CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This chapter presents the main findings of the analysis on the abused women. It describes the characteristics and consequences of battering women to various socio-demographic variables of the victim and the batterer. The analysis begins with the background of both the victim and the batterer, followed with the mean age of the victim at first time battering and the factors affecting women to be battered.

4.1 Background

4.1.1. Victim

Table 4.1 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic of the victim. It shows that most of the victims are aged between 25 to 35. These middle age women are mostly non-professional working women with a minimum wage of RM1,000. The highest number of victims who seek medical services are Malay women(59%), followed by Indian women (21.5%) and Chinese about 15.6%. It also shows that majority of these women are educated with a minimum of secondary education (63.7%) and 92.4% of these women are non-professional working women. In addition, about 64% of these victims are women earning less than RM1,000 per month.

Table 4.1:Frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic of victim and batterer

Variables	Victim (%)	Batterer (%)
Age	N=410	N=410
< 25	8.3	7.2
25-35	65.6	61.5
>35	26.1	31.3
Ethnic		
Malay	59.1	61.5
Chinese	15.6	14.4
Indian	21.5	22.0
Others	3.8	2.1
Education		
No education	5.1	8.2
Primary	16.6	21.5
Secondary	63.7	64.2
Tertiary	14.6	6.1
Occupation		
Professional	6.3	11.0
Non-professional	92.4	70.5
Unemployed	1.3	18.5
Income (RM)		
<1,000	64.1	56.8
1,000-2,000	19.8	22.5
> 2,000	16.1	20.7

4.1.2. Batterer

Table 4.1 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic of the batterer. It clearly shows that 76.6% of these men are between the age of 25 to 35. These young group of men tend to lose their temper fast. Out of the 410 cases interviewed, it is found that 61.5% of the batterers are Malays, followed by Indians (22%) and 14% were Chinese. Data shows that 64.2% of the batterers have at least secondary education. It is noted that 11% of these batterers are professional, earning more than RM2,000. However, 56.8% of the batterers are workers earning less than RM1,000. This may be the cause for battered women to seek medical assistance from the government and not from the private hospitals.

4.2 Mean age of victim at first time battering

This section begins with exploratory analysis of the distribution of age at first time battering. Age among these battered women is approximately normally distributed as can be seen in the histogram and normal curve in Figure 4.1. Table 4.2 shows the mean age is 33.7 years with a median of 34 years. The skewness of the distribution is 0.824, and this indicates that the data is normally distributed. The P-P plot in Figure 4.2 confirms the normal distribution shape. Table 4.3 shows further analysis on normality done using the Kolmogrov-Smirnov test and is significant at 5%.

Table 4.2: Statistics of the age at first time of battered women

N	410
Mean	33.6878
Median	34.0000
Mode	35.00
Std deviation	8.2480
Skewness	0.824
Kurtosis	2.122
Range	18-70

Figure 4.1: Histogram of the distribution of the age at first time of battered women.

