Corona is a Suitable Platform for Increasing Domestic Violence Against Women

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A r t i c l e   I n f o

A B S T R A C T

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Objective: This research aims to describe, analyze and synthesize the factors related to violence against women during the Corona epidemic.

Method: The method of this research is meta-analysis. The statistical population of the present study was composed of written documents, including theses, studies and articles published in scientific research journals in recent years on the issue of factors related to violence against women during the Corona period, among the published works available in the reliable and well-known Iranian scientific database (such as Noormags, Magiran, Irandoc, SID) and unpublished works of the library reference department of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Tehran, and Urmia universities, 26 documents in 51 research factors were selected. The information collected from each document and study was analyzed using CMA-2 and SPSS 22 software.

Results: The findings showed that the value of the chi-square index was 0.061 and the effect size value was calculated at 0.403 in the fixed model, and after examining these studies, 44 influencing factors were identified and their effects were evaluated as significant. All the mentioned values have been evaluated at the 95% confidence level.

Conclusion: The results of the present study showed that past studies have the power to explain and predict violence against women. These results can be a serious solution to improve marital relations during the pandemic.

Keywords: Corona, domestic violence, marital violence, meta-analysis.

1   Introduction

The world has gone through many epidemics so far. However, without a doubt, the *pandemic* of the new coronavirus (Covid-19) has been more distinct and different from other epidemics (Zareipour, Jadgal, & Movahed, 2020). The high death rate and the fear and anxiety caused by this virus have caused many other aspects of it to be paid less attention (Jannat Alipoor & Fotokian, 2022). One of the consequences of the emergence of the corona virus is a forced lifestyle change and unprecedented restrictions in people's lives (Bakhshi Mofrad Kashani, Asalani Mehr, & Abedi Elkhichi, 2021), of which home quarantine is one of them. The Covid-19 virus has caused a lot of economic,

social and family damage (Koohboomi, Ghamari, & Hosseinian, 2020), among which the issue of domestic *violence* is interesting and important. Quarantine and forced presence at home has increased the number of domestic violence and added domestic violence as another challenge to humanity today and has become a serious crisis for all countries (Miri Balajorshari & Mahmoudi, 2022). Many reports of the increase in *domestic violence* in different countries and even in European countries have been published so far. According to the World Health Organization, although home quarantine is a necessary and important way to deal with the coronavirus in the world, it has had consequences such as an increase in domestic violence and violence against women, an increase in fear, and economic and social pressures during the past weeks (Hudson, Lowenstein, & Hoenig, 2020). People who, in addition to the fear and anxiety of being infected by this virus, suffer from economic problems due to lack of work activities, suffer a lot of pressure, and this issue makes their tolerance threshold lower and violent behavior increases (Duncan et al., 2020). Many couples suffer more tension than others due to the longer time they spend with each other, not having individual time for themselves, and lack of knowledge about marital skills. Sometimes these tensions end in violence, and of course, most of the victims of these tensions are women (Hoseinnezhad, Elyasi, & Shahhosseini, 2020). These conditions have prompted experts to inform the public about domestic violence, its causes and control methods. Therefore, in this research, considering the extensive research that has been done in the field of domestic violence against women during the Corona period, we intend to conduct a meta-analysis of the past research.

Kooh Boomi, Ghamari and Hosseinian (2020) believe that the conditions caused by the coronavirus caused stress in people and caused them a lot of damage. Traumatic conditions such as post-traumatic stress may cause dysfunctional relationships and even violence between spouses. The findings obtained from the research of Kooh Boomi et al. (2020) showed that the direct and positive effect of psychological flexibility in the components of perception of controllability, and perception of justification of behavior on resilience is significant, and there is also a significant positive relationship between resilience and domestic violence. Also, resilience plays a mediating role in the relationship between the components of perception of controllability and perception of justification of behavior with domestic violence. According to the findings, it can be concluded that cognitive flexibility can predict resilience

and domestic violence against women (Koohboomi, Ghamari, & Hosseinian, 2020).

Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the level of domestic violence against women and the factors affecting it. In this research, we intend to investigate the level of domestic violence against women during the Corona period. By informing the relevant authorities, we can create an environment for employing, training and maintaining a safe, efficient and committed family, so that by reducing the costs caused by family disintegration and marital problems, a safe and secure life can be achieved.

In the changing context of marital relations in the family during the Corona period, studies indicate that marital problems and addressing family deficiencies have reached the optimal level (Asadi et al., 2023). However, Asadi et al. (2023) research, domestic violence against women is reported. In order to solve the contradiction resulting from such researches that have been conducted independently and in connection with domestic violence against women, meta-analysis statistical methods can be used. Meta-analysis converts the results of different studies into a common scale and examines the relationship between the characteristics of the studies and the findings with statistical methods. These contradictory results have also been seen in some other researches on the relationship of other variables with domestic violence against women in the Corona period, which prompts the researcher to conduct a meta-analysis on the conducted researches and present accurate and uniform results. The main goal of the current research is to meta-analytically examine the domestic and foreign researches on the increase of domestic violence against women in the priod of Corona and to establish a connection between the studies and obtain a coherent result from the scattered results by using powerful statistical methods to answer the research questions (Asadi et al., 2023).

2   Methods

2.1   *Study design Data Collection*

The method of this research is meta-analysis. In this research, the focus is on the research done on a specific topic. Therefore, the society examined in this research is the final article (results of the conducted research) related to domestic violence against women during the pandemic. More precisely, this society consists of: Theses from some universities, articles published in prestigious domestic magazines and publications, and articles and abstracts related to this topic in several prestigious and well-known

Iranian scientific sites (such as Noormags, Magiran, Irandoc, SID) and prestigious universities. 51 factors and hypotheses were identified in 26 studies. The inferential statistics method was used to analyze the data. CMA2 software was used to check the information and answer the research questions in the inferential part.

2.2   Data Analysis

In this research, data analysis was used: meta-analysis models of fixed effects and random effects to obtain the discriminative and overall effect size; For studies of the effect size of Hedges' g; To check the publication bias from the funnel plots and Duval Tweedy's correction and fitting test; To check the number of missing studies from the fail-safe N test; Q and I2 tests were used to check the heterogeneity of studies. All these operations will be done using comprehensive meta-analysis software (CMA2) and the effect size combination method.

3   Findings and Results

Studies have shown that about violence against women during the Corona period, the statistical degree of the studied number of 51 factors (hypotheses) has been extracted from

26 studies, of which 3 hypotheses have emphasized the absence of a relationship and the rest have emphasized the existence of a relationship. H0 research has been rejected in 48 studies (2χ equals 0.452), and the rest have been confirmed.

Table 1

*Descriptive statistics and calculation of chi-square of research hypotheses*

χ^2	$F_o - F_e$	F_e	F_o	
۰/۴۵۲			۴۸	H0 Rejected
۰/۰۶۱	۴/۲	۵/۸	۳	H0 Accepted
60 Factors included				Total (60 factors)

From the comparison of Table 1 with the chi-square table, it is concluded that the 2χ of the rejected hypotheses with a value of 0.061 is smaller than the 2χ of the chi-square distribution table, so H0 is rejected, and the 1H of the research is at the level of 0.05 approved.

