
are located in foreign countries, others are located in China, within 21 provinces. (See Chart 1 below)

[ Chart 1: Geographic analysis ]

During the interview, I totally have ten interviewees, most of them are students between 20 to 25 years old. Many of them have had the experience of domestic violence in their own family or used to hear (or see) someone they know has had suffered the violence, including husband's violence against his wife and parents' violence against their child.

4.2 The understanding of domestic violence

In the first questionnaire, Question No.11 asks people whether they know domestic violence includes physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse. (Roxanne Dryden-Edwards) 74.26% respondents do know domestic violence include those 4 part. Question No.10: "Which of the following actions do you think belong to domestic violence in addition to walloping?" (Beat up family member is domestic violence behaviour in everyone's mind.) It is multiple choice questions, the options are insulting, reprimanding; make fun of each other's flaws or shortcomings; long-term cold violence; restrictions on making friends/ get along with friends; forced sex; abuse due to
childbirth problems; economic control and sanctions; lock up; other. There are five options' percentage more than 70%, and the most frequent answer is "long-term cold violence". (See chart 2: Which of the following actions do you think belong to domestic violence in addition to walloping?)

The absence of all communication – verbal and physical – can make cold violence harder to bear even than the physical and verbal abuse generally associated with serious domestic disputes. (Sun Xi, 2011)

[Chart 2: Which of the following actions do you think belong to domestic violence in addition to walloping?]

Within Chinese laws and regulations concerning domestic violence such as Criminal Law, Marriage Laws, Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Rights and Interest in women etc., there are many provisions that interdict domestic violence, but none of them has a detailed and precise description of emotionally abusive or cold violence. (Chen Shaoxing et al., 2017, p4) Before seeing the results of this question, I hypothesized that a big part of people will not put cold violence into domestic violence. But based on the data, I am happy to see that most people do think cold violence belongs to domestic violence. The damage from cold violence to people is quite a lot, and I think mental pain is harder to cure than physical pain somehow in domestic violence issue.
It was in Question 13 & 14 that asked respondents' opinion about who is the abuser and victim in domestic violence situation. As the proportion shows in chart 3 and chart 4, people generally think the abuser is husband, and the victim is the wife, followed by the child.

[ Chart 3: “Who is usually the abuser of domestic violence in your opinion?” ]

[ Chart 4: “Who is usually the victim of domestic violence in your opinion?” ]

"No fight, no talent" and "Filial son under the stick", as the old Chinese saying goes, many families do not classify violence against children in domestic violence, they think it is just a way to educate their child, and it is also ubiquitous in a Chinese family. In many families, when the child does something wrong or did not good during the exam, his/her parents will reproach even beat him/her. This kind of domestic violence has a harmful influence on children. It only makes children more rebellious, inferior, psychologically distorted and even goes to extremes. We always say that the child is the
future of a country, but we have not face the problem of violence against children correctly.

I also tried to understand people's definition of domestic violence during the interview. Every interviewee told me that even the violence only happens once, it is domestic violence. Someone also says that as long as the harm was done, it belongs to domestic violence, whether it is physical or spiritual hurt, or even based on daily life. And three interviewees mentioned that domestic violence is not only happening within family members: husband and wife, parents and children etc., but also refers to the violence between 2 people who have established a long-term stable relationship, for example, love affair and cohabitation.

4.3 The universality of domestic violence
In the first questionnaire, question No.7 asked respondents' opinion about the frequency of domestic violence in China. 66 respondents say there is some family violence happened in China, 21 respondents chose the option which is "very common", and only 3 of them think domestic violence basically does not exist in a Chinese family.

![Chart 5: What do you think about the frequency of domestic violence in China?]

As I stated before, the second questionnaire asks people to choose the frequency of a
given experience which can point out potential domestic violence problem, this questionnaire is full of test questions, after we calculate a respondent's total score, we can probably know what kind of situation he/she is in at present. According to the result of the second questionnaire, in 4 different level of abusive, the amount of "non-abusive" is 36 out of 105, 32 people in "moderately abusive" level, and 33 out of 105 respondents are in "seriously abusive", we have to pay attention to these 4 people who are in "dangerously abusive" degree. (We can check the proportion on Chart 6, see below.)