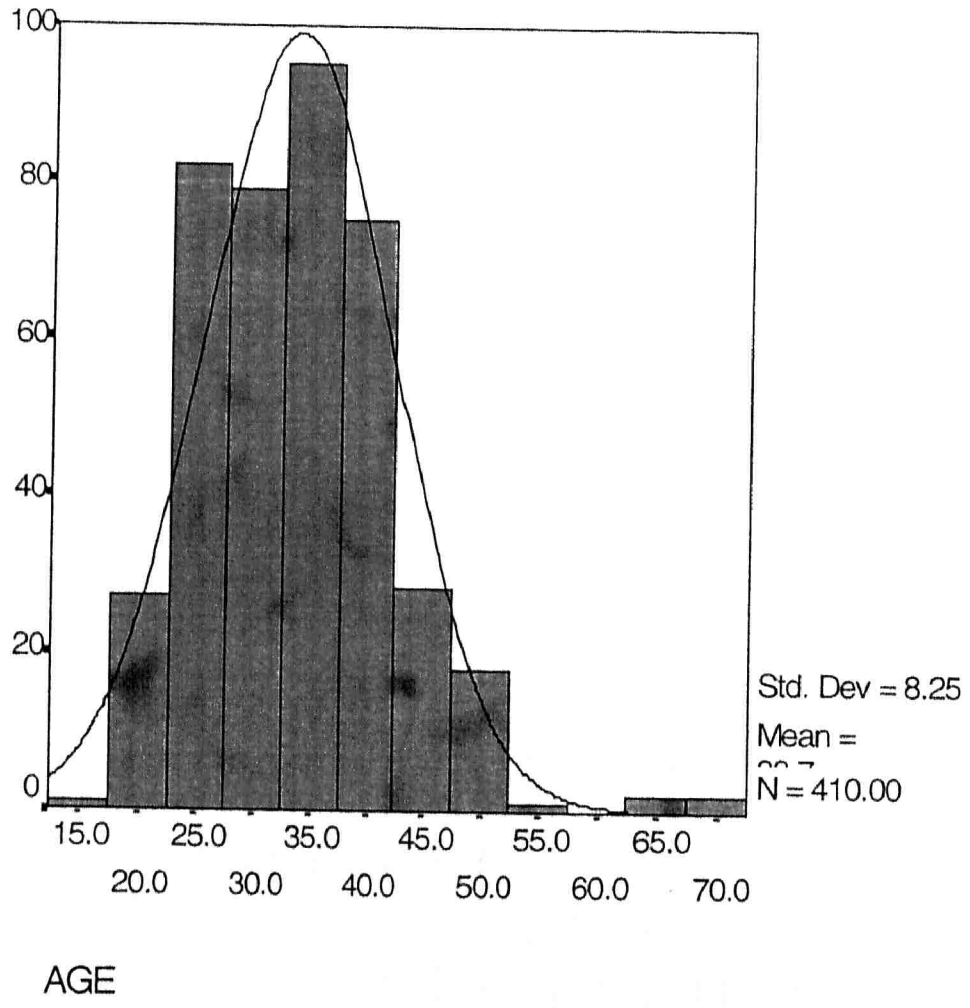


Figure 4.2: The P-P plot of the age at first time of battered women.

