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Social Work Students' Perception of Intimate Partner Violence Victims Who Stay With Their Abuser

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SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF INTIMATE PARTNER

VIOLENCE VICTIMS WHO STAY WITH THEIR ABUSERS

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A Project

Presented to the

Faculty of

California State University,

San Bernardino

—————————————

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Social Work

—————————————

by

Andrea Perez

June 2018

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Approved by:

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ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence is a widely recognized problem in today's society and in the social work field. It is also often considered one of the most complicated issues to adequately address and prevent. There are many challenges in understanding how IPV can occur and worsen over time, as well as why some victims choose to stay with their abusers. Intervening in relationships and families that are experiencing IPV is not an easy task, especially if the social worker who is dealing with the issue is not knowledgeable or has pre-conceived biases about domestic violence. In this study, the terms Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV) were used interchangeably as both terms describe some type of abusive behavior by one individual towards another in a relationship. This quantitative study assessed the perceptions of social work students in the MSW program towards victims of IPV who stay with their abusers. Participants completed an online survey that was created by the researcher using Qualtrics software. The study hypothesized that students' perceptions about IPV victims varied depending on their personal and professional experience with IPV. This hypothesis was not supported by the data. Furthermore, the study hypothesized that students' perceptions of IPV victims varied by the students' education levels. This hypothesis was not supported by the data. These findings and their implications for social work practice and curriculum are discussed.

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This research project was one of the most challenging ventures I have set out to do. I have the upmost appreciation for my research advisor, Dr. Lanesskog, who always ensured I was on track and helped me see my potential. I would also like to thank Professor Jeannine Meza and Professor Susan Culbertson for all of the support they have given me since I began the MSW program.

I would also like to thank my boyfriend for the amazing support he has shown me since the moment he came into my life.

This would not be possible without god, thank you for enabling me to walk along the path of peace.

Andrea Perez

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Domestic violence (DV) is a widely recognized problem area in today's society and the social work field. It is also often considered one of the most complicated issues to adequately address and prevent. Professionals in the social work field work extremely hard to intervene and help families who are experiencing DV/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) by educating victims of the risks and causes of domestic violence. There are many challenges in understanding, firstly, how IPV can occur and worsen, and second, why some victims choose to stay with their abuser. Intervening in relationships and families that are experiencing IPV is not an easy task, especially if the social worker who is dealing with the issue does not have well-rounded knowledge and has pre-conceived judgment about domestic violence.

A social worker's ability to detect IPV is extremely important due to the outcomes of the violence being so poor and women may be unwilling to view the abuse as a problem (Danis, 2004). It is estimated that there are 20 people per minute who experience IPV in the United States (NCADV, 2017). IPV does not only occur at a later age in life, but it is often likely to begin prior to the age of 18. Niolon, Kearns, Dills, Rambo, Irving, Armstead, and Gilbert (2017) state that 7% of women and 4% of men experiencing IPV before the age of 18. IPV has been

connected to teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy in general, miscarriage, disability, anxiety, PTSD, and high risk for substance-abuse (Niolon et al., 2017). IPV is also linked to an increased risk for suicide and women exposed to IPV are five times more likely attempt suicide than those not exposed to IPV (Niolon et al., 2017).

It is common for social workers to use DV screening tools to assess for domestic violence and often connect victims with resources that commonly involve ending their relationship with the abuser. Often times the victim will not leave the relationship and make decisions that cause frustration and the possibility of mixed emotions to the worker who intervenes. DV victims are regularly linked with resources such as counseling, shelter information, and information on domestic violence services agencies in the victim's area. Victims are linked with resources to help them attain safety and strengthen their knowledge about the issue. The origins of the resources that are available today to IPV victims began decades ago with the women's movement ("VAWA," 2017). The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was society's response addressing domestic violence. Congress passed VAWA in 1994 helped bring social service system and the criminal justice system together to end this violence by providing protection for battered victims ("VAWA," 2017).

Attitudes towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser can shape the prevention efforts and responses these victims receive from social workers. Understanding the different perspectives towards IPV is important

when making an effort to implement the appropriate interventions. This is especially true when the interventions are being done by social workers who are a major influence in the victim's life. Social work has a history of bias and blame when dealing with issues of domestic violence. It is critical for social workers interacting with battered women to be aware that these women's mental health is negatively affected as a reaction to the IPV. The mental health of victims is an influence in their decision to leave or stay out of fear, self-esteem, and feeling responsible for the abuse (Kim & Gray, 2008). Women who are victims of DV are not always willing to admit to the violence for multiple reasons. Hendy and colleagues (2003) found that some reasons victims do not disclose may be that they are in denial or do not understand the extent of the risks of being in violent relationships. Additional reasons for non-disclosure are social embarrassment, mistrust of intervening professionals, feelings of guilt for outing their relationship violence, or fear that the violence will increase following disclosure of the violence (Hendy et al., 2003). Attitudes towards violence against women can differ across groups because of structural factors such as gender and nationality (Nayak, Byrne, Martin, & Abraham, 2003). The approach taken by social workers towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser can vary due to the diverse professional, personal, and educational experiences each individual social worker has had.

Social workers' poor perceptions regarding victims who stay with their abusers can bring negative consequences to these victims and their families.

Yamawaki, and colleagues (2012) explain that although the majority of women wish to leave their relationships there are a variety of different factors that get in the way and the decision to return to the abuse is more likely. Negative attribution to these victims can lead inadequate assessment for violence, poor service delivery, and create more danger for the client who has been been identified as a victim of IPV in the past. A social worker's attitude can be a real danger for the safety of these victims, especially if there are influences that are not allowing the social worker to screen for domestic violence.

<div align="center">Purpose of Study</div>

The purpose of this research study is to examine how the demographics and experiences of social work students at California State University, San Bernardino influence their perspectives towards victims of IPV who decide to stay with their abusers. Social work students are expected to be prepared and make educated decisions when it comes to serving domestic violence victims. These future social workers are likely to encounter IPV clients in future practice, if they have not already in previous experience through employment or internship. Research exists on social work students' perspectives towards domestic violence victims, but there is a lack of research on social work students' perceptions on victims of IPV who stay with their abuser.

Understanding the perception social work students have towards these victims will give insight on the knowledge and preparation these students need to

<div align="center">4</div>

effectively work with this population. It is important to know whether the attitudes of these students shift once they realize the victim is choosing to remain in an abusive relationship. Social workers may lack knowledge and have misconceptions about why domestic violence occurs and moreover why women choose to stay with their abuser. There is a general idea in society that women in these abusive relationships should simply just leave the relationship to keep themselves safe, but according to Meyer (2012) this is only a small component of the difficult decision making process of women affected by IPV.

