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TITLE: Parental Abuse of Children in Algeria – Forms, Factors, and Areas of Influence**AUTHOR:** Benchikh Rezkia¹

Abstract. The phenomenon of domestic violence against children has spread seriously in Algerian society and in societies of different cultures. The aim of our study is to explore the dimensions of this phenomenon through a sample of children who are victims of domestic violence in our society. The descriptive approach aligns with this objective. The data analyzed included the forms, factors, and manifestations of this phenomenon. The results confirmed various forms of domestic violence against children, primarily physical violence, followed by psychological violence, mainly caused by family-related factors. This violence significantly affects the victims' mental health. Our study contributes to the field by proposing psychotherapy intervention programs to ensure the psychological well-being of these children.

Keywords: violence - Algerian family - mental health - child - victim.

Introduction.

Various forms of domestic violence that were previously unheard of in Algerian society have now emerged, as evidenced by media reports, studies, and research on the prevalence and diversity of family violence. These include spousal abuse, which sometimes results in death, and

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parental violence against children, a form of abuse that is more likely to occur when contributing factors are present.

This anthropological study explores the phenomenon of children who are victims of domestic violence in Algerian families. The researcher examines the issue through an introduction that outlines both the general and specific aspects of the topic, previous studies, the research sample, and methodology. This is followed by the presentation and analysis of collected data, which leads to a discussion of the results. The study concludes with key findings and recommendations.

1- Conceptual Framework of the Study

1.1. Problem Statement

The phenomenon of children being victims of domestic violence is closely linked to violence within society, as it represents a manifestation of family violence driven by various psychological and social factors. A study conducted by Al-Hadidi and Jahshan in Jordanian society found that child abuse and violence had become widespread. In 1998, it was reported that 437 cases of child abuse had been recorded (Maki & Ajam, 2008, p. 102). Similarly, in different regions of Algerian society, hundreds of violent incidents against children have been documented, as reported by UNICEF (Courrier d'Algérie, 2017, *Lutte contre les violences infantiles*).

The exposure of children to violence and physical abuse in some Algerian families has a significant impact on their psychological and social well-being. The negative consequences inevitably lead to disruptions in their relationships with family members and pose a threat to their psychological security. Our findings suggest that children deprived of parental affection and emotional support are less secure, less socially compatible, less self-confident, and more anxious than those who experience positive parental relationships.

The family plays a crucial role in children's well-being, aligning with Bowlby's attachment theory, which posits that a child's experiences with caregivers and upbringing profoundly influence their psychological, social, emotional, and cognitive development (Hussein, 2008, p. 91). Thus, the role of the family in shaping a child's mental health is undeniable, as a psychologically disturbed child often reflects a dysfunctional family environment.

This study represents an anthropological investigation into the phenomenon of children who are victims of domestic violence in Algerian society, considering it as a widespread social problem. Its fundamental objective is to uncover the root causes of this phenomenon. To achieve this, we have formulated the research problem into the following key questions:

- What are the dimensions of the phenomenon of domestic violence against children in Algerian society?

- What are the different forms of domestic violence against children in Algerian society?
- What are the factors that contribute to domestic violence against children in Algerian society?
- What are the different aspects of life affected by violence against children within Algerian society?

1.2. Research Hypotheses

To address these research questions, the following hypotheses have been formulated:

1. Various forms of domestic violence against children are practiced in Algerian society, including physical, psychological, and financial abuse.
2. Several factors contribute to domestic violence against children in Algerian society, including family upbringing, poverty, and housing conditions.
3. Domestic violence against children in Algerian society affects various aspects of life, including academic, psychological, social, and health-related domains.

1.3. Definition of Key Terms

- **Domestic Violence:** In this study, the term refers to unhealthy behavior perpetrated by parents or guardians toward children. This includes the use of force, threats, physical abuse, coercive attitudes, and other forms of violence. Such harmful parental behavior inevitably leads to both physical and psychological damage.

- **Victimized Children:** In this study, this term refers to children who have been subjected to aggression or abuse. These acts of aggression may come from their parents or guardians and may occur at least once during their childhood.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

This anthropological study aims to reveal the dimensions of the issue of children who are victims of domestic violence in Algerian society. It is also hoped that the study's results will serve those interested in the therapeutic aspect by helping to develop programs that guide parents on how to jointly educate their children while ensuring their physical and social well-being.

1.5. Importance of the Study:

This study is highly relevant to the age group it addresses, as it is during this stage that a child's personality is formed. Consequently, the chances of raising a well-adjusted child and a responsible future citizen increase significantly. In turn, deviant behavior and the spread of violence decrease or even disappear altogether, both within the family and in society. This transformation shifts the perception of the child from being problematic to being a valuable asset.