In this section, first, a funnel plot based on the standard error and accuracy indices in each of the studies is presented in uncorrected and corrected form; after that, the calculated results of the effect size for each of the studies are reported and also to examine the homogeneity test of the studies.
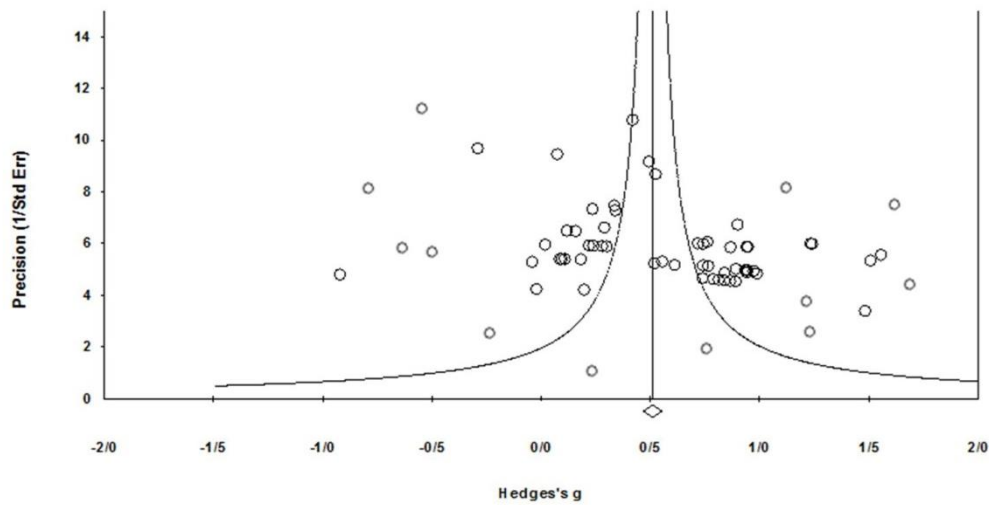
Figure 1

Funnel chart based on the standard error index in the conducted studies
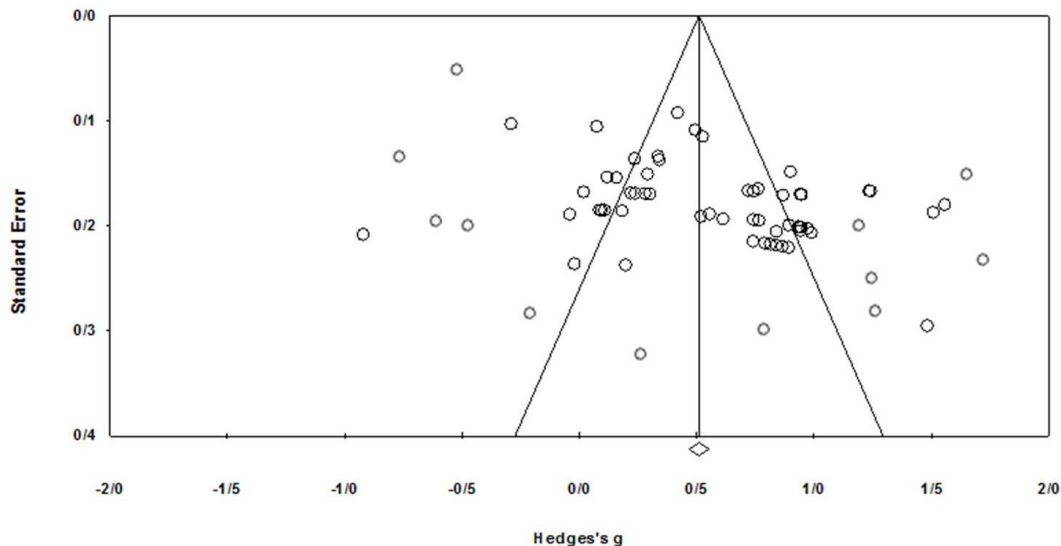
Figure 2

Funnel chart based on accuracy index

According to Figure 1 and Figure 2, it can be seen that the studies used in this research are not symmetrically distributed around the average effect size, and the dispersion of studies around one side of the average indicates the presence of bias in the studies. Extensive studies appear at the top of the chart and small studies at the bottom. In order to investigate and solve this, the method of arrangement and completion of double wall tweed has been used. This method calculates the missing studies on the left side of the graph, whose creation destroys the lattice mode. The results of using this method are reported in the Table 2.

