

# Study on the Impact of Domestic Verbal Violence on Children's Emotions

Lizhu Chen<sup>1, a</sup>

<sup>1</sup>English major at College of Foreign Languages, Guangdong Medical University, Dongguan, 523109, China  
<sup>a</sup>3258396748@qq.com

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**Abstract:** In family education, language plays a crucial role in family education as it is the primary means through which parents communicate values, attitudes, and beliefs to their children. It helps shape the way children see the world, understand relationships, and develop their own identities. Through language, parents can teach important life skills, impart cultural traditions, and instill moral values. Additionally, the power of one sentence can change a person's life, especially for children, words from close family members are like judgments in life. This study aims to explore whether domestic verbal violence have a negative impact on children's emotions. Through literature review and empirical research through questionnaire surveys, I analyzed the data from the questionnaire survey and compiled it into a table. The results showed that there exists the correlation between domestic verbal violence and children's moods, leading to this conclusion, that is, domestic violence does indeed have varying degrees of negative effects on children, which is moderated by various factors such as family environment and children's personality.

**Keywords:** Family education, children, domestic verbal violence, emotions, personality.

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## 1. Introduction

Article 1042 of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China clearly stipulates that domestic violence is prohibited. Prohibition of abuse and abandonment among family members. Also, in the Anti Domestic Violence Law of the People's Republic of China, verbal violence is also included as a form of mental violence within the family.

Psychologist Wu Zhihong once said, "Language violence can really turn into a weapon. A little-known study suggests that there is a strong connection between juvenile delinquency and childhood verbal violence in China. Bi Shumin wrote in an article titled "Family Questions, "which states," Children who grow up in a chaotic and ugly atmosphere are painful products of fake and inferior families. ". The first experience they see and get used to in dealing with people at home is fragmentation, displacement, and brutality. They are so young and lack the ability to distinguish, thinking that this is the model of the world. When they enter society, they will involuntarily treat others in a bad family pattern, spreading disorder and disharmony to further categories. What is even more frightening is that children from imperfect families have a pathological attraction to each other, as if there is a mischievous magnet in the dark, pulling men and women with flawed personalities, especially sympathizing with each other and eager to come together. A sick family, like walking on thin ice, is all tragedy. If the hinges cannot be effectively broken, this kind of hurtful family is like a stubborn barnyard grass, passed down from generation to generation.

It can be seen that whether at the national level, social level or individual level, the killing power of domestic verbal violence on children cannot be ignored, and a good family atmosphere can provide some protection and buffer for children.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. The definition of domestic verbal violence

Domestic scholars pay more attention to domestic verbal violence, and define the concept. Heguoqiang (2011)[1] and Anhao (2014)[2] both defined the occurrence situation, object and harm of domestic verbal violence, and believed that one was a kind of punitive language with the nature of insulting, scolding and slandering by parents to their children in the family, which hurt their children's feelings towards their parents and their mental health. Zhang Rui (2014)[3] expanded the scope of domestic verbal violence, believing that it is no longer just parents to children, but in the family, each member of the family makes the other party feel humiliated, indifferent or reduced self-efficacy through the way of language, which does not just refer to the use of language for direct abuse, roaring and other behaviors. Chen Luying (2018)[4] also refined the classification of domestic language violence, believing that domestic language violence is a kind of verbal violence that turns language into a weapon, intentionally or unintentionally attacks family members by verbal or written language such as abusive, defamatory, and demeaning, causing psychological and spiritual harm to them. This paper aims to study whether there are gender differences in the relationship between family language violence and children's depression level. Therefore, combined with the previous definitions of scholars, the concept of family language violence in this study is defined as: in the family context, parents or other elders often and habitually use verbal or written language of the nature of abuse, insult, slander, discrimination, ridicule to criticize or insult their children, which makes their children suffer serious pain and injury both mentally and mentally, and thus leads to a variety of negative emotional speech acts.

### 2.2. The harm to domestic verbal violence

Both at home and abroad have conducted in-depth research

on this field. Take Fatemeh Ghodrati's[5] point of view abroad, he believes that domestic verbal violence is more about the equality between men and women. Domestic Li Chen[6] considers that, influenced by traditional culture, domestic language violence is more about treating children's studies, attacking their interest in learning, affecting the healthy development of students' brain and intelligence, and hindering the development of self-identity.