1.6. Previous Studies:

The focus has been placed on previous studies conducted within our society and the Arab world, considering that these societies share similar characteristics and components, making them relatively homogeneous.

Previous Studies Conducted in the Arab World:

- **Study by Hadidi and Jahshan (2000):**

This study aimed to investigate cases of violence against children in Jordanian society. The research sample consisted of children who were victims of family violence, officially reported to the relevant authorities between 1998 and 2000. The study relied on a social survey method to analyze cases of child abuse. The findings indicated a widespread reality of child violence. In 1998, 437 cases of child abuse were examined by the *Human Medicine Clinic of the Family Protection Unit*, including 145 cases of physical violence against children. These cases mainly involved non-accidental injuries resulting from excessive discipline. Punishment was identified as a severe form of injury, often stemming from uncontrolled anger. Additionally, the "battered child syndrome" was recorded in 522 cases in 1999 and approximately 613 cases in 2000. However, the actual number of cases remains largely undisclosed (Maki & Ajjam, 2008, p. 102).

- **Study by Awatef Al-Habachi (2001):**

This study aimed to document cases and forms of domestic violence in Bahraini society between 1997 and 2000. The research relied on official records from the Ministry of the Interior during this period, using statistical analysis and percentage calculations to examine domestic violence as a variable. The findings indicated that domestic violence in Bahraini society manifested primarily through assaults, with 262 recorded cases. Sexual assault accounted for 64% of cases, while physical assault made up 36%. Among male perpetrators, the prevalence was 77%, whereas female perpetrators represented 15%. In most instances, the assaults were committed by family members (Abd al-Rahman, 2006, pp. 35–37).

- **Study on the Interests of the "M S P R H" in 2013:**

- **Study by the Ministry of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform in coordination with United Nations agencies in Algeria (2013):**

The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of violence against children in Algerian society during the period 2012–2013. The research sample consisted of 28,000 Algerian families, including 33,828 children aged 2 to 14 years. Another goal was to analyze violence against children as a variable in the study. A statistical approach and percentage analysis were used as study tools. The findings revealed that 86% of these children had experienced at least one instance of psychological or physical violence (Post Maghreb, 2013, *Children and Violence*).

Previous Studies Conducted in Algerian Society:

- **Study by Rezkia Benchikh (1995):**

This study aimed to identify the psychological factors contributing to the use of violence in Algerian families and its most significant effects. The researcher adopted a case study approach, with a sample consisting of six husbands who physically abused their wives. Multiple research tools were used, including interviews, observations, and the Rorschach test.

The study found that the childhood histories of these individuals were filled with psychological conflicts and violent experiences, as they had themselves been victims of parental abuse. This led to the replication of an aggressive patriarchal model, where they unconsciously assumed the role of the aggressor. The findings were further supported by an analysis of the Rorschach test results, which revealed disturbances in their parental relationships—specifically on *Parent Card No. 4* and *Motherhood Card No. 7*. Additionally, the study indicated that fathers were more likely than mothers to resort to violence against children. Economic factors also played a role in the emergence of this phenomenon (Benchikh, 1995).

- **Study by Ghazala Benfarhat (2017):**

This study aimed to uncover the origins of domestic violence in Algerian society and the broader dimensions of its spread. The research was conducted in two phases. The first phase involved a sample of 40 families intentionally selected for their history of domestic violence, with a total of 190 individuals participating. All family members agreed to collaborate with the researcher.

In the second phase, conducted five years later, the researcher revisited the same families; however, the sample size had changed due to external factors, reducing the number of participants to 143 individuals. The study was based on a descriptive approach and utilized interviews and research forms to analyze the frequency, ratios, and percentages of domestic violence cases.

The most significant conclusions from the findings indicate that the violence to which children are exposed within the family is more indirect than direct. This is especially true when children witness violence between their parents, forcing them to intervene in conflicts, which exposes them to further violence. Overall, the study found that physical violence is primarily directed at the wife (mother) and sons more than the husband (father). In addition, financial violence against children further aggravates the situation. Notably, similar to financial violence, psychological violence affects children more than their mothers (Benfarhat, 2017).

- **Study by Benaïssa A. (2023):**

This study focused on *domestic violence against children in Algeria: prevalence, risk factors, and psychological consequences*. Its objective was to examine the prevalence of domestic violence

against children in Algeria, identify associated risk factors, and analyze its psychological impact on victims.

The study used a cross-sectional quantitative methodology and was conducted on a sample of 500 children aged 6 to 18 from different regions of Algeria. The research tools included a standardized questionnaire on domestic violence and the K-SADS psychological disorder assessment scale.