The graduate level students at the university receive some training and education on how to assess, report, and provide services to these clients, but it is necessary to know if the curriculum provided will shape how these social workers will respond to victims of domestic violence, more specifically victims who choose to stay in a relationship after the abuse. Danis (2004) found that out of 172 social workers surveyed, 56% reported having little to no social work coursework in that specifically addressed domestic violence. One quarter of those who participated felt that their field placement experience only slightly prepared them to serve IPV victims (Danis, 2004). Similarly, Black and colleagues (2010) state that failure to provide students with enough curriculum to properly address domestic violence can lead to poor understanding of the issues and acceptance of untrue myths about DV. Danis (2004) found that the combination academic and professional experience was the strongest predictor of best practice with abused women.

According to the NASW Code of Ethics (2017), social workers have an ethical commitment to clients and their primary responsibility is to promote their well-being. Social workers are also obligated to respect the client's right to respect and to promote self-determination (NASW Code of Ethics, 2017). It is necessary to assess whether the perception of IPV victims who stay with their abuser is allowing these future social workers to make educated decisions and to treat clients with dignity and respect regardless of the choices they make.

This study used a quantitative design to gain a better understanding of the perception social work students have towards victims of IPV who stay with their abusers. The study used a Qualtrics survey questionnaire administered to MSW social work students at the School of Social Work. This research design was selected due to the large size of the group being studied at one particular time and during the limited time frame. The survey consisted of several questions that pertained to this topic in order to assess MSW students' attitudes towards IPV victims who choose to stay with their abuser.

Significance of Study

The participants in this study are students with relatively recent and general knowledge regarding IPV, but perhaps have never assessed how they would respond to clients who are victims of IPV and decide to stay with their abuser. The perceptions these future social workers have towards these clients may influence the quality of services and interventions they receive. Social

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workers may not always approve or agree with the decisions clients make but it is important to understand that allowing the social worker's personal perceptions to become a factor in the client's progress can hurt the process more than help. The findings of this study may also encourage universities and future employers of social workers to expand the training and education provided to students and in order to enhance their critical thinking skills regarding battered clients. This study will inform the assessment phase of the generalist intervention process.

Conducting this study with social work students will contribute to social work practice by gaining a further understanding on working with victims of IPV. In addition, this study may help improve education and training on domestic violence and how to address clients who remain in violent relationships. The finding of this study may also be of great importance in child welfare practice. Child welfare social workers frequently encounter families experiencing domestic violence and are expected to be aware of the interventions and services available to this population and the influence their perception of this population can either hinder or help the process. Child welfare social workers are often involved with families where children have been exposed to domestic violence and can use the findings of this study to identify potential bias and preparedness to serve this population. Illiffe and Steed (2000) found that the more training and education an individual has about working with battered clients the less likely it is for the individual to suffer from burnout. The field of child welfare may find the results of this study useful when implementing standardized training regarding

domestic violence and procedures that help social workers stay motivated and avoid burnout when working with battered clients.

The first research questions for this study is: Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by their professional and/or personal experience with IPV/DV?

The second research question for this study is: Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by education level, whether foundation or advanced year in the MSW Program?

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

It is inevitable that social workers will encounter clients who have been

victims of IPV and will choose to remain in a relationship with their abuser. This

chapter is divided into a section on general attitudes and beliefs about IPV,

student perspectives on IPV victims, victim perspectives of IPV, and theories

guiding conceptualization.

Attitudes and Beliefs About Intimate Partner Violence

Societal attitudes and beliefs surrounding IPV and its causes change over

time. Worden & Carlson (2005) investigated recent public perception of domestic

violence and its severity. Most of the respondents in the 1200 participant sample

suggested that the cause of violence was in the context of individual problems,

relationships, and families (Worden & Carlson, 2005). The study also found that

many of the perceived reasons for domestic violence matched myths and

stereotypes attached to domestic violence. Participants mentioned factors such

as financial stress, substance abuse issues, or perpetrators' inabilities' to control

their tempers (Worden & Carlson, 2005). Societal beliefs about the causes and

risks of domestic violence reflect limited education and widespread

misunderstanding about IPV may lead the general public to view IPV as normal.

Social support plays a crucial role in the lives of DV victims who are motivated to overcome and rid their lives of the abuse. Social support can help protect battered women against ongoing violence by triggering their coping efforts and increasing their physical safety (Liang, Goodman,Tummala-Narra, Weintraub, 2005). Formal support can be provided by law enforcement, social services, medical professionals, and other domestic violence victims (Liang et al., 2005). The process of seeking help for victims of IPV may occur with first defining the problem, then deciding to seek help, and selecting a source of support. Social workers must be prepared to help clients both when they are seeking support from social service agencies and when they need help defining the problem. Domestic violence victims need social workers who are prepared and who hold non-judgmental attitudes to help them find safety and resources whether or not to stay with their abuser.

Student Perception of Intimate Partner Violence

A review of existing research regarding college and university students' perceptions and attitudes concerning DV shows that there are different factors that influence responses to this population. The influence of education and professional training on IPV has on individual perception of IPV victims is supported by numerous studies. One study with MSW students explored factors that influenced student attitudes towards survivors of domestic violence found that training, education, and professional experiences influenced student

attitudes the most (Postmus, Warrener, McMahon & Macri, 2011). This study included 283 MSW students, 59% of whom reported having direct or professional experience with victims of domestic violence (Postmus et al., 2011).

Bryant & Spencer (2003) conducted a study on university student's attitudes about blaming in incidents of domestic violence between a husband and wife and how it may influence their own use of violence in dating relationships. The study found notable gender differences in the results with male students more like to blame the victim for the violence than female students (Bryant & Spencer, 2003). This results of this study were consistent with those of the study of Yamawaki and colleagues (2012), who found that male participants in their study blamed the victims and minimized the severity of the abuse more than the females did. This study used the Domestic Violence Blame Scale which measures the attribution of blame in domestic violence incidents to situational, perpetrator, societal, and victim factors (Bryant & Spencer, 2003). The reasons for implementing blame on the victims can vary with each individual, but this study found that those students who had prior history of violence were more likely to blame society for promoting views that increased domestic violence (Bryant & Spencer, 2003).

The quality and extensiveness of the education that is provided to students about domestic violence is vital to developing best practicing social workers. Although education is vital, Postmus et al., (2011) found that only 47% of the surveyed students had learned about violence against women through

readings, lectures, or assignments. Unfortunately, this study did not specifically ask if the participants took a course that primarily focused on this subject matter; rather, it only measured exposure within other courses (Postmus et al., 2011). This study illustrates the lack of knowledge in social work students regarding IPV which can lead to a poor perception and poor service delivery to this population.