Although the focus of domestic language violence is different at home and abroad, they have in common: the victims feel frustrated in self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and enthusiasm, and affect the victims' mental health and social abilities.

### 3. Research Methods and Results

In this study, students in Dongguan campus of Guangdong Medical University in Guangdong Province were investigated. A total of 530 questionnaires were distributed through the online platform questionnaire star, 498 of which were valid, and the effective rate was 93.9%. There were 113 boys and 390 girls. The data showed that the number of students who experienced or witnessed language violence in their families reached 45.79%; 51.02% of the verbal violence was committed by fathers and 26.53% by mothers.

The statistics of some questionnaire topics are as follows:

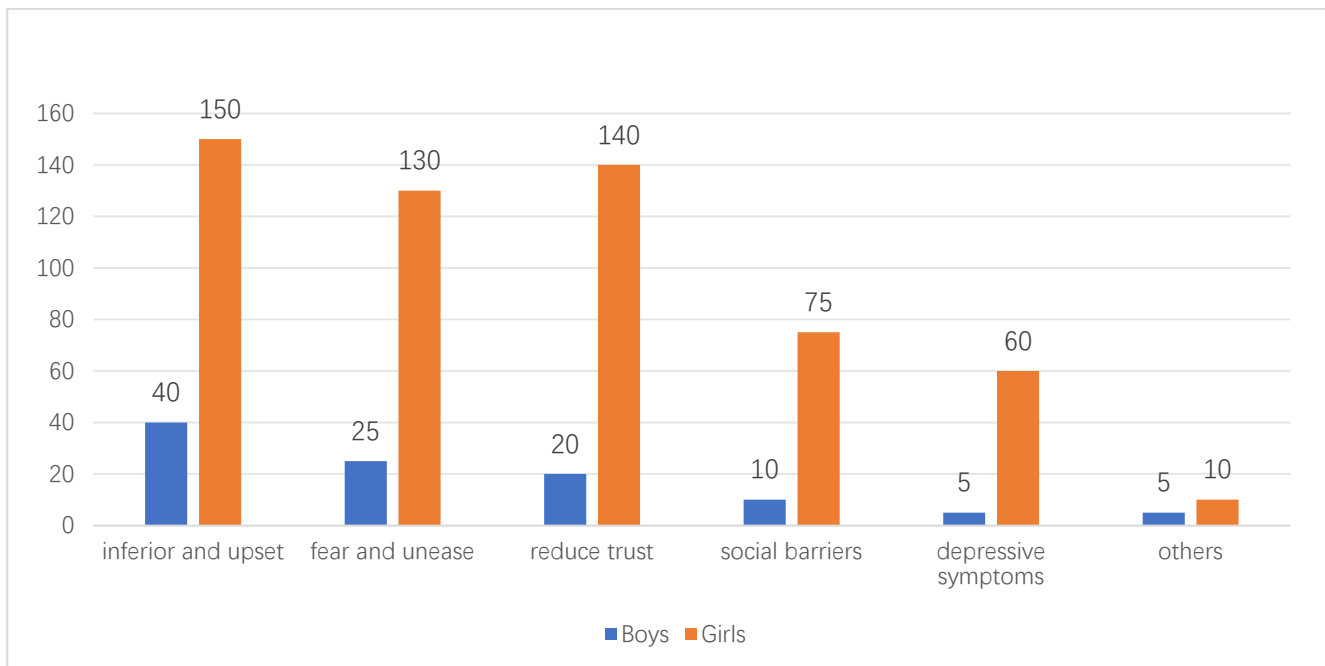
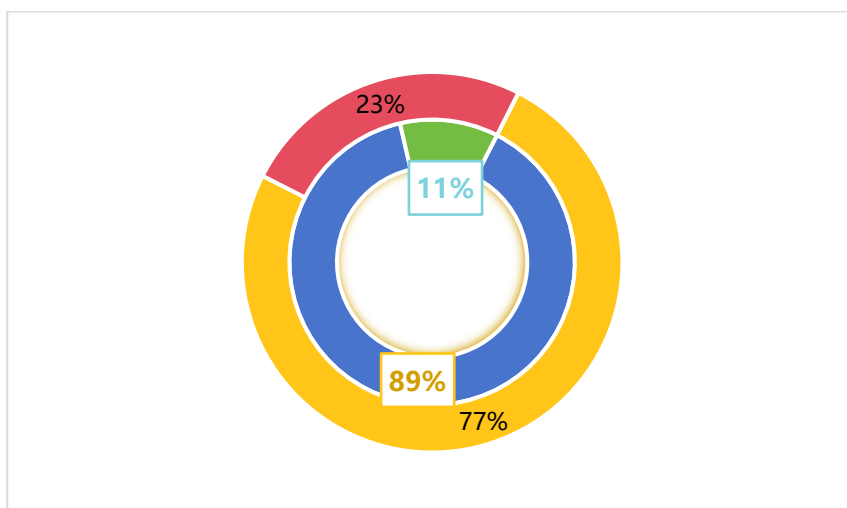