Findings:

- Prevalence of physical violence: **30%**
- Prevalence of emotional violence: **25%**
- **Main risk factors:** Low socio-economic status, parental stress, lack of social support.
- **Psychological consequences:** A significant increase in cases of **depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders** among child victims.

Commentary:

The previous studies presented varied in terms of objectives, approaches, samples, and results. This diversity allowed for the exploration of the topic from different perspectives and contributed to understanding domestic violence as a variable.

Regarding objectives, most studies aimed to examine forms of family violence, its factors, and its prevalence among children. Research methods varied between descriptive statistics and clinical approaches. Sample selection also differed; for example, the study by **Al-Hadidi and Jahshan** focused on children who were victims of violence, while **Rezkia Benchikh** studied husbands (parents) who committed domestic violence. **Ghazala Benfarhat's** research examined both individuals and families as a whole, including children and parents who had experienced violence.

The results of most studies indicate that **domestic violence against children is widespread in Algerian society and other Arab societies**. The studies identified various forms of violence within families and their correlating factors, shedding light on the urgent need for intervention and preventive measures.

2. Theoretical Concepts on Domestic Violence Against Children in Algerian Society

2.1. Family Concept:

The family is the *social womb* that nurtures a newborn after its biological birth, providing protection, care, and compatibility methods (*Mohamed Bayoumi, 2000, p.13*). The family serves as the primary incubator for meeting a child's needs. If it fails in this role, it becomes a fertile ground for behavioral deviations, psychological disorders, and social problems (*Zahrán, 1978, p.17*).

Based on this, the family remains the **key environment for fulfilling a child's needs**, as their physical, mental, and social well-being is closely tied to family conditions. Any disturbances within the family negatively affect the child, leading to an unstable environment that hinders their development.

2.2. The Importance of Family for the Child:

A child's life depends, from birth, on those around them, particularly family members. Childhood, as the first stage of a person's life, is generally fragile, making the family the primary source for meeting the young child's needs and ensuring their safety, psychological well-being, and health protection. Since the child is in a vulnerable and high-risk situation during early childhood, and considering the rapid growth at this pre-semiotic stage, the role of the family becomes even more crucial.

In this context, pioneers of psychological analysis emphasize the importance of the early years in shaping an individual's personal structure, and the characteristics of the family environment play a predominant role in influencing the behavior of dominant individuals among family members (Jihan, 2009, p. 6). In this regard, and based on dominant relationships within the family, Claire Fahim confirms that a child's experiences within their living environment are extremely important. The child may be continuously and repeatedly exposed to psychological and social problems due to various forms of family violence. This often results from a lack of familiarity with caregivers, whether at home, school, or in society. The characteristics of this developmental stage, combined with a lack of patience in addressing different situations with understanding and appreciation for childhood emotions, further aggravate the issue (Claire, 2006, p. 7).

Thus, it can be said that parenting methods, family relationships based on mutual respect, and caregiving approaches rooted in understanding, acceptance, and considering the child's perspective — along with balanced caregiving methods (neither neglect nor rejection)—are essential conditions for ensuring children's emotional security.

2.3. The Concept of Violence against Children

Defining violence against children is challenging due to its association with cultural and social factors. What one society considers abusive behavior may be perceived differently in another, making definitions non-specific. Steele defines child abuse as "a child being subjected to constant abuse by parents" (Manciaux et al., 2002, p. 147). This aligns with the definition adopted by the American Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse, which states: "Child abuse and neglect involve any behavior by a parent or guardian that results in harm—whether

physical or psychological. In extreme cases, separation may lead to the child's death" (Claire, 2006, p. 25).

Ziegler argues that violence, the use of force against a child, and the humiliation of their dignity and self-confidence are closely linked to parental behavior. He states that the positive aspect of parental love and acceptance nurtures the child, while the negative aspect destroys them. In the middle ground between these two extremes lies parental violence, which can manifest in isolated incidents or persist over months or even years? The forms of violence may change over time (Hussein, 2008, p. 42).

Based on the above, the phenomenon of violence against children can be defined as intentional physical and psychological harm inflicted by parents or caregivers under circumstances that threaten the child's well-being and safety.

2.4. Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Children

The issue of violence against children is widespread across all societies. Since such phenomena are generally kept secret and not publicly disclosed, many cases of children experiencing violence and abuse are not included in official statistics. However, estimates are periodically updated and appear in certain countries. For instance, the United States reports that more than one million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. The number of reported cases increased from 1,727,000 in 1984 to 2,900,000 in 1992. This rise may reflect an increased awareness of the problem, heightened sensitivity, and improved reporting rather than an actual increase in the occurrence or spread of violence. However, this does not diminish concerns over the rise in violent crimes, delinquency, and suicide in American society (Manciaux et al., 2002, p. 166).