Another study showed that not all MSW students are familiar with DV interventions. This study asked university students about the perceived causes and complexity of DV and their recommended interventions through a case scenario (Black et al., 2010). Of 124 students, only 17% were able to identify specific DV interventions (Black et al., 2010). Although students in this study recognized that domestic violence is extremely complex, a high percentage of students that believed victims held a portion of the blame in causing their abuse (Black et al., 2010). It is vital that all social workers understand the dangers and potential harm victims in IPV face and have a non-judgmental attitude in order to best serve them. Social work students' willingness to attribute blame to victims of domestic violence suggests that social work education may not be helping students use higher levels of critical thinking skills when it comes to domestic violence (Paul & Elder, 2008).

The decision to leave an abusive relationship can be very complex for victims and there are lot of perceived reasons why they choose to leave or stay in these relationships. Hendy and colleagues (2003) studied college women and women from crisis shelters. The sample used a 40-Item Decision to Leave Scale

to measure the concerns women had when making the decision to stay or leave violent relationships (Hendy et al., 2003). The participants were asked to rate different reasons/factors to consider when leaving or staying in a relationship (Hendy et al., 2003). The study found that women in both groups had the following common concerns when deciding to leave or stay in a relationship: fear of loneliness, childcare needs, financial problems, social embarrassment, poor social support, fear of harm, and the hope that things change (Hendy et al., 2003). This study can provide useful insight on the concerns and barriers victims of IPV face when deciding to leave or stay in an abusive relationship. Social workers who are aware of the barriers victims face when seeking help can have greater empathy and understanding for the clients they serve.

Yamawaki and colleagues (2012) conducted a research study that evaluated the influence of sex, domestic violence myths, the victim's relationship status and decision to return had on the perception of domestic violence in regards to college women and men. Domestic violence myths have a profound effect on the negative attitudes towards victims of domestic violence and victims that return to the abuse are more likely to be blamed (Yamawaki et al., 2012). Adverse attitudes attributed to victims who return to their abuser discourage them from seeking help and reduce their ability to recover from the abuse, leading them to isolation and dealing with the abuse alone (Yamawaki et al., 2012). Support for victims of IPV is important for the victim's ability overcome the abuse but a positive support network is not always available to clients.

Victim Perspective of Intimate Partner Violence

It is important to understand the perspectives and reasons behind staying in abusive relationships through the eyes of the victims themselves. Rhatigan & Axsom (2006) used the Investment model to understand the commitment battered women have to abusive relationships. The Investment Model helped gain further insight and how victims make decisions based on the cost-reward ratio built into their relationships and the level of commitment these women felt influenced relationship dependence (Rhatigan & Axsom, 2006). It is common to assume that victims of IPV stay in relationships because they are dependent on their partner to provide them with basic needs such as financial security and intimacy, but a deeper understanding of these decisions is needed. Research suggests that a woman's relationship commitment is dependent on their levels of satisfaction within the relationship (Rhatigan & Axsom, 2006). Furthermore, this study demonstrated that battered women who have a lower level of relationship satisfaction, more quality alternatives to the relationship, and less investments may feel less committed to their abusive relationships. Recognizing the role of the commitment level each women has may help understand the complex decision of leaving for these victims.

Kim & Gray (2008) explored these issues further in a study that looked at the following four factors that influenced a woman to stay in an abusive relationship: financial independence, witness of parental violence, psychological factors, and law enforcement's response to the domestic violence call. The

results of the study showed that 72% of the victims who lived with their batterer when the violence occurred were less likely to leave the relationship (Kim & Gray, 2008). Additionally, victims who were financially independent were more likely to leave the relationship, which is consistent with the theory that women with more quality alternatives and less investments in their relationships feel less committed to the abusive relationship (Rhatigan & Axsom, 2006).

On the surface, it may appear that seeking help as a victim of IPV may come easy but many women may never disclose any information about abuse. Loke and colleagues (2012) conducted a qualitative study on the experiences of nine women in Hong Kong who were victims of IPV. All women in the study presented with feelings of shame, low self-esteem, depression, and suicidal ideation (Loke et al., 2012). The findings of this study support those of previous studies that suggest although women may have the desire to leave abusive relationships, the decisions to leave is very complex. Culture plays an important role in attitudes and stigmas about domestic violence, and almost all of the women in this study reported that the stayed with their husband because they did not want their children to experience a divorce (Loke et al., 2012). The participants also reported that they were reluctant to seek help because they did not know what services were available in their community.

A social worker's involvement in an IPV victim's life can be a life changing experience based on the knowledge and attitude that social worker holds.

If social workers allow their own cultural beliefs and biases to interfere with their work, IPV may not be properly addressed or not addressed at all. This study focuses on social work students' perspectives towards victims of domestic violence who stay with their abusers.

Theories Guiding Conceptualization

Several theories that can further the understanding of domestic violence and how students' demographics and experiences shape their perceptions towards victims of domestic violence who stay in abusive relationships.

The Cycle of Violence of Theory is used to explain the repeated pattern of violence between a victim of IPV/DV and their perpetrator. Victims of domestic violence repeat this cycle many times before they decide to end a relationship. The cycle of violence is also known as the generational transmission of violence (Lapierre, 2008). The cycle of violence includes phases such as tension building, the incident, making-up, and being calm after the abuse (Walker, 2016). This cycle can happen multiple times in abusive relationships and each stage may look different with each couple and can vary in the length of time. The cycle of violence theory may serve as a guide for practicing and future social workers who will be interacting with victims of IPV.

The Investment Model can be used to gain further insight on the IPV victim's decision to end an abusive relationship (Dixon, Edwards, Gidycz, 2015). The investment model suggests that victims use a cost-benefit analysis when

making decisions about relationship commitment. In other words, an IPV victim compares what will be gained or lost if they choose to stay in the relationship; these standards reflect the relationship standards the victim feels they deserve (Dixon et al., 2015). This theory is supported by research by Rhatigan & Axsom (2006) who emphasize the importance the Investment Model places on commitment, which can be a critical predecessor to predicting and understanding the decision to leave or stay. Abused women can become committed to their relationships over time to the extent that their most important needs cannot be met without their partners (Rhatigan & Axsom, 2006). The victim's commitment to a relationship can greatly influence their decision to overcome the abuse and is also an important factor to consider when making assumptions about a client's reasons for staying with their abuser.

The perception social work students have regarding IPV can be better understood when connected to the Experiential Learning Theory (ELP). ELP claims that a person creates their knowledge through their personal experiences (Mainemelis, Boyateziz, & Kolb, 2002). ELP is an approach that gives insight on how adults learn and develop, and how experiences shape this process (Postmus et al., 2011). The findings by Postmus and colleagues. (2011) suggest that a student's perception and behaviors regarding violence against women is connected to what they have learned through school curriculum and informally through other experiences. Taking into account that every person's perception of

IPV is shaped through their past experiences and how they grow threw them is an important perspective when it comes to the issue of IPV.