Figure 1. Negative emotions generated by boys and girls facing domestic verbal violence



YELLOW: G-Yes  
 RED: G-No  
 BLUE: B-Yes  
 GREEN: B-No

Figure 2. Domestic verbal violence affects academic and work performance

As shown in the above figure 1, both boys and girls feel inferior and depressed after being subjected to domestic verbal violence. Besides, they have a sense of fear, uneasiness, and trust reduction. Compared with boys, girls are more prone

to social barriers, suffering depression and other symptoms.

It can be seen that the emotional impact of domestic language violence on children is extremely significant. However, the variety in the proportion of negative sentiment

may be due to the different intensity of emotional feelings between male and female students. Female students may be more likely to feel the threat and harm of domestic language violence, because they tend to pay more attention to emotional and interpersonal relationships, and may be more sensitive to verbal attacks and injuries; On the contrary, boys are not overly immersed in negative emotions. This is also the research of Ao Lingmin and LV Houchao[7].

"Why are you so stupid?" "Why can't you do it if others can?" "You should be able to do it with such a simple question!"... Many parents hope that their children will

become a dragon and a phoenix. When their children's behavior can't meet their parents' expectations, some parents may blurt out words such as "You are really silly" and "why don't you use your brain when you are in a hurry". Parents' casual words of belittlement and ridicule may cause a strong tremor in the child's heart. If they often do this, the child will gradually appear unsure of himself or even give up his studies. And this phenomenon has been confirmed in figure 2, and the performance of female students is more serious, affecting their academic and work performance as high as 89%.