Similarly, reports from the American Association for Child Protection from Abuse indicate that between 1995 and 1997, 78% of children who lost their lives due to violence were under the age of five (Abdel Rahman, 2006, p. 32).

In Arab societies, the widespread phenomenon of child violence was highlighted in 2006, with recorded statistics demonstrating the extent of abuse against children. Reports estimated that 504 cases of violence against children led to the deaths of 286 children due to physical and psychological abuse inflicted by their guardians (Mohamed Ali & Qureshi, 2009, pp. 40-41).

Parents or caregivers are supposed to serve as role models for children to develop normal behaviors. However, paradoxically, Egyptian newspapers in 2006 reported 504 cases of child violence throughout the year, resulting in the deaths of 286 children. These figures illustrate the alarming extent of violence and abuse against children (Mohamed Ali & Qureshi, 2009, pp. 43-45).

Regarding the situation in Algerian society, it does not differ significantly from other Arab societies. Police estimates indicate that in 2014, 6,151 cases of violence against children were recorded across the country. The forms of violence varied: physical violence accounted for the largest share, comprising 60% of cases (3,100 incidents), followed by sexual violence with 1,420 cases, and neglect in various forms amounting to 449 cases (Courrier d'Algérie, 2017, *Fight against Child Abuse*). These statistics originate from police records, excluding unreported or undisclosed cases.

2.5. Manifestations of Domestic Violence against Children

Parents who abuse their children often employ numerous methods under the pretext of maintaining control and authority within the family (misuse of parental authority). Consequently, the abused child remains in a state of dependence on the perpetrator (Hussein, 2008, p. 43).

It is important to note that children are highly sensitive and vulnerable, even to indirect exposure to violence, such as parental conflicts, where the mother is often the victim. French statistics indicate that more than 10% of children are physically beaten by an abusive parent following parental disputes. These children, passively witnessing violence against their mother, eventually experience the same emotions of fear, shame, and guilt as she does (Zebrinska, 2003, p. 24).

In this context, Marie Jaspas states that, aside from sexual violence, which is often concealed, children generally witness all forms of violence inflicted on their mother, whether physical or not. The more severe and persistent the violence, the higher the percentage of children who witness and are indirectly exposed to it (M. Jaspas, 2005, p. 56).

Ultimately, a child growing up in a troubled family environment becomes highly vulnerable to various forms of parental violence, such as physical assault on the mother, degrading psychological remarks, shouting, ridicule, and other stigmatizing behaviors like threats, warnings, and coercion.

2.6. The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children's Mental Health

Mental health is defined as an individual's ability to maintain psychological and social well-being by fulfilling their emotional needs. Childhood is the most vulnerable stage for psychological disorders, as children are directly or indirectly exposed to situations that affect their development and psychological security, depending on how their parents behave during their upbringing.

For this reason, children need to grow up in a healthy family environment where both parents provide an atmosphere of love and security. In short, the quality of a child's relationship with their family has a significant impact on their overall development (Majdoub & Mohamed, 2015, p. 7).

During early childhood, a lack of security can hinder psychological development and severely damage a child's mental health, posing a serious threat to their essential needs. As a result, children may experience emotional deprivation, leading to poor adaptability, anxiety, and hostility (Ashraf et al., 2016, p. 67).

2.7. The Psychological Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

According to psychologists, mental health is based on psychological attachment, which is manifested through an intimate and lasting relationship with family members. In such a relationship, a child finds satisfaction for their psychological needs (Stangier, 1974, p. 90).

The World Health Organization defined mental health during its third international conference in London (1948) as a condition that allows an individual to develop optimally—mentally and emotionally—especially when in harmony with others, thus preventing the emergence of psychological disorders (Bernard, 1952, p. 58).

Maslow emphasizes that an individual's mental health is based on the fulfillment of psychological needs, such as the need for psychological security, love, belonging, and respect, rather than solely biological needs (Maslow, 1970, p. 384).

Children exposed to violence in their upbringing tend to exhibit negative tendencies in adulthood or old age, such as feelings of guilt, dependence, and submission, often followed by psychological maladjustment. This was confirmed by a study by Comey (2002), which concluded that a child's psychological well-being is affected by unfavorable family dynamics, such as an unhealthy emotional climate (Malki, 2007, p. 25).

Rashid highlights that a child facing psychological insecurity and deprived of emotional fulfillment experiences deep-seated feelings of rejection and dissatisfaction. This lack of fulfillment often leads to a disruption in self-confidence and a perception of inferiority (Rashid, 1995, p. 25).

