The extent and nature of family violence and female offending in Saudi Arabia: an investigation into the risk and protective factors associated with offending.

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This presentation will cover

- Study aims
- Methodology
- Pilot study results
- Study results from the main fieldwork
- Challenges
The research aims to establish:

1. The extent and nature of family violence and delinquency among juvenile females in Saudi Arabia.

2. Whether there is a link between experiencing or witnessing family violence and later offending.

3. The risk and protective factors that might be associated with the link between family violence and delinquency.
Proposed model for the risk and protective factors associated with family violence and their behavioural outcomes

Experience or witnessing family violence

Risk & protective factors

Individual & peer group

Family

School

Community

Behaviour outcomes
Research methodology

**Method**
Survey based approach

**Sample**
Young females, aged between 12 to 18 years

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**Data Collection Procedures**

**Phase 1**
Pilot study

At schools in Saudi (48 Students).

**Phase 2**
Main fieldwork

Young females from schools in Saudi (422 Students).
Phase 1 Pilot study

Sample: The total sample size was 48 students (random sample from public and private schools in Saudi Arabia).

Findings from the pilot study

- The extent of family violence

- 63% Not-exposed to F.V
- 37% Exposed to F.V (18 Cases)
The nature of family violence

- All 18 girls have been subjected to physical violence, along with other types of abuse, which have been mentioned in the chart above.
- Running away from home is criminalized under Saudi law.
- Smoking cigarettes is criminalized by the moral code of society. Attempting suicide is forbidden under Islamic Law.
Summary of the pilot findings

- All of the females were unaware of local agencies that provide help and support for victims of family violence.
- All of the females believed that even if local agencies existed, these agencies would only be utilised occasionally. These females believed that if girls sought help they would be returned to their families, due to a societal lack of women’s rights and the guardianship rules.
- Guardianship rules severely restrict the freedom of women in Saudi.
- Some females perceive family violence as a normal part of their family life.
- Silence hides the actual extent of family violence in Saudi society.
Phase 2 Main fieldwork (female students in Saudi schools)

Sample: young females aged between (12 to 18 years old) from the intermediate and secondary schools in Saudi. The total sample size was 422 students

Preliminary Results:
The data collection was recently completed and analysis is on going.

The initial results have been categorised as follows:
• The extent and nature of family violence
• The perpetrators of family violence
• The extent and nature of delinquent behaviour
• Risk and protective factors associated with delinquency
The extent and nature of family violence

1. Physical abuse

1.1 The extent of PA

- Abused: 49.7%
- Not abused: 50.3%

1.2 The perpetrators of PA

- Brother: 22.7%
- Mother: 8.5%
- Father: 6.6%
- Other: 2.7%
- Outside family: 9.8%

- 47.6% of the females who reported physical abuse by a family member.
2. Emotional abuse

2.1 The extent of EA

The prevalence of emotional abuse in the total sample was 35%.

2.2 The perpetrators of EA

- Brother: 20%
- Mother: 9.40%
- Father: 2.90%
- Other: 2.70%

[Pie chart showing the distribution of perpetrators]
3. Neglect

3.1 The extent of N

The prevalence of neglect in the total sample was 13.7%.

3.2 The perpetrators of N

- Father: 6.80%
- Mother: 4.40%
- Brother: 1%
- Other: 1.50%
4. Sexual Abuse

4.1 The extent of SA

The prevalence of Sexual abuse in the total sample was 8.5%.

4.2 The perpetrators of SA

- 3.90% Brother
- 3.90% Father
- .7% Other
5. The extent of witnessing family violence

- Between Parents: 8.8%
- By parents toward siblings: 27.6%
The prevalence of delinquent behaviour

- Drugs misuse: 14.60%
- Carried/carry a weapon: 13.40%
- Tried to commit suicide: 9.50%
- Smoked/smoke cigarettes: 9.30%
- Stolen/steal something: 6.60%
- Run away: 5.60%
Risk and protective factors for delinquency

Protective factors

- Supportive Community **51.7%**
- Supportive School **47.6%**
- Have one or more close friend **92.2%**

Risk factors

Parents with:
- Mental Problems **9%**
- Alcohol use **1.5%**
- Drugs Abuse **1.2%**
- Criminal History **4.9%**
- Lack of statistical and official data, regarding family violence and female offenders in Saudi.
- Difficulty in gaining permission from Saudi authorities to carry out the research.
- Difficulty during collecting the data from the sample in the Social Protection Centre.
Thanks for listening

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