Table 2

Arrangement and finishing method

	Added	Constant effect			Random effect			Q-value
		Estimation Point	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimation Point	Lower bound	Upper bound	
Observed		۰/۴۳۲۶۵	۰/۴۵۲۱۹	۰/۵۲۶۱۴	۰/۴۹۸۳۷	۰/۳۶۵۹۸	۰/۴۸۵۹۶	۲۸۹/۹۵۶۷۵
Modified	۹	۰/۲۹۸۶۳	۰/۳۶۲۱۵	۰/۴۵۲۱۹	۰/۲۴۵۸۹	۰/۱۵۳۲۶	۰/۲۶۵۳۸	۵۱۸/۵۶۳۲۵

Based on the results listed in Table 2, the number of missing studies is 9. And the point estimate in the fixed effects model using arrangement and completion method has increased from 0.43265 to 0.29863, also the point estimate in the random effects model has increased from 0.49837 to 0.24589. 0 has been changed. In other words, symmetry is created in this diagram by adding 9 studies to the left side of the average effect size.

Figure 3

Modified funnel chart based on the standard error index in the research question
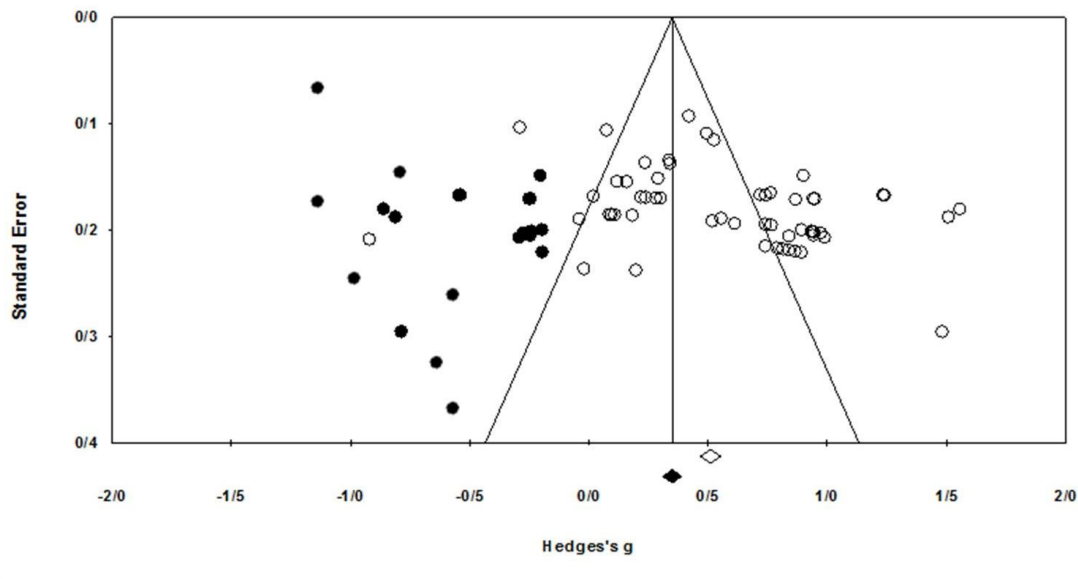
Figure 4