![Chart 6: Is your relationship abusive? The extent of domestic violence]

I put the specific degree information in the Appendix (Richard Perla, 2015, p50 - 52) Based on the data we have got, considering the specific description of each abusive level at the same time, only 34.2% respondents are in "non-abusive" situation and entirely live without violence behavior, the remaining 60% of respondents are experiencing varying degrees of domestic violence, to some of them just happened once, and some of them are in danger. From this point of view, it is not hard to see that the domestic violence is quite common among the respondents. But, the description of each abusive degree and all the test questions may not show the situation in reality 100%. Even the second questionnaire was published and relatively scientific, but this cannot be used as the sole basis for consideration.
Question No.26 of the first questionnaire is "Have you ever experienced domestic violence/still suffering the domestic violence? ", the collected data is a little bit different with questionnaire No.2. There are two options, one is "YES", another one is "NO". 13 out of 101 respondents chose "YES", they have such domestic violence experience, and 88 respondents show that they have nothing to do with domestic violence. However, we can not make sure that the data is completely true and accurate, the necessary thing is to consider that some respondents may not want to disclose their real situation.

In order to understand domestic violence in a relatively comprehensive way, now let us pay attention to the interviews, and reflect on the universality of domestic violence again. During the interview, 3 out of 10 interviewees have had the experience of domestic violence in their own family, five interviewees used to hear (or saw) someone they know have had suffered the violence.

Thus we can see from these data and information that violence is widespread even around us.

4.4 The occurrence of domestic violence

Question No.16 examined why domestic violence happens from respondents' point of view. The question was "What are the causes of domestic violence in your opinion? ", multiple choice question, the percentage of answer "conflict within the family" was 71.29%, answer "perpetrators' personal reasons" was 65.35%, "social environmental impact" and "economic disputes" were respectively 42.67% and 34.75%.

After summing up and sorting out the respondents' ideas, I classified the causes of domestic violence that the respondent considers as the following four categories: machismo (Jered Pigeon, p3 ), abuser's personal reasons, the communication between family members and economic issue.
Firstly, machismo. “Machismo is a group of attitudes that allow the male to overly assert his presence on women, but also around other men (as in the case of excessive alcohol abuse).” (Jered Pigeon, n.d, p.3) In traditional Chinese culture, the idea of "men are superior to women " is deeply rooted, however we are always promoting equality of men and women. However, this kind of thinking still exists in many people's minds today. Because of some factors such as economic and physical power, men's social and family status is usually higher than women. They want to and enjoy to control women, to declare sovereignty and suppress women. Thus, violence has become one of the ways to control the partner.

Secondly, abuser's personal reasons. It contains many aspects, for example, work and life pressure, domestic violence experienced in childhood, education experience, violent personality and so on.

Next one is the communication between family members. Valid and correct communication is extremely important, bad communication may cause a lot of disagreement, couples may make an argument because of some small things. At the same time, there is another possibility: loss of affection by a couple or husband and wife. All of these may trigger abuse by the abuser.

At last, the economic issue. As I have written in the previous chapters, based on Resource Theory, resources and rights are correlated with each other, and more sources mean more power and rights. (Rao Wenci, 2009) On the one hand, in China, men's income degree usually higher than women, they are the pillar of their family. On the other hand, we can see more things if we consider the Conflict Theory. The origin of conflict is power and wealth and so on, sometimes women want to work, then the problem comes up -- how a woman balances family and work? Under this imbalance, the family organization began to fight with other social organizations, men and women's pressure and negative emotions will increase as a result. Domestic violence usually is the way of catharsis for men in social conflict and family conflict, the female victims
became men's "vent outlet".