Moreover, psychologists universally acknowledge that the need for security is fundamental to a child's well-being. This security need is closely linked to group cohesion, a sense of belonging, behavioral integrity, and social roles, all of which are essential for psychological growth. The absence of security affects individuals to varying degrees, especially those struggling with self-confidence and fear. Undoubtedly, many psychological problems stem from past experiences (Aqra, 2005, p. 24).

Maslow, as cited by Hussein, defines the feeling of security as an individual's perception of being loved and accepted by others, having a place among them, and recognizing their environment as friendly. In such an empathetic climate, an individual feels a lack of danger, threat, and anxiety (Hussein, 1987, p. 106).

In contrast to this positive atmosphere, the failure of the family to fulfill its vital role in ensuring its children's safety poses a serious threat to society as a whole (Youssef, 2007, p. 323).

It can therefore be concluded that individuals who grow up in an unstable family environment often suffer from emotional, behavioral, and social problems. If they experience significant hardships, their personality structure may become disrupted, making their social adaptation more difficult.

3. Methodological Framework of the Study

3.1. Study Domains:

Our study domains have been identified as follows:

- **The Human Sphere:** Represented by cases of individuals who are currently living or have previously lived in families characterized by domestic violence. These individuals have been exposed to violence at least once and belong to the age group of 10 to 30 years. We encountered significant difficulties in finding respondents willing to answer the questionnaire.

- **Spatial Domain:** The spatial domain is represented by the municipality of Guelma, which serves as the relatively broad geographical area where our study is conducted. This choice was based on several objective and personal considerations related to the feasibility of conducting the study.

3.2. Study Method:

Given the nature of the study and the data to be obtained, a **descriptive approach** was adopted. This approach is not limited to merely analyzing the phenomenon or problem but extends beyond that to analyze, interpret, and connect its implications to draw conclusions. These conclusions contribute to understanding and improving reality.

3.3. Study Sample:

Due to the nature of the topic, which leaves no room for adopting other sampling methods or techniques, the research group for this study was selected **intentionally**. This choice is justified by the research question or hypothesis (Gharib, 2012, p. 176). Our **purposive sample** consisted of **55 cases** who had experienced domestic violence **at least once** during their childhood. They belong to the **age group of 10 to 30 years** and come from **22 families** that were either currently or previously subjected to domestic violence.

3.4. Study Tools:

To achieve the objectives of this study, we relied on the following tools:

- **Interviews:** These were used to assist in filling out the forms, particularly because the sample included **ten-year-old children** who needed explanations for certain questions.

- **Questionnaire:** This was chosen as an appropriate tool for the study’s subject, objectives, and questions. It is flexible and is considered the preferred research method for understanding the experiences of individuals who have suffered from violence and their attitudes toward it. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher after reviewing theoretical literature on the subject. Linguistically clear terms were used to ensure accessibility across all education levels.

The sources for constructing the questionnaire included a review of literature on **domestic violence against children** in various societies, with a specific focus on **Algerian society**. The final questionnaire comprised **twenty-four items**, designed to serve the research objectives and questions. The questions directed at children from violent households aimed to identify the dimensions of this abusive relationship.

The questionnaire was divided into four sections, consisting of both **closed** and **open-ended** questions, distributed as follows:

1. **First section:** Contained preliminary data about the sample participants.
2. **Second section:** Focused on **forms of domestic violence against children**, consisting of **six closed items**.
3. **Third section:** Examined the **factors contributing to domestic violence against children**, consisting of **eight closed items**.
4. **Fourth section:** Investigated the **domains in which the effects of domestic violence on children appear**. This section included **five closed items** and **five open-ended questions**, exploring different aspects of these effects in each domain.

For data analysis, **response iteration per item** and **percentages** were used as statistical tools.

4. Results:

4.1. Analysis and Presentation of Collected Data:

- **Initial Data on Sample Participants**

Table 1: Distribution of the Sample Population by Gender

Percentage	Frequency	Gender
43.63%	24	Male
56.36%	31	Female
100%	55	Total

Commentary:

The data recorded in the table above show that the ratio of females is close to that of males, with a slight predominance of females. The percentage recorded is **56.36% for females and 43.63% for males**, which enhances the **objectivity** of the obtained results, as it ensures fairness between the two genders.