Modified funnel chart based on accuracy index

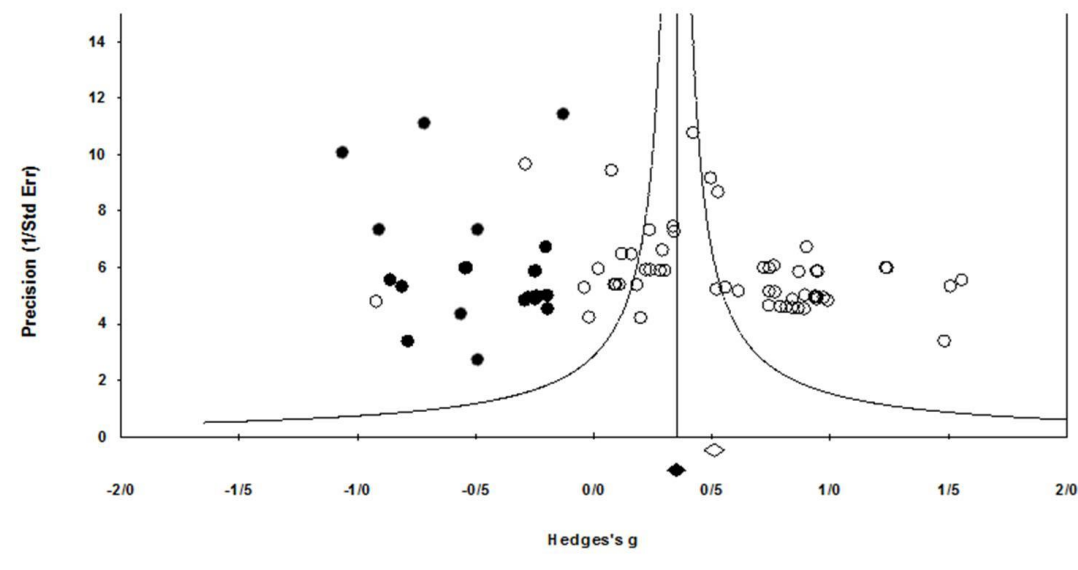Based on the results of Figure 3 and Figure 4, by adding 9 studies to the left side of the average skewness diagram, the distribution of studies is changed from asymmetric to symmetric. Added studies are shown as solid circles. Q-test was used to check the homogeneity of the studies. Q-value obtained equal to 6, which is significant with a probability of less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis based on the studies' homogeneity is rejected, which indicates that the group of studies under investigation is heterogeneous. Also, the I2 index shows that 3.52165% of the effect size changes in all studies are due to the heterogeneity of the studies. For each of the studies, the effect size values based on Hedges g index (ordered from the smallest to the largest), lower limit, upper limit, z and p values in the 95% confidence level were calculated and their significance was evaluated through

Fisher's z test. The results of the calculations are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Calculation of the effect size of its significance test for each of the studies (ranking based on the effect size values (N=60)