4.5 After domestic violence & How the victims defend their own rights

Question No.20 asked, "Do you know that you should go to the relevant department to do the injury assessment within 24 hours after being seriously hurt by domestic violence?" 45.54% of respondents indicated they know about this, and 54.46% respondents don't know that. Both of these data are around half, but "don't know" is more than "know". According to The Cycle Theory Of Violence & Social Learning Theory (Eric Hickey, 2003), once violence happens, it is tough to stop. Therefore, do injury assessment and retain evidence is a significant thing.

[Chart 7: What should a victim do after suffered domestic violence? ]

Question No. 19 was a multiple choice question that asked respondents' opinion about what should a victim do after suffered domestic violence. The sequence-based on five clearly given options is: call the police, complain to Women's Federation, ask for help fro residents' committees, resist, pour out to others, endure. (See Chart 7) From this point of view, it can be seen that respondents are relatively clear and rational about the behaviour that should be done after a family violence.

Let us turn to the information from interview now. Among ten interviewees, three interviewees' family had domestic violence. One of the interviewees is victim itself, in
the case of the other two interviewees, the situation was their father always beats their mother. Five interviewees used to hear someone they know has had suffered the violence. But, the result of the violent incident is basically same, most of the victims chose to end the relationship, they just endured the violence. Only one chose to divorce with her husband (I've got the permission from this interviewee to innominate share the experience), and the reason is complicated. It is not only because of the domestic violence behaviour, her husband gamble for a long time and loses a lot of money, but her husband also had an illegal love affair outside and had an illegitimate child. This interviewee told me that if her husband does not gamble and does not have that illegitimate child, she wouldn not choose to divorce her husband, one of the reason is in order to give her daughter a complete family.

From the questionnaire survey, people seem relatively rational in the face of domestic violence. However, from the fact, I found that a big part of victims chooses to endure the violence. Although some people have tried to call the police or negotiate with the abuser, it does not change the consequences. From this point of view, we still have a lot of things to do, such as improving the "Anti-domestic Violence Law", increase publicity on domestic violence, build more violence shelters an so on.

5 Conclusion

Some related statistics show that the incidence of domestic violence in China is between 29.7% and 35.7%, and the victims are mostly women. (Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2016) But it is usually difficult for us to discuss China's domestic violence through official data. From questionnaires and interviews, I have learned a lot: in China, the domestic violence situation is not optimistic. The abuser's violence is usually caused by many reasons, for example, external pressure, self-character and disease. Victims prefer to remain silent, they do not want to receive two or more injuries because of reporting. At the same time, there is an old Chinese saying: "do not wash your dirty linen in public", they often think domestic violence is that kind of "dirty linen". In my point of view, it is more important for these victims to get rid of domestic
violence than counting the statistical violence data.

Domestic violence has brought a lot of negative impacts. I think this is a well-known fact. It impairs feelings between husband and wife, leads to family breakdown, the threat to the health of the victim, even to his/her life. Children who grow up in a domestic violence environment will also be affected. Besides, domestic violence brings bad social consequences and significantly jeopardise social stability.

When we discuss how to protect the rights of victims after domestic violence occurs and how to get rid of domestic violence, people's ideas are sensible, but it is difficult to implement them. "The People's Republic of China Anti-domestic Violence Law" was formally implemented on March 1st, 2016. (Unicef, 2016) Since then, family violence has laws to follow, it was a huge step to improve domestic violence in China. Until now, only two years past, we are not familiar with the specific implementation of "The People's Republic of China Anti-domestic Violence Law" yet, what we need to do is to promote and disseminate the "Anti-Domestic Violence Law" to more people, especially those who are suffering domestic violence.

Domestic violence is not a simple issue that one institution or one organization can solve, and it can not be solved in a short time. Not only government, judicial department and other related institutions, but also everyone in society, we need to join hands and take up corresponding responsibilities to work together to solve and reduce domestic violence.
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Appendix:

7.1 Questionnaire No.1

For all people, basic questions
1. Which category below includes your age?
   A. <18
   B. 18-20
   C. 21-29
   D. 30-39
   E. 40-49
   F. 50-59
   G. 60 or older

2. What is your gender?
   A. Female
   B. Male

3. Marital status
   A. unmarried
   B. Life partner (living together as a couple, as a partner)
   C. There is a spouse in the first marriage
   D. Remarriage with spouse
   E. Divorce or Widowed