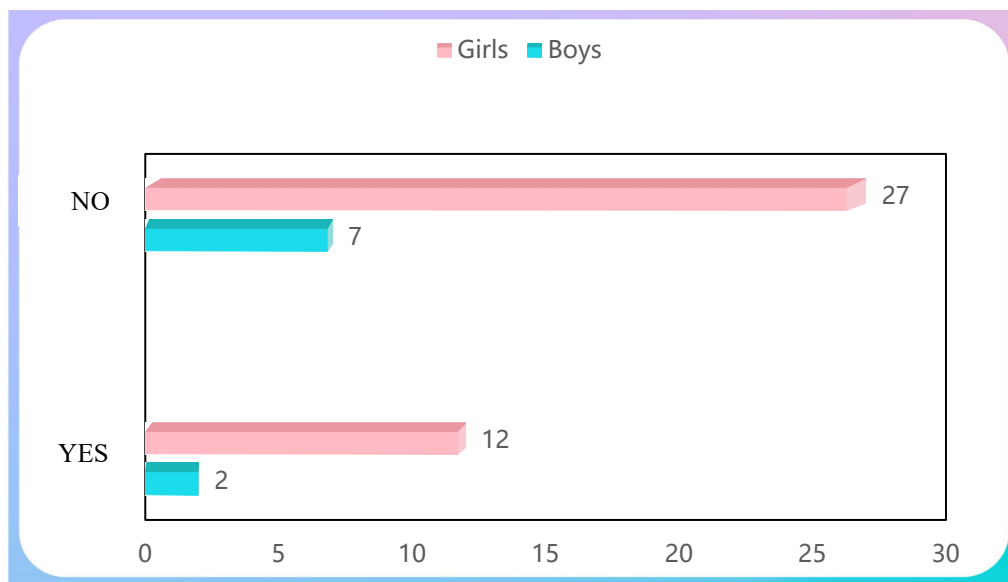


Figure 3. Thinking about suicide

In addition, some of the students whose studies and work are affected by domestic language violence in figure 2, that is, there are 12 girls and 2 boys admitted to have suicidal thoughts. From the perspective of parents' acceptance rejection theory, if children's needs for parental care or acceptance cannot be met, that is, they often suffer from verbal violence from their parents and feel rejected by their parents, a series of psychological or behavioral problems will occur (Rohner, 2005)[8], such as anxiety, depression and other negative emotions (Kim, 2019)[9], increasing children's sense of loneliness, reducing their ability to understand social support (Salzer, 2021)[10]. These effects will persist in later life (Daphne Simeon, 2001; Wright et al., 2009)[11].

## 4. Discussion

Teenagers are in a critical period of physical and mental development, and whether they are direct or indirect victims, the harm of verbal violence to them should not be underestimated. The purpose of studying domestic language violence is to control and reduce this form of domestic violence, protect family members from harm, and maintain physical and mental health. This is not only a requirement for promoting family happiness and maintaining social stability, but also a social goal for preventing juvenile delinquency.

Language violence within the family has a special personal relationship between the subject and the object, which often involves issues such as blood ties, privacy, and family ethics. This is a special social phenomenon. In China's family concept and structure, domestic language violence is often misunderstood as a means of family education. The general social concept of "strict teachers lead to high apprentices" and

"filial sons under the stick" provides public opinion support for domestic language violence. Therefore, the occurrence of language violence within the family has great concealment, and the factors that dissolve it come from the good economic environment of the family, the improvement of parental education methods, and the personal cultivation of family members. It is generally difficult to carry out external social intervention, and the influence of the family on minors is only an important aspect of all socialization conditions. The success of socialization also depends on other social environments.

The prevention of domestic language violence must be achieved through the joint efforts of various sectors of society, adopting various resolution strategies, strengthening the relationships between family members, and enhancing interactive emotional communication; Strengthen the cultivation and practice of parent-child communication skills, and provide a healthy family environment for children's growth; Finally, we need to improve legal protection measures and achieve comprehensive governance. We should start with education and moral governance, put people first, strengthen ethical and moral education for adolescents and parents, and establish a long-term mechanism for prevention and governance.

### 4.1. Parent-child communication skills

To actively prevent parent-child conflicts, it is necessary to create a positive atmosphere of intimacy, equality, and openness in the initial parent-child relationship, and develop a lifestyle of honesty, cooperation, communication, and interaction among family members through various channels

and activities. As children grow up, it is necessary to flexibly change the way family education is conducted, respect and satisfy the independence of children's thinking and behavior, appropriately satisfy the growing autonomy space of children, and strengthen communication between parents and children on this basis, continuing to deepen the emotional foundation of mutual understanding and trust. Economically, it is necessary to allow children to have a certain degree of independence and teach them scientific concepts of money and consumption methods. In the family decision-making mechanism, it is necessary to introduce the role of children's participation, allowing them to participate in the discussion and decision-making process of family matters, so that they can feel the respect and importance of the family to them, and play their enthusiasm.

In this process, they can better understand their parents and the family, while also increasing their social experience and life skills, and building a warm, interactive, and strong attractive family atmosphere for their children. When a child is in a low mood, parents should be more cautious and handle it, calmly reflect and analyze the reasons and seek solutions, be good at observing and understanding the child's psychological situation, adopt positive communication strategies, and blindly ridicule and insult may not have a good educational effect. Instead, it may backfire and cause young people to have a rebellious mentality.

Therefore, parents should build equal parent-child relationships and humanized, civilized, and artistic educational behavior patterns within the family. They should not use negative language such as satire, insult, contempt, or blame, eliminate the soil of domestic language violence, resolutely eliminate rough and arbitrary corporal punishment methods, maintain good communication with children, and deal with various problems that may arise during the growth of adolescents, so as to better prevent and resolve various types of domestic language violence that may or have already occurred.

