

No safe place for women: Detecting women murders and suicides in Turkey with a specific emphasis on domestic violence

Murder and suicide are the final points of violence of human directed to others and herself/himself. Although there are variety of reasons of murders and suicides, significant amount of women murders and suicides are the consequences of domestic violence in Turkey. This study aims to analyses women murders and suicides in Turkey with a specific emphasis on domestic violence. Analyses of this study is based on National Maternal Mortality Study (NMMS) which registered all women deaths aged 12-50 in 29 provinces of Turkey in one year period between June 2005 and May 2006. Results of NMMS show that 38 women were died because of murder while 65 were died because of suicide. Among these, 15 of murders are consequence of domestic violence while 10 women were committed suicide due to family pressure or domestic violence. In this study we analyzed socio-demographic characteristics of deceased women and her family such as education, type of place of resident, marital status, information about husband and children of deceased women; and way of killing/way of suicide. When women who were murdered are considered, 2 of them were single, 7 of them were married, and 6 of them were divorced or separated at the time of homicide. Both single women were died by their brothers. The grounds of both homicides are very similar. One of the women killed since she to marry a men who was rejected by her family and she escaped with him. Other killed by her brother since her brother believes that she has sexual relation with her boyfriend. All 7 married women were killed by their husbands and divorced and separated women were killed by their ex-husbands. The ground of killing of married women is continuing domestic violence and elective problems of husband related his social relations outside home. The major ground of killing of divorced and separated women is her willingness to divorce. When women suicides are detected it is seen that single women commit suicide since their family avert them to marry with men who them want to marry or they are forced marry with men who do not like to marry, and they kill themselves since they have pre-marital sexual relations. On the other hand reason of suicide of married and divorced women is generally domestic violence. Violence is usually rooted from their husband or ex-husband. Moreover

husband's family, especially mother-in-law, practice violence. In the cases of divorce or separated women, ex-husbands threat women to not let her to see her children. Results show that having children, in some cases, gets women closer to commit suicide. This study points out that there is a very strong relation between women murders and suicides in the case of Turkey. Domestic violence is the major reason of the women's homicide and a direct reason of women's suicide. Moreover, social pressure on women forced them to commit suicide. Women murders and suicides should be discussed with a perspective of violence against women.