Summary

The literature provided covers research studies that address the general perception social work students have towards DV/IPV, the causes of DV/IPV, and the factors that influence a student's response to the victims of this population. The literature presented for the study lacks information on social work students' perception towards victims of DV/IPV who stay with their abuser. This gap in the research identifies a need for practicing social workers and social work students to assess their responses to victims of IPV/DV who choose not to end their abusive relationship and remain with their abuser. The Cycle of Violence Theory, The Investment Model, and the Experiential Learning Theory are all used to understand the causes and effects of DV/IPV, the obstacles there are when trying to end the abuse, and overall insight on the experiences of this population. The careful examination of the literature provided will be used as support to show that there is a need for the above proposed study. Assessing student perceptions towards victims of IPV/DV who stay with their abuser will fill the gap in the literature.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive description of the research

methods used to conduct this study. This chapter conveys the research project's

study design and sampling techniques. It also describes the instruments used to

collect the data, the procedures for data collection, participant confidentiality, and

the quantitative data analysis.

Study Design

The perceptions social work students have towards IPV victims who stay

in abusive relationships has not been adequately addressed by the current

research. Although the current research available does address social work

student's perception of IPV in general, there is a gap in the studies that

addresses how social work students view victims of IPV who stay with their

abusers. Social work students are well on their way to becoming practicing social

workers who will encounter clients experiencing domestic violence (DV) or IPV. It

is important for the students to identify their self-awareness about how they will

respond when providing service to this population. Furthermore, it is vital that

educational institutions to help these students gain a deeper understanding of

IPV and stigmas attached to it and how this could possibly affect their responses

to these clients.

The study aimed at assessing how these future social workers perceived the choices IPV victims make concerning their relationships and how social work students may respond to helping these individuals. The objective of this research study was to assess attitudes and perspective towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser among MSW social work students at a university in the state of California. This study investigated whether the professional and/or personal experiences of the participant shape or influence their perception of IPV victims who stay with their abuser. Furthermore, the study also investigated whether student's perceptions varied by foundation and advanced year in the MSW Program.

The study used a quantitative study design with a self-administered survey questionnaire. At the time of data collection there was 265 MSW social work students enrolled in the school of social work and there was a 50% response rate expected for participants. All enrolled MSW social work students in the Full-Time, Part-Time, and Pathway Program were eligible to participate in the study. Participants for the anonymous study were recruited by an email sent out to MSW students by administrative staff at the university. If and when the students decided to participate in the study they followed a link connecting them to the survey. Using the Qualtrics Survey program students were prompted with a letter of introduction, an informed consent form, survey questionnaire, and a debriefing statement. Participants were informed that if they feel uncomfortable or overly emotional about answering the questions they are able to stop the survey at any

time. The debriefing statement provided information about the sensitive nature of the study and contact information to the counseling resources available on campus should they feel distressed.

A quantitative research design was the most rationale study design choice due to the study's limited time frame, as online surveys have the ability to collect large amount of data in a short period of time. This study design also helped to maintain confidentiality and anonymity of the participants and was also cost-effective. The study used a self-administered survey questionnaire that was created by the researcher. A quantitative research design allows for a closer look at the relationship between the dependent and independent variables such as the students' experiences can influence their perceptions towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser. It is unclear if the data gathered from the study is a representative of all MSW students, but it does providing a general idea of the perception social work students have towards this population.

Using a quantitative research design has many strengths but there are also methodological implications and limitations to using this type of design. One limitation of quantitative research designs is the need for a large sample size and a sufficient response rate. Since the participation in this study was voluntary it was difficult to obtain a high response rate from students who received the invitation to participate. Another implication of the study was that students left questions unanswered or answered untruthfully because of the sensitive nature

of the questions. The participants in the study were informed of their significant role in this study, especially as future social workers.

The first research questions for this study is: Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by their professional and/or personal experience with IPV/DV?

The second research question for this study is: Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by education level, whether foundation or advanced year in the MSW Program?

Sampling

MSW social work students in the full-time, part-time, and Pathway Program at the school of social work were invited to participate in the study. A self-administered, online survey was accessed through a link in an email that lead to the actual survey. The eligibility requirements of who could participate in the study was included in the email invitation that was sent out to the School of Social Work. Students who were not enrolled in the MSW Program and school staff/personnel were excluded from participating. The objective of the study was to assess the perceptions and attitudes of social work students towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser.

Data Collection and Instruments

The self-administered survey questionnaire contained demographic questions and Likert-scale questions. The demographic questions collected data that included age, ethnicity, level of education, marital status, household income, employment status and whether or not participants have children. All of the demographic questions were answered through multiple choice options and the age of participants was a fill-in response. Additionally, students were asked if they had any personal or professional experience with IPV/DV.

In addition, the survey included 16 Likert-scale questions that addressed the participants' perceptions towards victims of IPV who choose to stay in an abusive relationship. Participants responded to each Likert-scale statement using one of the four following responses: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. These questions included statements such as, ""Most women can get out of an abusive relationship if they really wanted to", "Intimate partner violence is a personal problem and should be resolved by the people within the relationship", and "Alcohol, drug, abuse, stress, lack of education, financial stressors cause domestic violence" (see Appendix C).

Procedures

This study was approved by the Director of the School of Social Work on November 09, 2017. Following the approval, the study was approved by the

Institutional Review Board (IRB), Social Work Subcommittee on December 18, 2017.

Participant consent to participate in the study was obtained through the informed consent form (Appendix A) provided at the beginning of the survey questionnaire. Participants willing to participate in the study chose the option "I consent, begin the study" at the end of the informed consent form. The self-administered survey questionnaire (Appendix C) included numerous questions and took approximately 10 minutes to complete. Once participants completed the survey they were prompted with the debriefing statement and were thanked for their willingness to participate in the study. The collected data was recorded in the online survey program, Qualtrics. This data was then transferred to SPSS statistical software for data analysis. The collected data was stored in a password protected computer owned by the researcher.

Protection of Human Subjects

This research study protected the rights and confidentiality of each participant. Confidentiality remained a priority throughout the research study. According to Kaiser (2009) confidentiality should always be the focus during the research planning, and during the following three times in the research process: data collection, data cleaning, and dissemination of results. First, the study did not collect students' identifiable information. Participants in the survey were provided an informed consent form and were introduced to the purpose of the

study. When reviewing the informed consent, the participants were not be asked to sign their name or to provide any personal information. Instead, they checked an "X" to grant consent. The informed consent form notified each participant that the survey was completely voluntary, that they had the right to terminate the survey at any moment without penalty, and that completing the survey was not a requirement of the university.

At the end of the survey questionnaire participants were provided a debriefing statement containing contact information to the faculty advisor supervising the project. Also, if in any case the questions in the survey are troubling for students they will be given the information to contact the Counseling & Psychological Services available (CAPS) to students on campus. Students were also provided the telephone number to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1(800) 799-7233 where the participants can speak confidentially with an advocate about experiencing domestic violence and seeking help or resources.

Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the demographics of the participants. Additionally, inferential statistics in the form of a Pearson's R was used to examine the relationships between the independent variables (students' professional and personal experiences with IPV, and their education level in the

MSW Program) and the dependent variable (perception towards IPV victims who stay with their abusers).

Summary

This research study used a self-administered survey questionnaire to assess the perceptions of social work students towards victims of IPV who stay with their abusers. The study looked at the students personal and professional experience with IPV, and whether students' perceptions varied between foundation and advanced year students. This study adds to the limited research available regarding social work students' perceptions towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Introduction

Chapter four presents the results of the data gathered by the researcher from the Qualtrics survey. The researcher discusses the demographics of the MSW students who participated in the survey and also discuss the variables that were measured in the study. The variables consist of the participants' personal experiences with IPV, professional experiences working with victims IPV, and their knowledge of the subject in general.

Data Results

A total of 98 responses were collected. The researcher found that 16 participants did not complete the majority of the survey; therefore, these 16 responses were deleted from the data set. Thus, there were a total of 82 participants.

Demographics

The study consisted of 82 participants who all varied in age. The youngest participant reported to be 22 years old and the maximum age of participants was 56 years old. The average age of participants was 32 years old. Participants included both foundation and advanced year MSW students enrolled in the School of Social Work at the university. 50 (61%) participants reported they

were in the foundation year of the MSW program, and 32 (39%) participants reported they were in their advanced year of the MSW program. The study consisted of 71 (86.6%) female participants and 10 (12.2%) male participants. There was 1 (1.2%) participant who did not report their gender; this information was reported as "missing" in the data (see Table 1). Participants were also asked to identify their ethnicity and had the option to choose "other" if their identified ethnicity was not listed (see table 1). Of all participants, 22 (26.8%) identified as White, 12 (14.6%) identified as Black or African American, 42 (51.2%) identified at Hispanic or Latino, 1 (1.2) participant identified as Asian/ Pacific Islander, 1 (1.2) participant identified as Native American or American Indian, and 4 (4.9%) participants chose the "other" option.

In terms of marital status, 40 (48.8%) of the participants reported being single (never married), 2 (2.4%) of the participants reported being separated, 6 (7.3%) of participants were divorced, and 34 (41.5%) participants reporting being married.

The participants were also asked to report their employment status and had the options to report as employed or unemployed. 56 (68.3%) or participants reported they were employed and 26 (31.7%) of the participants reported being unemployed. Following the question about employment, participants were also asked to identify their household income. 23 (28%) of the participants reported their household income to be under $20,000 a year, 11(13.4%) participants reported their household income to be $20,001-$35,000, 10 (12.2%) of

participants reported their household income to be $35,001-$50,000 per year, 19

(23.2%) of participants reported their household income to be $50,001- $75,000

per year, 6 (7.3%) reported their household income to be $75,001-$100,000 per

year, and 12 (14.6%) participants reported their household income to be over

$100,000 per year.

Table 1

Demographics of the Participants

Variable	Frequencies (n)	Percentages (%)
Age		
22-30	47	57.3
31-40	18	21.9
41-50	13	15.7
50+	4	4.8
Gender		
Female	71	86.6
Male	10	12.2
Missing (data not reported)	1	1.2
Ethnicity		
White	22	26.8
Black or African American	12	14.6
Hispanic or Latino	42	51.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1.2
Native American or American Indian	1	1.2
Other	4	4.9
Marital Status		
Single	40	48.8
Separated	2	2.4
Divorced	6	7.3
Married	34	41.5

Household Income		
Less than $20,000	23	28
$20,001-$35,000	11	13.4
$35,001-$50,000	10	12.2
$50,001-$75,000	19	23.2
$75,001-$100,000	6	7.3
Over $100,000	12	14.6
Missing (data not reported)	1	1.2
Employment Status		
Employed	56	68.3
Unemployed	26	31.7
Highest Degree or Education Level		
MSW Foundation Year	50	61
MSW Advanced Year	32	39

_____

Personal Experience with Intimate Partner Violence

Information was also gathered about the participant's personal experience

with IPV in their current or past relationships and/or having friends or family who

have experienced IPV. Participants were asked to indicate whether "yes" they

have current or past history of experiencing IPV, or "no" they have never had

personal experience with IPV. 36 (43.9%) participants reported having personally

experienced IPV/DV in their current or past relationships. 46 (56.1%) participants

reported never having personally experiences IPV/DV in current or past

relationships. Furthermore, the participants were also asked about their indirect

experience with IPV/DV. Indirect experiences with IPV/DV was defined as having

friends, family, or acquaintances who have experienced IPV/DV. Participants had

the option to select all the responses that applied to them. 47 (57.3%) of the

participants reported having a friend(s) who have been or currently victims of

IPV, 54 (65.9%) participants reported having a family who is currently or has

been a victim of IPV. There was 8 (9.8%) participants who reported not having

indirect experience with IPV.

Table 2

Participant Experiences with Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence

	Frequencies	Percentages
Variable	*(n)*	*(%)*
Personal Experience IPV/DV		
Yes	36	43.9
No	46	56.1
Indirect Experience with IPV/DV		
Yes	74	90.2
No	8	9.8

Professional Experience with Intimate Partner Violence

Professional experience working with victims of IPV was defined as having

any employment (paid or unpaid) and/or volunteer experience with this

population (see Table 3). Out of the 82 participants, 40 (48.8%) participants

reported they have no professional experience working with victims of IPV. 42

(51.2%) reported having professional experience working with victims of IPV.

Participant Exposure to Curriculum

To gather more information on the participant's knowledge about IPV, they

were asked about the amount of course instruction they have received about IPV

(see Table 3). 14 participants reported that they have taken at least one course

dedicated to this subject of IPV, 21 (25.6%) participants indicated they have

received moderate information on the identifying, treatment and prevention of

IPV, 30 (36.6%) participants reported receiving minimal information on the

identifying, treatment and prevention of IPV, and 16 (19.5%) of participants

reported they have received little to no information on the identifying, treatment

and prevention of IPV. There was one participant who did not answer this

question.

Table 3

Participant Exposure to Curriculum and Experience Working with Intimate Partner Violence Victims

Variable	Frequencies (n)	Percentages (%)
Employment or Volunteer Experience Working with Victims of IPV/DV		
No Experience	40	48.8
Less Than One Year	15	18.3
1-5 Years	20	24.4
Over 5 Years	7	8.5
Course Instruction Received About IPV/DV		
I have taken at least one course dedicated to this subject.	14	17.1
I have received minimal information on identifying, treating, and the prevention of IPV.	30	36.6
I have received moderate information about identifying, treating, and the prevention of IPV.	21	25.6
I have had little to no information on identifying, treating and the prevention of IPV.	16	19.5

Missing (Data not reported)   1   1.2

_____

Participants' Perceptions

       The survey consisted of 13 questions with Likert Scale responses to measure the participant's perception towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser. The participants were asked to rate their level of agreement to statements about IPV (see Table 4). Possible responses included strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

       The first statement was "IPV is usually provoked or encouraged by the victim". For this statement, 1 (1.2%) answered agree, 4 (4.9%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 23 (28%) answered disagree, and 54 (65.9%) answered strongly disagree.