#### **4.2. Legislative guarantee**

To achieve the elimination of the mutual influence of domestic language violence on children's emotions, relying solely on the unilateral efforts of the family is still limited in effectiveness, and some form of social control over domestic language violence needs to be implemented in other aspects.

Domestic language violence belongs to the category of domestic mental violence. So far, the legal construction against domestic violence in China is relatively lagging behind, and there is still no "Law on the Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence", especially the concept of domestic mental violence has not been defined in the law. This legal deficiency has led to some erroneous concepts in family education that have not been corrected for a long time, and the negative function of domestic language violence in family education cannot be widely recognized.

Legislative guarantees are conducive to understanding and paying attention to the connotation of domestic violence within the entire society, forming a consensus on anti violence within the family, and realizing the normative function of external laws on family members. In terms of social intervention measures, judicial, juvenile protection and other institutions should work together to construct a more proactive and forward-looking system for protecting young victims of domestic violence, take effective remedial measures, rescue those suffering from long-term harm caused

by domestic language violence, and achieve the social effect of early detection and correction.

#### **4.3. Strengthen community prevention and control work**

Community control is an emerging social control model, and its practical activities are increasingly being applied and promoted in Western countries. With the development of China's economy and society, communities have become increasingly important places for residents, especially students, to study and entertain. Children spend less time with their parents, and it is difficult for parents to spare a lot of time to accompany their children's extracurricular activities. Therefore, the community should take on the role of education, guidance, and auxiliary supervision, especially in implementing functions such as youth protection and prevention and correction of domestic language violence, strengthening the publicity work of building a harmonious family cultural environment in the community, no longer treating domestic language violence as a "household matter", opposing any form of domestic violence from the perspective of safeguarding human rights and survival rights, strengthening anti domestic violence propaganda, purifying the cultural environment, improving the quality of family members, and actively preventing the occurrence of domestic language violence. Widely promote in society the fact that language violence or improper discipline can cause harm to the physical and mental health of adolescents, potentially leading to crime, in order to raise awareness among parents and enable them to learn to treat and educate their children in a healthier or more positive way.

Conduct community psychological therapy and psychological intervention for adolescents who suffer from domestic language violence. Based on their psychological characteristics, establish a team atmosphere of mutual trust, respect, equality and mutual assistance, and positive progress. Utilize the team to treat the psychological trauma caused by domestic language violence, change their self doubt, promote their self acceptance, clarify their life goals, enhance their emotional regulation ability, help them face setbacks and difficulties in life correctly, thus achieving the goal of changing distorted cognition, reconstructing self-concept, increasing self expectations, correcting bad behavior, regulating negative emotions, and establishing good interpersonal relationships. Guided by the expansion training of psychological qualities, with group psychotherapy as the main thread and the support of peer relationships among minors, from individual participation to group interaction, the focus is on enhancing the self-awareness, self acceptance, and self-regulation abilities of adolescents, gradually carrying out prevention and intervention work.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The survey objects are all college students from my university. For the convenience of the sample, it is not random sampling and the sample size is small, so the popularization of the results is limited. Besides, domestic language violence is only a fundamental factor that affects children's negative emotions, and of course, there are many other factors, such as students' family environment, their own personalities, etc. Domestic language violence is a historic and global issue, and we need to focus on building and maintaining a harmonious family environment, guiding our future generations to grow

up healthy. The essay advocates using diverse approaches to construct strategies for resolving domestic language violence factors. We should attach great importance to the value of education, and parents should pay special attention to their role in building a harmonious family environment, strive to improve their own cultivation level, enhance communication skills between parents and children, deepen the emotional foundation of family members, and jointly eliminate the internal causes of domestic language violence. In addition, in response to the community environment in which families exist, it is necessary to strengthen the dissolution and intervention of social control, and carry out targeted social control from various aspects such as legislation, community, culture, technology, etc. At the same time, it is also necessary to need further study on the impact of domestic language violence on children's negative emotions, providing strong theoretical support for the stable socialization of children.

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