4. Education experience
   A. Junior high school and below
   B. High school or secondary school
   C. College
   D. Bachelor
   E. Master and above
5. What’s your job?
A. students
B. Farmers
C. Self-employed
D. Retire at home
E. Retired but still active in the job market
F. Civil servant
G. State-owned enterprises and private enterprises
H. Others

6. Personal salary per month
A. No fixed income
B. Less than 1000 yuan
C. 1000~3000 yuan
D. 3001~5000 yuan
E. 5000 or more

7. What do you think about the frequency of domestic violence in China?
A. Very common
B. There are some
C. basically does not exist
D. No sure

8. Do you gain any information about family violence?
A. YES
B. NO

9. Which channels do you use to get the information about family violence?
A. Internet
B. TV
C. Books and Newspapers
D. heard about it
E. Others (please specify)

10. Which of the following actions do you think belong to domestic violence? (multiple responses possible)
   A. Insulting, reprimanding
   B. Make fun of each other's flaws or shortcomings
   C. Long-term ignorance of each other
   D. Limiting friends
   E. Forced sex
   F. Abuse due to childbirth problems
   G. Economic control and sanctions
   H. Incarceration detention
   I. Other, (please specify)

11. Did you know domestic violence includes physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse?
   A. Yes
   B. No

12. Have you or anyone you know been in a domestic violence situation?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Not Sure

13. Do you think that the perpetrator of domestic violence usually is
   A. husband
   B. wife
   C. child
D. Intimate partner in love or cohabitation
E. Other

14. Do you think that the abuser of domestic violence is usually
A. husband
B. wife
C. child
D. Old man
E. Intimate partner in love or cohabitation
F. Other

15. What do you think is the nature of domestic violence?
A. Illegal
B. Private affairs
C. Crime
D. Normal vent
E. Not sure

16. What do you think what are the causes of domestic violence?
A. Conflict within the family
B. Perpetrators personal reasons
C. Social environmental impact
D. Economic disputes
E. other

17. If there is domestic violence in your family, it may be due to ( if no, you can skip it)
A. Hitting, insulting, reprimanding
B. Make fun of each other's flaws or shortcoming
C. Long-term ignore each other
D. Limiting friends
E. Forced sex
F. Abuse due to childbirth problems
G. Economic control and sanction
H. Incarceration detention
I. Other

18. What’s your opinion about domestic violence’s effect?
   A. To make family members feel indifferent
   B. Affecting children's healthy growth
   C. Lead to divorce
   D. Threatening the victim’s physical and mental health and life safety
   E. Cause social instability
   F. Affecting social harmony
   G. Other

19. What do you think should be done when a victim has suffered domestic violence?
   A. Endure yourself
   B. Pour out to others
   C. Call the police
   D. Resist
   E. Asked for help from neighbourhood committees
   F. Complain to Women's Federation
   G. Other

20. Do you know that you can go to the relevant department to do the injury assessment within 24 hours after being seriously hurt by domestic violence?
   A. Yes
   B. No

21. In your opinion, the best way to stop domestic violence is to
A. Punishment according to law
B. Mediation agencies negotiated solutions
C. Unit criticism and education
D. Private communication
E. Other

22. Do you know where a domestic violence shelter is located?
   A. Yes
   B. No

23. Did you think that children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to become adult perpetrators themselves?
   A. Yes
   B. No

24. Do you believe domestic violence shelters are helpful for women and children in domestic violence situation(s)?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Not Sure

25. What do you think the victims of domestic violence need most?
   A. Legal rights
   B. Employment or economic support
   C. Psychological counselling
   D. Family support

26. Have you experienced domestic violence / Still suffering the domestic violence?
   A. YES
   B. NO
27. If you are a victim or survivor of abuse. What types of abuse have you/do you suffer? (please tick all which apply)
   A. Physical abuse
   B. Verbal abuse
   C. Sexual abuse
   D. Financial abuse
   E. Emotional/psychological abuse
   F. Spiritual abuse
   G. If you have suffered any other form of abuse, please specify