Row	Variables	Index				
		G	Lower bound	Upper bound	Z	p
۱	Social subjugation	0.790	0.365	1.216	3.644	0.000
۲	Atomization of the family	0.003	-0.164	0.167	0.035	0.000
۳	Educational crisis	0.010	0.221	0.240	0.084	0.000
۴	leisure crisis	0.060	0.091	0.209	0.776	0.000
۵	Income level	0.790	0.365	1.216	3.644	0.000
۶	Externalizing behaviors	0.815	0.388	1.242	3.743	0.589
۷	Dimensions of sexual schemas	0.744	0.416	1.072	4.441	0.000
۸	Legal loopholes	0.901	0.609	1.193	6.055	0.659
۹	Being a woman	0.767	0.384	1.150	3.927	0.000
۱۰	Men's education	0.120	0.066-	0.298	1.265	0.000
۱۱	Economic base of the family	0.120	0.113	0.341	1.009	0.000
۱۲	Patriarchal tradition	0.869	0.533	1.204	5.075	0.000
۱۳	Difficulty regulating emotions	0.892	0.459	1.325	4.038	0.000
۱۴	Intolerance of distress	0.132	0.001-	0.260	1.951	0.000
۱۵	marital conflicts	0.170	0.015-	0.344	0.801	0.000
۱۶	Lack of gender justice	0.893	0.502	1.285	4.473	0.886
۱۷	Behavioral systems	0.948	0.614	1.283	5.557	0.000
۱۸	Self-control	0.250	0.103	0.386	3.301	0.001
۱۹	Resilience	0.256	0.131	0.373	3.954	0.000
۲۰	Absence of legal reforms	0.974	0.576	1.371	4.800	0.000
۲۱	schema therapy	0.990	0.584	1.396	4.783	0.000
۲۲	social factors	1.235	0.908	1.563	7/397	0.812
۲۳	Economic-social problems	1.242	0.914	1.570	7.425	0.000
۲۴	Spouse addiction	0.270	0.111	0.416	3.267	0.001
۲۵	Age	0.280	0.088	0.452	2.833	0.005
۲۶	Number of children	0.284	0.139	0.417	3.774	0.000
۲۷	Cyberspace	0.290	0.111	0.451	3.131	0.002
۲۸	Level of Education	0.290	0.143	0.424	3.788	0.000
۲۹	Corona crisis	0.330	0.162	0.480	3.740	0.000
۳۰	Marital intimacy	1.484	0.905	2.064	5.020	0.000
۳۱	mastermind	-0.320	-0.460	0.164	3.924	0.000
۳۲	Marital Conflict	0.196	-0.368	0.016-	2.129	0.033
۳۳	Problem solving skills	558/1	205/1	1.911	8.646	0.000
۳۴	patriarchy	0.526	0.300	0.752	4.562	0.000
۳۵	Gender socialization	0.339	0.203	0.462	4.696	0.000
۳۶	Ignore	0.340	0.354	0.503	3.487	0.000
۳۷	Culture	0.557	0.186	0.928	2.945	0.233
۳۸	Individual dimension	0.613	0.233	0.994	3.164	0.002
۳۹	couple dimension	0.350	0.197	0.486	4.324	0.000
۴۰	After urbanization	0.357	0.236	0.467	5.488	0.000
۴۱	family dimension	0.358	0.219	0.483	4.841	0.000
۴۲	Extra family dimension	0.360	0.195	0.505	4.111	0.000
۴۳	family issues	0.720	0.393	1.047	4.314	0.562
۴۴	Patriarchal beliefs	0.720	0.393	1.047	4.314	0.000
۴۵	addiction to Internet	0.742	0.320	163/1	3.447	0.001
۴۶	Corona stress	0.360	0.219	0.486	4.782	0.000
۴۷	Personality characteristics	0.743	0.361	1.124	3.818	0.000
۴۸	Attachment Styles	0.370	0.206	0.514	4.237	0.000
۴۹	Economic factors	0.496	0.282	0.710	4.541	0.745
۵۰	Cognitive flexibility	0.520	0.144	0.895	2.713	0.007
۵۱	Resilience	0.370	0.206	0.514	4.237	0.000

In Table 3, the first column shows the researcher's name, in the second column, the following variables are reported for the researches. The Hedges g index presented in the next column is considered as the effect size in each study, which was calculated using CMA-2 software. The next columns have lower and upper limit values, at 95% confidence intervals, for z for each study, as well as the probability level assigned to the studies. Two fixed and random models have been used to check the overall significance of the effect size after combining the studies, the results of which can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4

The results of combining the effect size of the studies and their significance

Model	Index					Mean effect size	
	G	Lower bound	Upper bound	Z	p	+	-
Const.	0.403	0.249	0.328	2.775	0.000	0.663	0.425
Random	0.598	0.558	0.627	1.542	0.000		

As can be seen in Table 4, the value of the overall effect size for studies in the fixed effects model was estimated at 0.403 with 95% confidence in the range of 0.249 to 0.328 based on the Hedges g index. For the random effects model, it was estimated at 0.598 with 95% confidence between 0.558 and 0.627. In order to check and determine the publication bias of the combined studies, the safe incomplete number index has been used. The results of publication bias show that the number of 441 missing studies with an effect size equal to zero is needed to turn the above significant result into a non-significant result and the obtained P value reaches the alpha limit.