Table 2: Distribution of the Sample Population by Age

Percentage	Frequency	Age Group
40.00%	22	10-15
30.90%	17	15-20
16.36%	09	20-25
12.72%	07	25-30
100%	55	Total

Commentary:

The results recorded above indicate that the participants belong to **different age groups ranging from 10 to 30 years**. Children **under ten years old were not included** in the research for objective reasons. A variation in percentages across different age groups is noticeable, with a higher concentration in the younger groups. The results are as follows:

- **40.00%** belong to the **10-15 age group**,
- **30.90%** belong to the **15-20 age group**,
- **16.36%** belong to the **20-25 age group**,
- **12.72%** belong to the **25-30 age group**.

One possible explanation for the **lower proportions in the 20-25 and 25-30 age groups** is that **many individuals tend to marry at this age**, leading to the formation of independent families. Additionally, factors such as **cultural, social, and parental influences, the economic situation, and the housing crisis** play a role in shaping these trends.

Table 3: Factors of Widespread Domestic Violence Against Children in Algerian Society

Total	Yes	Yes	No	No (%)	Factor
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Responses	(Frequency)	(%)	(Frequency)		
55	43	78.18%	12	21.82%	Lack of family dialogue
55	44	80.00%	11	20.00%	Parenting and socialization
55	42	76.36%	13	23.64%	Deviance and violence in society
55	33	60.00%	22	40.00%	Weak religious beliefs
55	36	65.45%	19	34.55%	Overcrowded housing
55	41	74.54%	14	25.46%	Gender-based discrimination
55	38	69.09%	17	30.91%	Influence of media
55	35	63.64%	20	36.36%	Poverty

Commentary:

The majority of respondents attributed the prevalence of family violence primarily to **negative parental socialization**. This was followed by the **lack of dialogue** among family members and then the **widespread deviance and violence within society**. Additionally, respondents linked domestic violence against children to **gender-based discrimination**.

A significant portion of participants also highlighted the **negative impact of the media**, which, through various programs, **normalizes violence** and encourages its use. Furthermore, they pointed out that **poor living conditions, poverty, and economic hardships** contribute to **social and psychological pressures** that may lead to violent reactions.

Most respondents believed that the **housing crisis and its associated problems** played a major role in the persistence of this phenomenon. Some also suggested that family violence stems from **internal family factors**, particularly **parent-child relationships and the lack of communication** within the household.

Forms of Domestic Violence Against Children in Algerian Society

Table 4: Forms of Violence Experienced by Respondents

Total	Always	Sometimes	Never	Forms of Violence
55	32 (58.18%)	18 (32.72%)	5 (9.09%)	Physical Beating
55	37 (67.27%)	15 (27.27%)	3 (5.45%)	Mockery & Ridicule

55	40 (72.27%)	12 (21.81%)	3 (5.45%)	Yelling
55	13 (23.63%)	22 (40.00%)	20 (36.36%)	Restriction on Leaving Home
55	34 (61.81%)	15 (27.27%)	6 (10.90%)	Interference in Friendships
55	4 (7.27%)	9 (16.36%)	42 (76.36%)	Forced Marriage/Ban on Marriage

Commentary:

The findings indicate that the majority of respondents reported being **frequently exposed to yelling from their guardians**, making it the most common form of violence. **Interference in friendships** ranked second, while **physical beatings** came in third.

Restrictions on leaving home and material deprivation were less frequently cited but still notable. **Psychological violence** was also prominent, as many respondents stated that they were **regularly mocked or ridiculed by their parents**. **Forced marriage** was reported at a very **low rate** but remains a concern.

Areas Affected by Domestic Violence Against Children in Algerian Society

Table 5: Domains Affected by Family Violence According to Respondents

Total	Yes	No	Life Domain
55	46 (83.63%)	09 (16.37%)	Social Sphere
55	48 (87.27%)	07 (12.73%)	Academic/Scientific Domain
55	47 (85.45%)	08 (14.55%)	Psychological Domain
55	22 (40.00%)	33 (60.00%)	Economic Domain
55	43 (78.18%)	12 (21.82%)	Health Domain

Commentary:

The results show that **family violence significantly impacts multiple aspects of children's lives**.

- The **academic domain** (87.27%) was the most affected, indicating that violence hinders children's educational progress.

- The **psychological domain** (85.45%) was also highly impacted, emphasizing the **emotional and mental toll** of domestic violence.
- The **social sphere** (83.63%) was another major area of impact, reflecting how violence affects children's ability to interact and integrate into society.
- **Health problems** (78.18%) were also noted, suggesting that family violence can lead to **physical and mental health issues**.
- The **economic domain** (40.00%) was the least affected, as many children are still dependent on their families financially, though some respondents indicated that domestic violence influences their future economic stability.