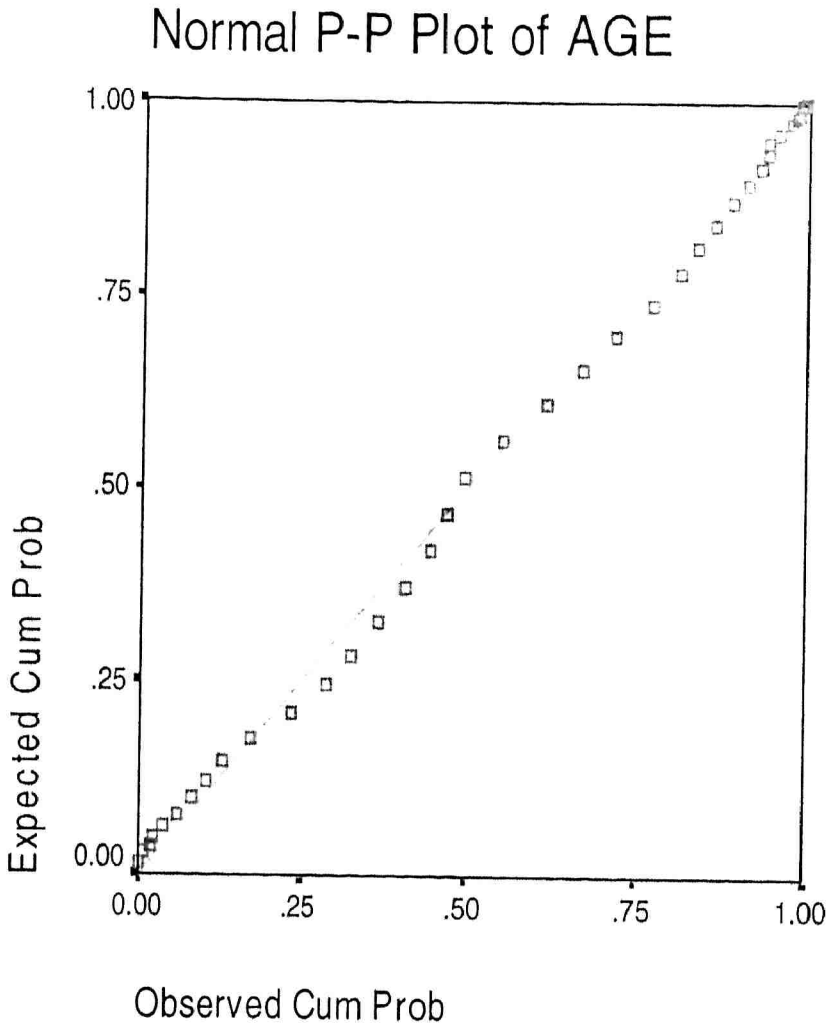


Table 4.3: One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		AGE
N		410
Normal Parameters	Mean	33.6878
	Std. Deviation	8.2480
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	0.067
	Positive	0.067
	Negative	-0.051
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		1.356
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		0.031

a Test distribution is Normal.

b Calculated from data.

4.3 ETHNIC AND RELIGION DIFFERENTIALS IN MEAN AGE OF BATTERED WOMEN

Women from all classes and ethnic groups residing in both urban or rural areas personally knew women who had been beaten. Past studies (WAO,1992) show more Indian women (22%), however, knew of such women compared to 9% of Chinese women and 8% of Malays. This implies that there may be a higher prevalence of woman-battering in Indian communities, even though it cannot be assumed that different ethnic groups personally knew only battered women from their own community. Traditions and beliefs of the different ethnic groups in Malaysia have also made a unique Malaysia culture. An analysis on the mean age of the victim at first time battering with various variables and box-plots were also done to show the median age, quartile one and the third quartile.

Table 4.4: Mean age of battered women by ethnic groups

Ethnic Group	Sample Size	Mean
Malay	252	32.5
Chinese	59	37.4
Indian	88	33.7

Table 4.4 shows that the mean age of battered women first time is at 32.5 years for Malays, followed by the Indians at 33.7 years and the Chinese the oldest at 37.4 years, that is range of 4.9 years. This could be caused by many reasons. One possible

assumption that could be made is that the Malay women get married earlier compared to Chinese women or another reason could be that Chinese women do not get battered at the early age of their marriage.

Table 4.5: Mean age of battered women by religious affiliation

Religion	Sample size	Mean
Muslim	263	32.6
Hindu	77	32.8
Buddhist	56	38.7
Christianity	14	38.4

Table 4.5 shows that the average age is the lowest for Muslim women compared to other religions. On average, a Muslim woman gets battered first time earliest at age of 32.6 years, followed by Hindus, Christians and Buddhist at 38.7 being the latest. In view of the close associations between ethnicity and religion, the difference in the age between women might again due to similar factors.

4.4 EFFECTS OF EDUCATION ON THE MEAN AGE OF BATTERED WOMEN

Women are given opportunities to complete up to tertiary level of education. As a result, more women enter into marriage at a later age. Therefore, these women only get

battered at an older age compared to women with lower education level. Studies also show that husbands often start battering after a few years of marriage. This further confirms that it is difficult for a woman to leave after many years married because of commitments especially after having children. Educated women continue to stay because of their children. Table 4.6 shows that women with no education got battered at average 33.7 years, as compared to tertiary educated women who only on average start at 36.3 years. There is a difference of 2.6 years between the highly educated and uneducated women. This could be because educated women get married later than non-educated women.

Table 4.6: Mean age at first time of battered women by education

Education Level	Sample size	Mean
No formal education	3	33.7
Primary	58	32.9
Secondary	207	34.0
Tertiary	32	36.3

4.4.1. Relationship Between Victim and Batterer

Table 4.7 shows that 94.3% of Indian women were battered by their husbands followed by 88.9% and 88.1% of Malay and Chinese women respectively. Therefore, battering among women mostly occurs while still married to their husbands. These

women still stay on probably because of their children and the society. Some of them are at a stage where they have accepted this battering as part of their marriage.