28. What was your reaction to the experience of domestic violence?
   A. Doing nothing
   B. Telling to nobody
   C. Discussing with friends
   D. Going to courts

29. Do you think there is a need to establish an agency that specializes in domestic violence?
   A. No need
   B. Is necessary
   C. urgent need
   D. Indifferent

The questionnaire was conducted in Chinese: https://www.wjx.cn/jq/22592484.aspx

7.2 Questionnaire No.2
Only for a person who is married/divorced/have a life partner
For question 1 - 14, the answers and point values are as follows:

FREQUENTLY  3
SOMETIMES   2
RARELY      1
NEVER       0

1. _____ Does your partner continually monitor your time and make you account for every minute (when you run errands, visit friends, commute to work, etc.?)

2. _____ Does your partner ever accuse you of having affairs or act suspicious that you are having affairs?

3. _____ Is your partner ever rude to your friends?

4. _____ Does your partner ever discourage you from starting friendships with other people?

5. _____ Do you ever feel isolated and alone, as if there is nobody close to you to confide in?

6. _____ Is your partner overly critical of daily things, such as your clothing or your appearance?

7. _____ Does your partner demand a strict account of how you spend money?

8. _____ Does your partner’s mood change radically from very calm to very angry, or vice versa?

9. _____ Is your partner disturbed by you working or by the thought of you working?

10. _____ Does your partner pressure you for sex much more often than you would like?

11. _____ Does your partner become angry if you don’t want to go along with his/her requests for sex?

12. _____ Does your partner become angry more easily when drinking?

13. _____ Do you quarrel much over financial matters?

14. _____ Do you quarrel much about having children or raising them?

For question 15-27, the answers and point values are as follows:
15. _____ Does your partner ever strike you with hands or feet (slap, punch, kick, etc.)?
16. _____ Does your partner ever strike you with an object?
17. _____ Does your partner ever threaten you with an object or weapon?
18. _____ Does your partner ever threaten to commit suicide or kill you?
19. _____ Does your partner ever give you visible injuries (welts, bruises, cuts, on the head?
20. _____ Have you ever had to treat any injuries from your partner’s violence with first aid?
21. _____ Have you ever had to seek professional aid for any injury at a medical clinic, doctor’s office, or hospital emergency room?
22. _____ Does your partner ever hurt you sexually or make you engage in sex against your will?
23. _____ Is your partner ever violent toward children?
24. _____ Is your partner ever violent toward other people outside your home and family?
25. _____ Does your partner ever throw objects or break things when angry?
26. _____ Has your partner ever been in trouble with the police?
27. _____ Have you ever called the police or tried to call them because you felt you or other members of your family were in danger?

If you are interested in your result, you can calculate your total score and check it here.

SCORE CHART:
120-94: DANGEROUSLY ABUSIVE
93-37: SERIOUSLY ABUSIVE
36-15: MODERATELY ABUSIVE
14-0: NON-ABUSIVE

Result:
A person with a score of 0 – 14 lives in a non-abusive relationship. The sorts of strains this person experiences are not unusual in modern homes, and he/she and the two partners deal with them non-violently. A person with a score in the 15 – 36 range, however, definitely does live in a home where some violence has been experienced at least once in a while. It may be that this is a relationship where the violence is just beginning, or perhaps for whatever reason, it has stopped at this level of severity. But in a new relationship, there is a good reason to expect it will eventually escalate into more serious forms and may occur more frequently.

A person with scores in the 37 – 93 range are in a seriously abusive situation that can, under outside pressures or with the sudden strain of a family emergency, move into the dangerously severe range. In a seriously abusive situation, serious injury is quite probable if it has not already occurred. Much of this abuse is assault, pure and simple, by a violent person. A person here needs to consider finding counselling, talking with the partner about counselling if he/she will accept the idea, or sorting things out after going to a shelter. This person should seriously consider getting help, even leaving.