Table 5

The results of combining the effect size of the studies and their significance

Row	Sample size	Factors	Statistical index	Index value	Sig.
1	10	Social subjugation	Beta	B=0.45	Confirmed
		Atomization of the family	Beta	B = 0.39	Confirmed
		Educational crisis	Beta	B=0.43	Confirmed
		leisure crisis	Beta	B=0.42	Confirmed
2	250	Income level	Correlation	R=0.58	Confirmed
3	431	Externalizing behaviors	Correlation	R=0.08	Rejected
4	170	Dimensions of sexual schemas	Correlation	R=0.48	Confirmed
5	52	Legal loopholes	Beta	B = 0.04	Rejected
6	100	Being a woman	Correlation	R=0.35	Confirmed
		Men's education	Correlation	R=0.40	Confirmed
		Economic base of the family	Correlation	R=0.34	Confirmed
7	-	Patriarchal tradition	Beta	B = 0.03	Confirmed
8	300	Difficulty regulating emotions	Beta	B = 0.55	Confirmed
		Intolerance of distress	Beta	B = 0.39	Confirmed
		marital conflicts	Beta	B=0.60	Confirmed
9	-	Lack of gender justice	Beta	B = 0.03	Rejected
10	400	Behavioral systems	Beta	R=0.26	Confirmed
		Self-control	Beta	R=0.40	Confirmed
		Resilience	Beta	R=0.34	Confirmed
11	-	Absence of legal reforms	Correlation	R=0.42	Confirmed
12	40	schema therapy	Correlation	R=0.41	Confirmed
13	110	social factors	Correlation	R=0.02	Rejected
14	-	Economic-social problems	Beta	B = 0.36	Confirmed
		Spouse addiction	Beta	B = 0.42	Confirmed
		Age	Beta	B=0.62	Confirmed
		Number of children	Beta	B = 0.42	Confirmed
		Cyberspace	Beta	B = 0.48	Confirmed
		Level of Education	Beta	B = 0.39	Confirmed
		Corona crisis	Beta	B = 0.62	Confirmed
15	222	Marital intimacy	Correlation	R=0.37	Confirmed
		Regulation	Correlation	R=0.41	Confirmed
		Marital Conflict	Correlation	R=0.35	Confirmed
16	20	Knowledge	Correlation	R=0.61	Confirmed
		Attitude	Correlation	R=0.52	Confirmed
		Skill	Correlation	R=0.52	Confirmed
17	80	Problem-solving skills	Correlation	R=0.45	Confirmed
18	30	Patriarchy	Correlation	R=0.62	Confirmed
		Gender socialization	Correlation	R=0.52	Confirmed
		Ignorance	Correlation	R=0.58	Confirmed
19	30	Culture	Correlation	R=0.04	Rejected
20	352	Individual dimension	Beta	B = 0.48	Confirmed
		couple dimension	Beta	B = 0.42	Confirmed
		After urbanization	Beta	B = 0.39	Confirmed
		family dimension	Beta	B = 0.42	Confirmed
		Meta-family dimension	Beta	B = 0.42	Confirmed

21	26	Family issues	Correlation	R=0.05	Rejected
22	260	Patriarchal beliefs	Correlation	R=0.40	Confirmed
23	421	Addiction to Internet	Correlation	R=0.37	Confirmed
		Corona stress	Correlation	R=0.35	Confirmed
24	150	Personality characteristics	Correlation	R=0.37	Confirmed
			Correlation	R=0.35	Confirmed
25	26	Attachment Styles	Correlation	R=0.02	Rejected
26	241	Cognitive flexibility	Correlation	R=0.37	Confirmed
		Resilience	Correlation	R=0.35	Confirmed

In the research conducted in the field of violence against women during the Corona period, there were 51 factors in the statistical sample, and the influencing and correlated variables with the researched violence against women include: Social subjugation, family atomization, educational crisis, leisure crisis, income level, dimensions of sexual schemas, women's employment, men's education, family's economic base, patriarchal tradition, difficulty in emotional regulation, distress intolerance, marital conflicts, behavioral systems, self-control, lack of legal reforms, schema therapy, socio-economic problems, spouse addiction, age, number of children, cyber space, education level, corona crisis, marital intimacy, restraint, marital conflict, knowledge, attitude, skill, problem solving skill , patriarchy, gender socialization, neglect, individual dimension, couple dimension, urbanization dimension, family dimension, meta-family dimension, patriarchal beliefs, internet addiction, corona stress, personality traits, attachment styles, cognitive flexibility and resilience.