Table 4.7: Relationship between victim and batterer

Ethnic	Single	Married	Process of Divorce	Separated	Divorced
Malay	1	222	10	8	11
Chinese	3	52	2	2	-
Indian	3	83	2	-	-

Figure 4.3: Box-plot showing the median age according to ethnic groups

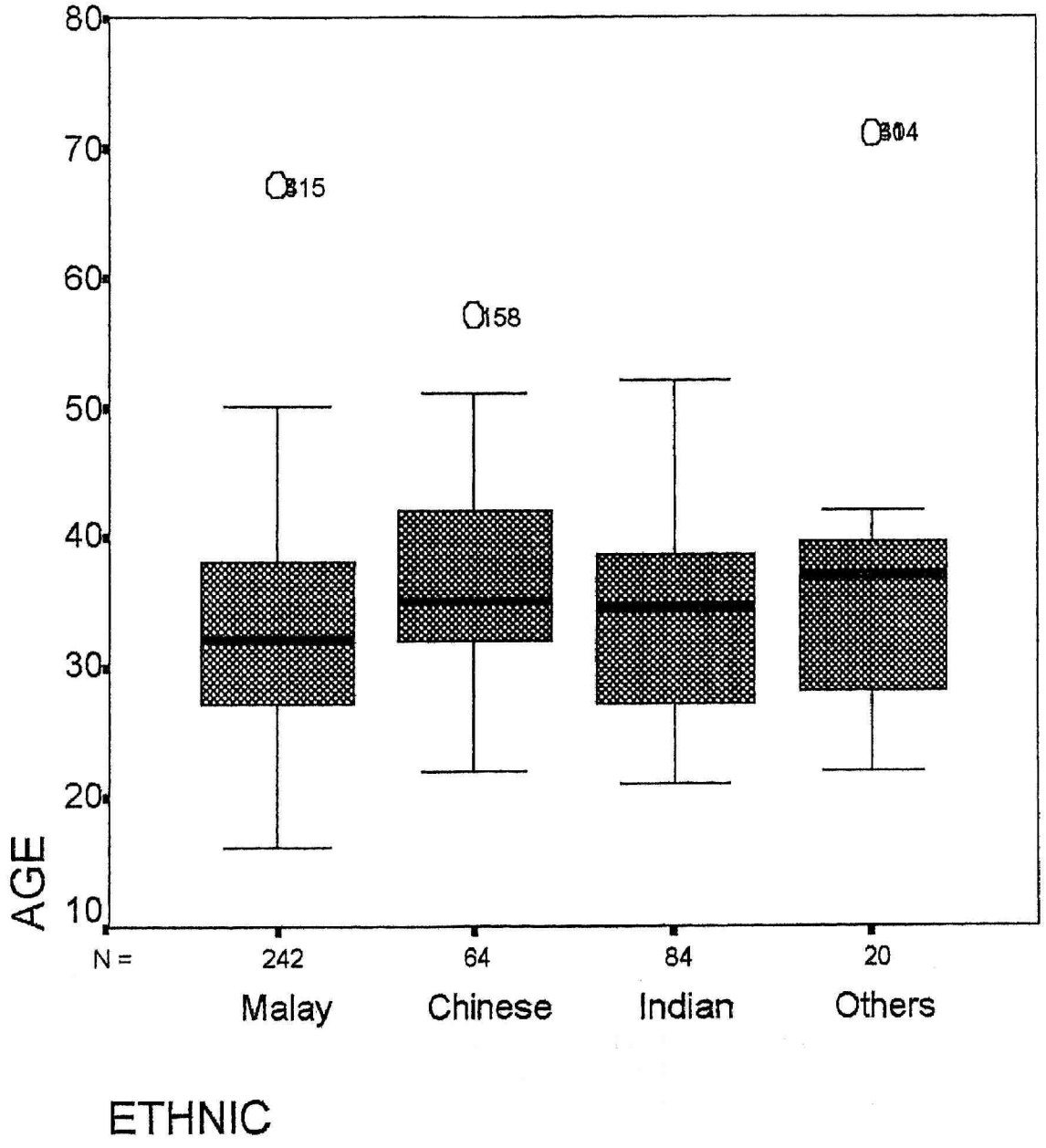


Figure 4.4: Box-plot showing the median age according to religion

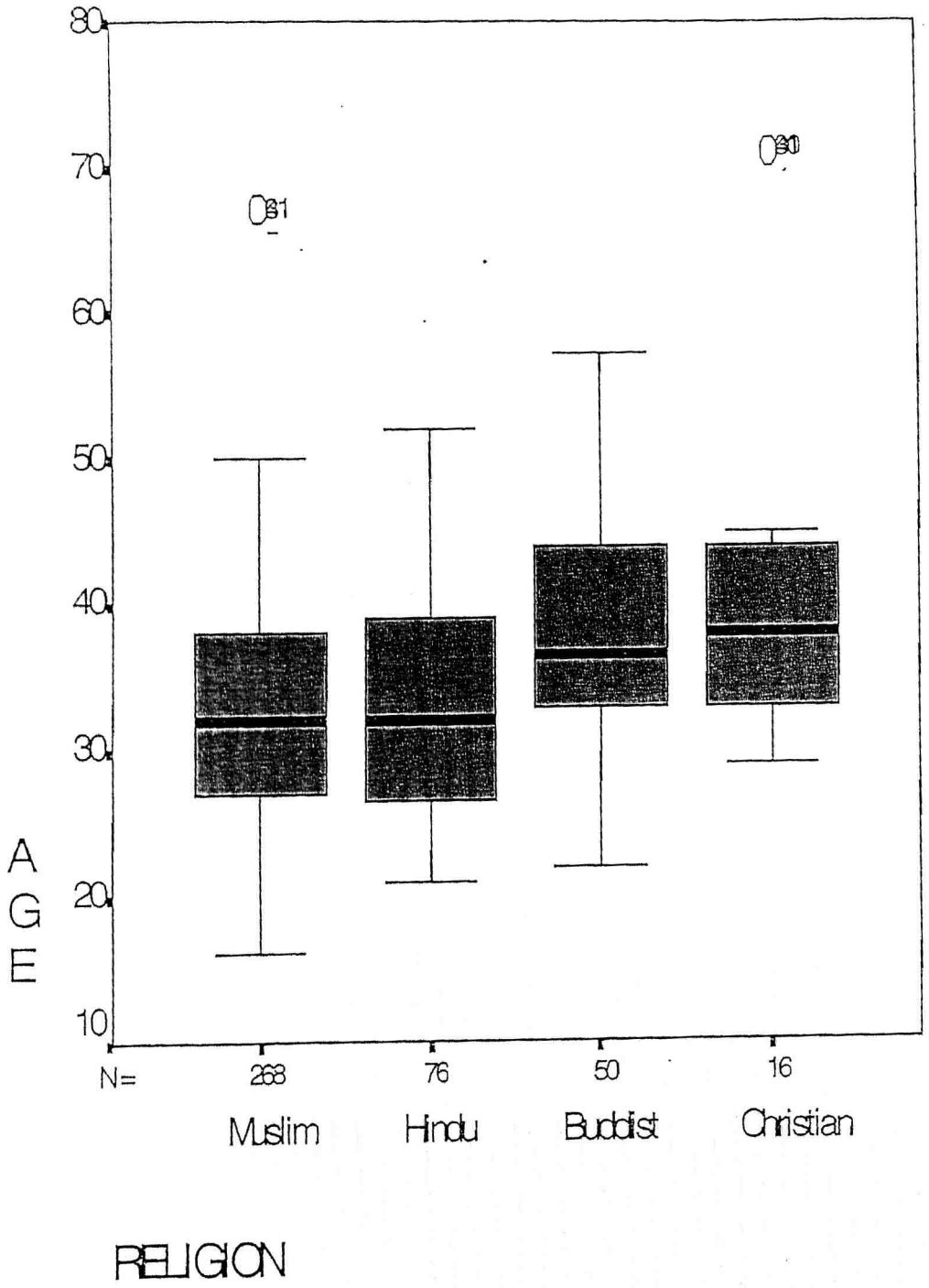