The results show that all respondents recognized the impact of family violence against them in various aspects of their lives, with the academic domain appearing first (as confirmed by the vast majority of respondents). The psychological field comes second, with a very high percentage of respondents acknowledging its impact, followed by the social domain in third place. As for the health domain, it appears in fourth position. It is worth noting that the proportions in the aforementioned fields were high and relatively close. Finally, the economic domain appears last.

Regarding the open-ended questions on the manifestations of family violence against children, the sample members provided various responses, which we summarize as follows:

- **In the social domain:** Aggression toward friends – isolation and introversion – desire to abandon the family – desire to establish a relationship with the opposite sex.
- **In the academic domain:** Lack of motivation to learn – inattention in class – academic delay – studying to succeed with the sole purpose of asserting oneself.
- **In the psychological domain:** Anxiety – violence – depression – fear – constant feeling of injustice – gossiping – jealousy – isolation – lack of self-confidence – low self-esteem – lack of independence.
- **In the health domain:** Pathological thinness – morbid obesity – physical injuries and deformities – chronic illnesses – substance abuse in all its forms.
- **In the economic domain:** Inability to meet basic needs – inability to work – obtaining money illegally.

4.2. Discussion of the Results

After classifying and analyzing the data obtained from studying certain struggling Algerian families whose children suffer from violence, and in order to uncover the background of the phenomenon of children victims of family violence in Algerian society and the general dimensions of its spread, we present the study's hypotheses as follows:

- **Hypothesis (1):** Various forms of violence against children exist within Algerian families (physical violence, psychological violence, financial violence).

The results obtained in Table No. 4, which clarifies the forms of violence experienced by the sample members, confirm the presence of different forms of violence within certain Algerian families. It also confirms that the vast majority of children in the sample have been exposed to various forms of violence, particularly psychological violence (shouting, threats, and ridicule), either permanently or occasionally. The findings reveal that psychological violence is highly prevalent in families, alongside physical violence, as the majority of children reported being subjected to beatings by their parents either frequently or occasionally. This aligns with the findings of Guazela Benferhat's study on child abuse in Algerian society. Furthermore, it is essential to consider the extent of its spread, as the study shows that the sampled children were sometimes even tortured by their parents.

Additionally, according to Table No. 4, other forms of family violence have emerged, such as parents forcing or preventing their children from getting married. Although these cases appeared at a lower rate, the opposite is observed regarding parental interference in the choice of friends, which appeared at a high rate. The majority of children reported that this interference happens constantly, while some stated that it occurs occasionally. This suggests that parents consider it normal to monitor their children's friendships due to concerns about the potential consequences of associating with bad influences. Therefore, this intervention is viewed as a preventive measure.

On the other hand, we note that these parents tend to avoid forms of violence that may restrict children's freedom, such as prevention or forced marriage. This can be explained by the fact that a large number of respondents are still young and have not yet reached the legal age for marriage. Additionally, marriage has increasingly become a matter of personal choice, seen as a feature of individual freedom. As a result, parents refrain from interfering in this process, either out of fear or to avoid potential problems that may arise from such marriages.

Thus, **Hypothesis (1)** is confirmed: Various forms of violence against children exist within Algerian families (physical violence, psychological violence, financial violence).

- **Hypothesis (2):** Several factors contribute to violence against children within Algerian families (family upbringing, poverty, and housing conditions).

According to the responses of the children in the sample, as indicated in Table No. 3, family violence and its spread are influenced by multiple factors. Some of these factors are internal to the family, particularly those related to socialization processes and interactions. Additionally, certain media sources have contributed to a culture of violence.

Furthermore, various social pressures have played a role in the emergence of these behaviors. One such factor is linked to the aggressor, as socialization processes are influenced by the turmoil and violence experienced by parents themselves, which may later be reproduced in their children. This aligns with the findings of Rezkia Benchikh's studies on Algerian families experiencing hardship, highlighting the characteristics and causes of family violence.

The studies also indicate that one of the reasons for committing acts of family violence is harsh treatment, along with alcohol and drug consumption. Moreover, the housing crisis does not provide opportunities for interaction and dialogue between family members. This inevitably creates a fragile and unstable family environment that lacks both communication and stability.

The respondents' consensus highlights the significant impact of family interactions on the emergence of domestic violence, particularly in cases where dialogue and consultation among family members are absent. The most widely accepted explanation is the lack of communication about private and public matters within the family.

Another issue that arises from the responses, reinforcing the discussion on family violence, is the difference in how children are treated based on gender. Girls, in particular, are perceived as representing the family's reputation, which influences their treatment compared to boys.

As a result, sons face more constraints and pressures due to issues of honor or future responsibilities. This aligns with the findings of Ahmed Majdoub's 2003 study on the characteristics and causes of family violence, which confirmed that the majority of the sample members were raised in families that employed poor parenting methods and practiced differential treatment of children based on gender, often by the father or mother.