       The second statement read "Most women can get out of an abusive relationship if they really wanted to."16 (19.5%) participants answered agree, 14 (17.1%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 28 (34.1%) answered disagree, 24 (29.3%) participants answered strongly disagree.

       The third statement read "Victims of IPV face barriers to getting help."39 (47.6%) participants answered strongly agree, 39 (47.6%) participants answered agree, 1 (1.2%) participant answered neither agree nor disagree,2 (2.4%) participants answered disagree, and 1 (1.2%) participant answered strongly disagree.

The fourth statement read "Intimate partner violence is a personal problem and should be resolved by the people within the relationship." 4 (4.9%) participants answered agree, 7 (8.5%) participants answered neither agree nor disagree, 34 (41.5%) answered disagree, 37 (45.1%) answered strongly disagree.

The fifth statement read "The victim provokes violent behavior through their actions and behaviors." 7 (8.5%) participants answered neither agree nor disagree, 25 (30.5%) participants answered disagree, 50 (61%) answered strongly disagree.

The sixth statement read "Victims of IPV who choose to stay with their abuser enjoy the abuse." 3 participants answered neither agree nor disagree, 14 (17.1%) answered disagree, 65 (79.3%) answered strongly disagree.

The seventh statement read "Victims who stay in an abusive relationship share some of the blame for the abuse." 2 (2.4%) participants answered strongly agree, 17 (20.7%) answered agree, 8 (9.8%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 22 (26.8%) answered disagree, 33 (40.2%) answered strongly disagree.

The eighth statement read "alcohol, drug abuse, stress, lack of education and financial stressors cause domestic violence." 16 (19.5%) answered strongly agree, 41 (50.0%) answered agree, 14 (17.1%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 5 (6.1%) answered disagree, 6 (7.3%) answered strongly disagree.

The ninth statement read "There are many factors that contribute to the decisions of leaving a violent relationship." 40 (48.8%) participants answered strongly agree, 40 (48.8%) answered agree, and 2 (2.4%) participants answered neither agree nor disagree.

The tenth statement read "I believe it is appropriate to remain in an abusive relationship." 2 (2.4%) participants answered strongly agree, 7 (8.5%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 23 (28%) participants answered disagree, and 50 (61%) participants answered strongly disagree.

The eleventh statement read "Battered women can be controlled through a pattern of economic abuse, making them dependent on their abuser." 46(56.1%) participants answered strongly agree, 30 (36.6%) participants answered agree, 4 (4.9%) answered neither agree nor disagree, 1 (1.2) participant answered disagree, and 1 (1.2%) answered strongly disagree.

The twelfth statement read "The stigma of being a victim of IPV is a barrier to reporting the abuse." 32 (39%) participants answered strongly agree, 39 (47.6%) answered agree, 5 (6.1%) participants answered neither agree nor disagree, and 6 (7.3%) participants answered disagree.

The final statement read "Leaving an abusive relationship can be extremely dangerous for a victim of IPV". 56 (68.3%) participants answered strongly agree, 22 (26.8%) answered agree, 3 (3.7%) answered neither agree nor disagree, and 1(1.2%) participant answered disagree.

Table 4

Responses to Likert Scale Questions

_____

Variable	Frequencies (n)	Percentages (%)
IPV is usually provoked or encouraged by the victim.		
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	1	1.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	4	4.9
Disagree	23	28
Strongly Disagree	54	65.9
Most women can get out of an abusive relationship if they really wanted to.		
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	16	19.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	14	17.1
Disagree	28	34.1
Strongly Disagree	24	29.3
Victims of IPV face barriers to getting help.		
Strongly Agree	39	47.6
Agree	39	47.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	1.2
Disagree	2	2.4
Strongly Disagree	1	1.2
IPV is a personal problem and should be resolved by the people within the relationship.		
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	4	4.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	7	8.5
Disagree	34	41.5
Strongly Disagree	37	45.1
The victim provokes violent behavior through their actions and behaviors.		
Strongly Agree	0	0

Agree	0	0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	7	8.5
Disagree	25	30.5
Strongly Disagree	50	61

Victims of IPV who choose to stay
with their abuser enjoy the abuse.

Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	0	0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	3.7
Disagree	14	17.1
Strongly Disagree	65	79.3

Victims who stay in an abusive relationship
share some of the blame for the abuse.

Strongly Agree	2	2.4
Agree	17	20.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	8	9.8
Disagree	22	26.8
Strongly Disagree	33	40.2

Alcohol, drug abuse, lack of education, financial stressors
cause domestic violence.

Strongly Agree	16	19.5
Agree	41	50
Neither Agree nor Disagree	14	17.1
Disagree	5	6.1
Strongly Disagree	6	7.3

There are many factors that contribute
to the decision of leaving a violent relationship.

Strongly Agree	40	48.8
Agree	40	28.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	2	2.4
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0

I believe it is appropriate to remain in an
abusive relationship.

Strongly Agree	2	2.4

Agree	0	0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	7	8.5
Disagree	23	28
Strongly Disagree	50	61

Battered women can be controlled though
 a pattern of economic abuse,
making them dependent on their abuser.

Strongly Agree	46	56.1
Agree	30	36.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	4	4.9
Disagree	1	1.2
Strongly Disagree	1	1.2

The stigma of being a victim of IPV is
a barrier to reporting the abuse.

Strongly Agree	32	39
Agree	39	47.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	5	6.1
Disagree	6	7.3
Strongly Disagree	0	0

Leaving an abusive relationship can
 be extremely dangerous for a victim of IPV.

Strongly Agree	56	68.3
Agree	22	26.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	3.7
Disagree	1	1.2
Strongly Disagree	0	0

_____

Presentation of Inferential Statistics

In order to answer the first research question, "Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by foundation or advanced year in the MSW Program?". The researcher created a summary score for each participant's response to selected Likert-scale questions (Q20, Q22, Q23, Q24, Q25, Q26, Q28, Q30, Q31, and Q32). The researcher reverse coded questions Q22, Q28, Q30, Q31, and Q32. The researcher also recoded question 13, which asked participants to identify their year in the MSW program (1st, 2nd, or 3rd year). These responses were recoded into 2 categories: MSW foundation or MSW advanced year. The researcher ran a t-test to compare summary scores of foundation year and advanced year students. The independent samples t-test showed no significant difference between scores for foundation and advanced year students. $t(80)=.846$, $p=.400$.