In the analysis of the results of rejecting or confirming H0 in the existing research using the statistical index of chi-square, the calculated value is equal to 0.61, which is less than the critical chi-square, the calculated value is significant at the level of 0.05.

4　　Discussion and Conclusion

Violence against women is a social category with many different natures, examples, and even causes and contexts of occurrence in different societies (Mirjafari et al., 2022). Today, legislators seek to create a legal structure to fight against all types of violence against women maximally, and various international regulations have been established in this field (Aolymat, 2021). However, when this violence occurs at the level of the family institution, it is much more serious and critical; Because the angles of violence in the family are hidden from the public in most societies (Bright, Burton, & Kosky, 2020). In this research, the researcher seeks to meta-analyze the factors related to violence against women in the priod of Corona.

The subject of the current research is a meta-analysis of factors related to violence against women in the priod of Corona. For this purpose, 26 documents with 51 factors and research hypotheses were selected from the databases of SID, Magiran, as well as the reference section of the libraries of different universities, and their required information was recorded in the meta-analysis checklist. Inferential analysis of data was analyzed using CMA-2 software. In this section, we refer to the calculated values of the effect size and the results obtained from the tests related to the publication bias and finally to the results of the probabilities in the research. In general, the z value calculated for all factors is significant at the level of α <0.05.

The examination of the Q-test showed that the studies under the composition are heterogeneous. The safe incomplete number index showed that there is bias in the studies. It is important to mention one point regarding the examination of the safe incomplete number test to eliminate the publication bias in the studies used; It is to pay attention to the zero hypotheses in this test so that the zero hypothesis of the safe incomplete number test indicates the existence of heterogeneity in studies, and this heterogeneity indicates the existence of a moderating variable (Ghaderzade & Abdollahzade, 2022). Therefore, if the significance value does not exceed 0.05, an error occurs, and this error, which is evident in all research questions due to the impossibility of adding a large number of research documents with zero effect size to the applied studies, significance is forced to be accepted. By the assumption of heterogeneity of the studies, the obtained results have been confirmed.

The review of studies has shown that out of 51 correlated factors, some studies had non-significant effects, and significant effects were reported for the rest (Basandeh, Haji Tabar Firoozjaei, & Foroughiniya, 2022; Mirahmadian et al., 2022; Miri Balajorshari & Mahmoudi, 2022; Mirjafari et al., 2022; Nemati, 2023; Nemati & Farajiha, 2023; Shirali, 2022).

In general, the results of the meta-analysis of studies on violence against women in the Corona priod showed that the effective and correlated variables with violence against women in the Corona period, in which a positive and meaningful relationship has been confirmed, are:

Social subjugation, family atomization, educational crisis, leisure crisis, income level, dimensions of sexual schemas, women's employment, men's education, family's economic base, patriarchal tradition, difficulty in emotional regulation, distress intolerance, marital conflicts, behavioral systems, self-control, lack of legal reforms, schema therapy, socio-economic problems, spouse addiction, age, number of children, cyberspace, education level, corona crisis, marital intimacy, restraint, marital conflict, knowledge, attitude, skill, problem-solving skill, patriarchy, gender socialization, neglect, individual dimension, couple dimension, urbanization dimension, family dimension, meta-family dimension, patriarchal beliefs, internet addiction, corona stress, personality traits, attachment styles, cognitive flexibility, and resilience.

5   Suggestions and Applications

The results of the present study showed that past studies have the power to explain and predict violence against women. These results can be a serious solution to improve marital relations during the pandemic.

Declaration of Interest

The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

Ethics principles

In this research, ethical standards including obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy and confidentiality were observed.

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