A person with scores in the top range of 94 – 120 need to consider even more seriously the option of leaving the relationship at least temporarily (and possibly soon). The violence will not “take care of itself” or miraculously disappear. Over time, the chances are very good that the person’s life will literally be in jeopardy more than once.

The questionnaire was conducted in Chinese: https://www.wjx.cn/m/22590017.aspx
7.3 Interview guide

1. Can you introduce yourself for a little bit? (age, job, education experience, marriage......)

2. In your opinion, what is domestic violence?

3. Why does domestic violence happen?

4. What is the effect of domestic violence?

5. Are there any common characteristics of abusers?

6. Do you think victim feel trapped?

7. Many female victims stay for children, how do you think about it?

8. In your opinion, what is the possible solution for those victims to get rid of domestic violence (expect to depend on themselves)

9. Do you know the case of Li Yang’s domestic violence in 2011? Can you show me your thinking of this?

10. When Li Yang did his self-defense in the court, he said "I did not often beat her. However, she came to accuse me." Is "not often" means domestic violence doesn't exist?

11. He also said that Chinese and American cultures are different. We do know that there is some difference between Chinese and American cultures, then I want to know that is beat his wife is an acceptable thing in Chinese culture to a certain extent?

12. Having suffered domestic violence, who should manage this issue?

13. Some people think that domestic violence is a kind of family disputes. Some people are worried because they believe if domestic violence legislates, the couple have the opportunity to be reconciled originally, after the legislation, they have bigger chance to divorce. Do you think domestic violence should require legislation?

14. In families where criminal cases occur, 80% is because of "treat violence with violence", those victims usually choose to kill the perpetrator in order to protect themselves or other family member. The judgment of the court is often the death penalty, the death penalty or life imprisonment, these are heavy penalties, do you think it is fair? In other words, do you think the court should give a lighter punishment for this kind of "treat violence with violence" behaviour?
15. What’s your idea about deal with domestic violence issue?
16. What would you do if you see someone else is suffering domestic violence?
17. Have you ever experienced domestic violence? Is anybody around you experienced domestic violence?
18. How does the domestic violence happen? (the first time, how long, frequency, how, what happened, what did you do, the result......)
19. What’s your feeling after experienced the domestic violence? (Indifferent, fear, feel embarrassed, got used to)
20. What did you do after the violence behaviour?
21. Why don’t you leave?
22. Do you have any suggestion about preventing domestic violence?
23. Do you think it’s nesscery to establish a special agency to deal with domestic violence?
24. Are you willing to participate in organized anti-domestic violence campaigns?

( The whole interview process was in Chinese.)

7.4 Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed

Date:
Dear xxxxxx:
This letter is an invitation to consider participating in a study I am conducting as part of my BA degree in the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy at the Corvinus University of Budapest. I would like to provide you with more information about this project and what your involvement would entail if you decide to take part.

This study will focus on the domestic violence issue in China. Society is composed of several complex groups, and family is the basic unit of society, family harmony has a close relationship with the society harmony and development. Domestic violence is a
common issue for everyone all over the world, it has nothing to do with gender, race, religion, class and so on. To study domestic violence is certainly, in addition to this, we also have to figure out how to solve this serious issue.

Participation in this study is voluntary. It will involve an interview of approximately 30 minutes. You may decline to answer any of the interview questions if you so wish. Further, you may decide to withdraw from this study at any time without any negative consequences by advising the researcher. With your permission, the interview will be tape-recorded but if you are unhappy with this I can make written notes. Only I and my examiners will have access to the recording. All information you provide is considered completely confidential. Your name will not appear in any thesis or report resulting from this study, however, with your permission anonymous quotations may be used.

If you have any questions regarding this study or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please contact me at (+3670-212-0566) or by e-mail at (Julan.xu@yahoo.com). You can also contact my supervisor, Éva Perpék (Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy) at e-mail (eva.perpek@uni-corvinus.hu).

I very much look forward to speaking with you and thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Sincerely,

............................................  ............................................
(Signature of the student)        (Signature of the interviewee)

(The <Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed> was translated into Chinese version and sent to the interviewees.)