In order to answer the second research question, "Do participants perceptions towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser vary by experience with DV", the research recoded participant responses for questions about personal experiences with DV. The researcher recoded Q16, Q17a, Q17b, Q17c, in order to give each participant a 1=yes, 0=no. These scores were added for Q16, Q17a, Q17b, Q17c to create a personal experience DV score (min 0, max 4). Responses to question19 (about professional experience with DV) was reverse coded so that most experience =4, least experience=1 (range 1-4). The researcher left question 18 as no experience=1 and most experience =5 (range

1-5). The research added the scores for question 18 and question 19 to create a professional experience score (range 1-9)

A Pearson's R correlation was conducted to analyze the relationship between personal experience with DV and the perception of social work students' perception of IPV victims who stay with their abuser. There was no significant correlation of personal experience and attitudes/beliefs (r=-.18, p=.09)

A Pearson's r correlation was conducted with the summary score of participants to examine the relationship between professional experience with DV and social work students' perception of IPV victims who stay with their abuser. There was no significant correlation of professional experience and attitudes and beliefs (r=-.081, p=.47)

Summary

Chapter four included demographics of the participants, responses to Likert scale questions, and the results of the inferential statistics. The results that were obtained from the Pearson's r correlation were used to answer the first and second research questions. The results indicated there was no correlation between students' personal experience with DV/IPV and their perception of IPV/DV victims who stay with their abuser. The results also indicated that there was no significant correlation of between the social work students' perception of DV/IPV victims who stay with their abuser and their professional experience working with DV/IPV victims.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This study investigated the perception social work students have towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser. The researcher was interested in investigating factors/variable that influence student perception towards these victims. The researcher was interested in exploring whether students who had personal experience and/or professional with IPV had a different perception of IPV victims who stay with their abuser than those who had no experience with IPV. Furthermore, the researcher also investigated whether students in their foundation or advanced year of the MSW Program had different perceptions of IPV victims who stay with their abuser. There was also interest in exploring whether the perception of social work students who had personal experiences with IPV differed than those of students who reported no experience with IPV.

Discussion

This study did find a significant relationship between students' year in the MSW program or their exposure to IPV and students' perceptions of IPV victims. This finding is inconsistent with the literature which suggests that the most influential factors in student attitudes towards IPV are training, education, and professional experience (Postmus, Warrener, McMahon & Macri, 2011).

However, the majority of participants in this study seemed to hold positive beliefs about IPV victims. Perhaps these factors are more influential in other student populations outside of social work; there may be other unknown factors that play more significant roles in social work students' perceptions. Further, it is important to highlight that not all students responded positively to this population; several students appeared to have poor perceptions of IPV victims.

In the current study, 30 (36.6%) out of the 82 participants reported that they received only minimal information in their coursework on identifying, treating, and preventing of IPV. These findings are consistent with Postmus and colleagues' (2011) study which found that only 47% of the students they surveyed learned about violence against women through their readings, lectures, and assignments. This finding suggests that even at the MSW level, the majority of students receive information about IPV from sources other than curriculum. This finding generates concern about the reliability of the information students receive. Inaccurate information received from unreliable sources can potentially lead to poor perceptions and perhaps poor service delivery to this population.

The findings revealed that there was no significant difference in the perception of students who had personal and/or professional experience with IPV in comparison to those who did not have personal experience with IPV. Although most participants appeared to have an empathic and understanding attitude towards victims of IPV, there were a number of participants who had a negative response to this population. For example, when asked to state how much they

agree to the following statement "Victims who stay in an abusive relationship share some of the blame for the abuse", there were 2 respondents who strongly agreed with the statement, 17 respondents who agreed, and 8 respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. This demonstrates that although MSW students are highly educated, they may lack knowledge about domestic violence myths and stigmas. These findings are consistent with the research of Worden & Carlson (2005), who found through their 1200 participant sample that most participants' perceptions about domestic violence were rooted in myths and stereotypes connected to the subject.

Finally, a few of the participants' responses to the survey were unexpected by the researcher. In response to the statement "Victims who stay in an abusive relationship share some of the blame for the abuse", 2 respondents indicated they strongly agreed, 17 respondents indicated they agreed, and 8 respondents indicated neither agree nor disagree. The idea that social work students blame victims in violent relationship is troublesome for social work practice. According to Yamawaki and colleagues (2012), adverse attitudes towards DV victims who return to their abuser discourage them from seeking help and decrease their ability to recover from the abuse. This study's results suggest the need increased attention to MSW students' understanding of IPV

Limitations

A limitation of this study was the sample size. The sample consisted of only MSW students enrolled in the School of Social Work at the university. A sample that included BASW level students to participate in the study may have addressed this limitation. Another limitation within the sample was the gender of participants. The sample size resulted in the majority of participants identifying as female and only 10 male participants.

Another limitation identified by the research is social desirability bias. It is important to consider the possibility of participants responding to the questions in ways that are viewed favorably by others. Due to this limitation, there is no way for the researcher to determine whether the participants' responses were genuine or not. The instrument that was used for this study was also a limitation. The survey instrument was created by the researcher and has unknown validity/reliability.

Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Research

Social work students are likely to encounter victims of IPV at some point in their professional lives. It is important to understand how the perception students have towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser affect the service they provide to them. Social workers should be aware of the severity and complexity surrounding IPV and how they can best serve this population. This study's results indicated that only 14 participants took a course dedicated to the subject.

Students may benefit from expanded curriculum about IPV. Providing students with access to more curriculum may better prepare them to identify victims of IPV and to be aware of the appropriate interventions to implement with this population.

There is currently no requirement for the university to provide extensive training and curriculum regarding IPV. It may be valuable for the School and university to provide students with more education on IPV given the prevalence of IPV in American society. IPV is a serious social problem that has serious consequences for victims. As future and practicing social workers it is in our duty to provide victims in need with the appropriate interventions through our knowledge about the subject.

Further research should include participants from a wider variety of MSW programs, BSW programs, and more male participants. In this study 86% of participants were female, leaving the male population of social work students underrepresented. It is possible that the views of male social work students may differ than those of female social work students. Future social work research should also include testing the validity and reliability of the survey instrument used in this study. The tool used for this study was created by the researcher and has not been used in any other research.
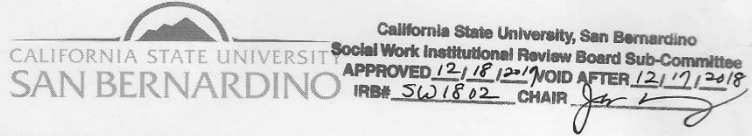
Conclusion

The focus of this study was to identify and understand the perceptions social work students have towards victims of IPV who stay with their abuser. The findings of the study suggest that most students had empathy and knowledge about this population. However, the researcher noted that some students lack understanding about the myths and social stigmas attached to IPV. Consequently, there is a need for greater training and curriculum about the subject is needed. The results indicated there was no correlation between students' personal experience with DV/IPV and their perception of IPV/DV victims who stay with their abuser. The results also suggested there was no significant relationship between student's professional experience working with IPV victims and their perception of the populations. The results also did not indicate a difference in the perception towards IPV victims who stay with their abuser of social work students who were in their foundation year and advanced year of the MSW Program.