Economic factors and the inability to keep pace with social and economic transformations have also been identified as key contributors. Respondents largely agreed that the prevalence of family violence is linked to poverty, the hardships of life, and the significant social and psychological pressures individuals endure, which can lead to violent reactions.

Thus, **Hypothesis (2)** is confirmed: Several factors contribute to violence against children within Algerian families (family upbringing, poverty, and housing conditions).

- **Hypothesis (3)**: Violence against children within Algerian families affects various aspects of their lives (academic, psychological, social, and health-related).

Based on the results in Table No. 5, which illustrates the areas affected by violence among the sample members, it is evident that nearly all respondents reported that their academic lives were impacted by violence within their families. However, for some, violence served as a positive motivator, pushing them toward academic excellence as a means of overcoming feelings of weakness that may accompany such circumstances. When academic excellence is strongly

encouraged, it paradoxically becomes a form of "positive violence," driving individuals to succeed and eliminate their perceived vulnerabilities.

The responses in Table No. 5 also highlight a significant psychological impact, as acknowledged by the vast majority of respondents.

Moreover, according to responses to open-ended questions on the manifestations of domestic violence against children, the psychological effects were recorded in the form of various emotions and behavioral disturbances, including anxiety, violence, depression, fear, a constant sense of injustice, jealousy, isolation, lack of self-confidence, low self-esteem, and lack of independence. This finding is consistent with a study by Komy (2002), which concluded that a child's psychological well-being is affected by the unstable environment in violent households, where the psycho-emotional climate is abnormal. As a result, children in such environments do not feel psychologically secure (Maliki, 2007, p. 25).

Furthermore, several social effects of family violence on the sample members were recorded. Most male respondents viewed joining the military as a means of escape from their families, while female respondents considered marriage as a solution and an embodiment of this desire. In an attempt to escape an unhealthy family environment, these young individuals seek other places that may offer a greater sense of security.

In general, it was found that family violence in Algerian society has negative effects on children's health, as they suffer from various, sometimes chronic, health consequences. Respondents indicated that this violence caused them to suffer from skin diseases, injuries, and physical deformities. Some also pointed out that violence was one of the reasons behind certain addictions, including smoking, alcohol, and drug use. Additionally, field observations revealed that a significant number of children had suffered various fractures, such as dental fractures, as well as accidental burns.

Moreover, the results show that the majority of children stated that family violence did not affect their economic lives. This high percentage may be due to the fact that a large number of them are still financially dependent on their parents and are still minors who have not yet reached the legal working age. As a result, they have not yet been exposed to the economic effects of family violence. However, the remaining respondents highlighted various manifestations of economic impact, such as the inability to work, the pursuit of illegal means to obtain money (e.g., theft), and the inability to meet their personal needs. Thus, it is evident that family violence has a relative impact on the economic lives of these children.

From this, **Hypothesis (3)** is confirmed: **Violence against children within Algerian families affects various aspects of their lives (academic, psychological, social, and health-related).**

5. Conclusion:

The phenomenon of domestic violence against children has become widespread in Algerian society. The family should be the primary source of meeting children's needs and ensuring their security, psychological well-being, and health protection. However, in some families, these essential aspects are neglected.

Through the obtained results, we can easily observe all aspects of domestic violence against children in Algerian society, where various forms of abuse are practiced, including physical, psychological, and financial violence. Prevention itself has become another form of violence, as multiple factors contribute to this issue within Algerian families. These factors include parental upbringing, low financial resources, the housing crisis, lack of communication within the family, weak religious faith, and certain negative influences of the media.

As a result, domestic violence against children in Algerian families affects various aspects of their lives, particularly in academic, psychological, social, and even health domains. However, its economic impact remains relatively minor.

The researcher suggests addressing the psychological needs of child victims of violence through the implementation of therapeutic and social programs. This recommendation also extends to parents to help reduce the effects of violence on individuals in Algerian society.

Additionally, we propose further research, including the development and implementation of counseling programs for parents on proper parenting methods. Many parents are unaware that their children are individuals with their own personalities, tendencies, and imaginations. Moreover, programs should be designed to support and care for abused or mistreated children in an appropriate manner to ensure their psychological security. The disruption of relationships within the family naturally threatens the psychological and social well-being of the child. The child's positive or negative experiences within the family environment play a crucial and vital role in their development.

Finally, it can be said that the problem of domestic violence against children in Algerian society takes various forms, some of which are denied, hidden, or concealed. This makes it difficult to detect and analyze them in detail.

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