It may be beneficial for these future practicing professionals to be provided with a more extensive and formal curriculum regarding the subject. This may include specialized courses that are a requirement for graduate level students. Implementing such curriculum will set the foundation for discussing the complexity of IPV and also properly and effectively train students to provide this population with the appropriate assessment and intervention. IPV continues to be one of the most complicated issues to adequately address and prevent. It is vital

for social work professionals to understand the challenges and myths connected

to IPV in order to help victims increase their quality of life.

APPENDIX A

INFORMED CONSENT

INFORMED CONSENT

California State University, San Bernardino
Social Work Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee
APPROVED 12/18/2017 VOID AFTER 12/17/2018
IRB# SW1802 CHAIR

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
School of Social Work
INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are asked to participate is designed to assess the perception of social work students towards victims of intimate partner violence(IPV) who stay with their abuser. For the purpose of this study the terms intimate partner violence and domestic violence (DV) will be used interchangeably. The study is being conducted by Andrea Perez, a MSW student under the supervision of Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog in the School of Social Work, California State University, San Bernardino. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board Social Work Sub-Committee, California State University, San Bernardino

PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to assess the perception of social work students towards victims of intimate partner violence(IPV) who stay with their abuser.

DESCRIPTION: Participants will be asked of a few questions about their demographics, personal experiences with IPV, and professional experiences with working with IPV victims. Participants will also be asked questions about their perception of IPV and domestic violence.

PARTICIPATION: Your participation in the study is totally voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study or discontinue your participation at any time without any consequences.

CONFIDENTIALITY OR ANONYMITY: Your responses will remain anonymous and data will be reported in group form only.

DURATION: It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey.

RISKS: There are no foreseeable risks to the participants.

BENEFITS: There will not be any direct benefits to the participants.

CONTACT: If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog at 909-537-7222 (email: dlanesskog@csusb.edu)

RESULTS: Results of the study can be obtained from the Pfau Library ScholarWorks (http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu) at California State University, San Bernardino after December 2018.

This is to certify that I read the above and I am 18 years or older.

_____   _____
Place an X mark here   Date

909.537.5501 · 909.537.7029
5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

The California State University . Bakersfield · Channel Islands · Chico · Dominguez Hills · East Bay . Fresno · Fullerton · Humboldt · Long Beach · Los Angeles Maritime Academy · Monterey Bay · Northridge · Pomona · Sacrament · San Bernardino · San Diego · San Francisco · San Jose · San Luis Obispo · San Marcos · Sonoma · Stanislaus

APPENDIX B

DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

This study you have just completed was designed to investigate the perception of social work students at California State University, San Bernardino towards victims of IPV who stay in abusive relationships. There is in interest in assessing if the personal and professional experiences of social work students shape the perception and attitude they have towards IPV victims who stay in abusive relationships. This is to inform you that no deception is involved in this study.

If you are interested in receiving counseling services about the subject discussed in this study, there are services available to students. The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is located on campus and you can contact the center at 909-537-5040. Another resource available to provide information regarding intimate partner violence is the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1(800) 799-7233. By calling this hotline you can speak confidentially with an advocate about experiencing domestic violence and seeking help or resources.

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog at 909-537-7222. If you would like to obtain a copy of the group results of this study, please contact the Pfau Library ScholarWorks database (http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/) at California State University, San Bernardino after December 2018.

APPENDIX C

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS AND INSTRUMENT

Survey Questionnaire

<u>Demographics</u>

What is your Gender
         1. Female
         2. Male

What is your age?
        _____
        (Type in age)

What is your Ethnicity?
         1. White
         2. Black of African American
         3. Hispanic or Latino
         4. Asian/Pacific Islander
         5. Native American or American Indian
         6. Other

Current marital Status?
         1. Single
         2. Separated
         3. Divorced
         4. Widowed
         5. Married

What is the highest degree or education level you have completed?

         1. MSW Full Time Foundation Year
         2. MSW Full Time Advanced Year
         3. MSW Part Time (1st year)
         4. MSW Part Time (2nd year)
         5. MSW Part Time (3rd year)

Employment Status:
         1. Employed
         2. Unemployed

Household Income:
         1. Less than $20,000

2. $20,001- $35,000
3. $35,001- $50,000
4. $50,001- $75,000
5. $75,001- $100,000
6. Over $100,000

Personal and Professional Experience with IPV

Have you personally experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)/Domestic Violence (DV) in current or past relationships?
1. Yes
2. No

2.Have you ever had indirect experience with DV/Intimate Partner Violence? (Do you have friends or family members, acquaintance who have been physically or sexually assaulted by their intimate partner violence?) Please select all that apply.

1. I have friend(s) who have been or currently are victims of IPV.
2. I have family members who have been or are currently victims of IPV.
3. I have personally been a victim of IPV.

3.Do you have any employment or volunteer experience working with victims IPV? If so, how long?
1. No experience.
2. Less than one year
3. 1-3 years
4. 3-5 years
5. Over 5 years

4.How much course instruction have you received about Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence through your education?
1. I have taken at least one course dedicated to this subject.
2. I have received minimal information of identifying, treating, and prevention of IPV.
3. I have received moderate information of identifying, treating, and prevention of IPV.
4. I have had little to no information on identifying, treating, and prevention of IPV.

Scaling Questions

Please indicate the number that best describes your attitude towards the following statements: Would you say you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement?
1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

1. ___ IPV is usually provoked or encouraged by the victim.

2. ___Most women can get out of an abusive relationship if they really wanted to.

3. ___Victims of IPV face barriers to getting help.

4. ___Intimate partner violence is a personal problem and should be resolved by the people within the relationship.

5. ___The victim provokes violent behavior through their actions and behaviors.

6. ___ Victims of IPV who choose to stay with their abuser enjoy the abuse.

7. ___Victims stays in an abusive relationship share some of the blame for the abuse.

8. ___Alcohol, drug, abuse, stress, lack of education, financial stressors cause domestic violence.

9. ___There are many factors that contribute to the decision of leaving a violent relationship.

10. ___I believe it is appropriate to remain in an abusive relationship.

11. ___ Battered women can be controlled through a pattern of economic abuse, making them dependent on their abuser.

12. ___The stigma of being a victim of IPV is a barrier to reporting the abuse.

13. ___ Leaving an abusive relationship can be extremely dangerous for a victim of IPV.

Developed By Andrea Perez

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