Figure 4.5: Box-plot showing median age according to education

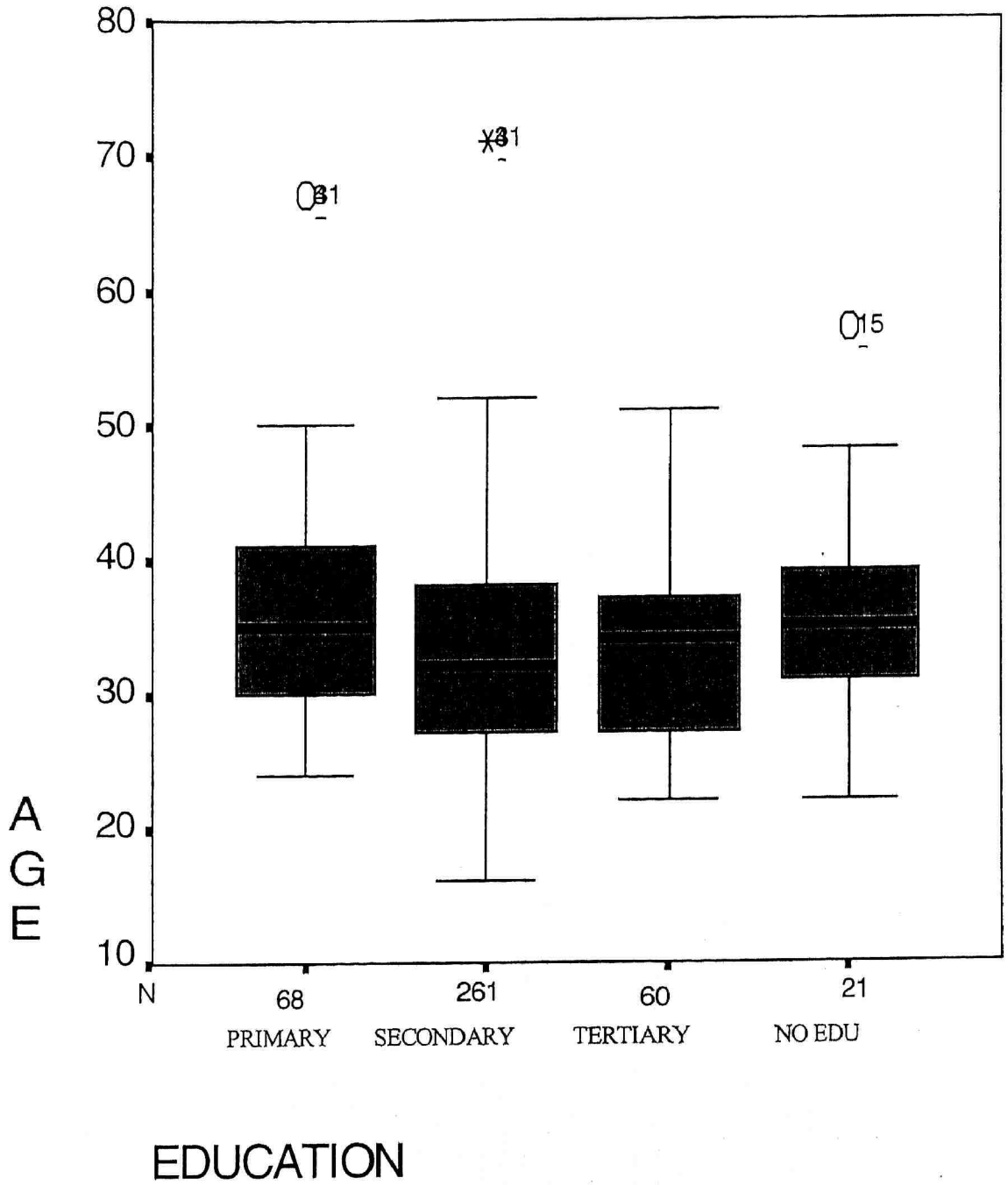


Figure 4.6: Box-plot showing the median age according to occupation

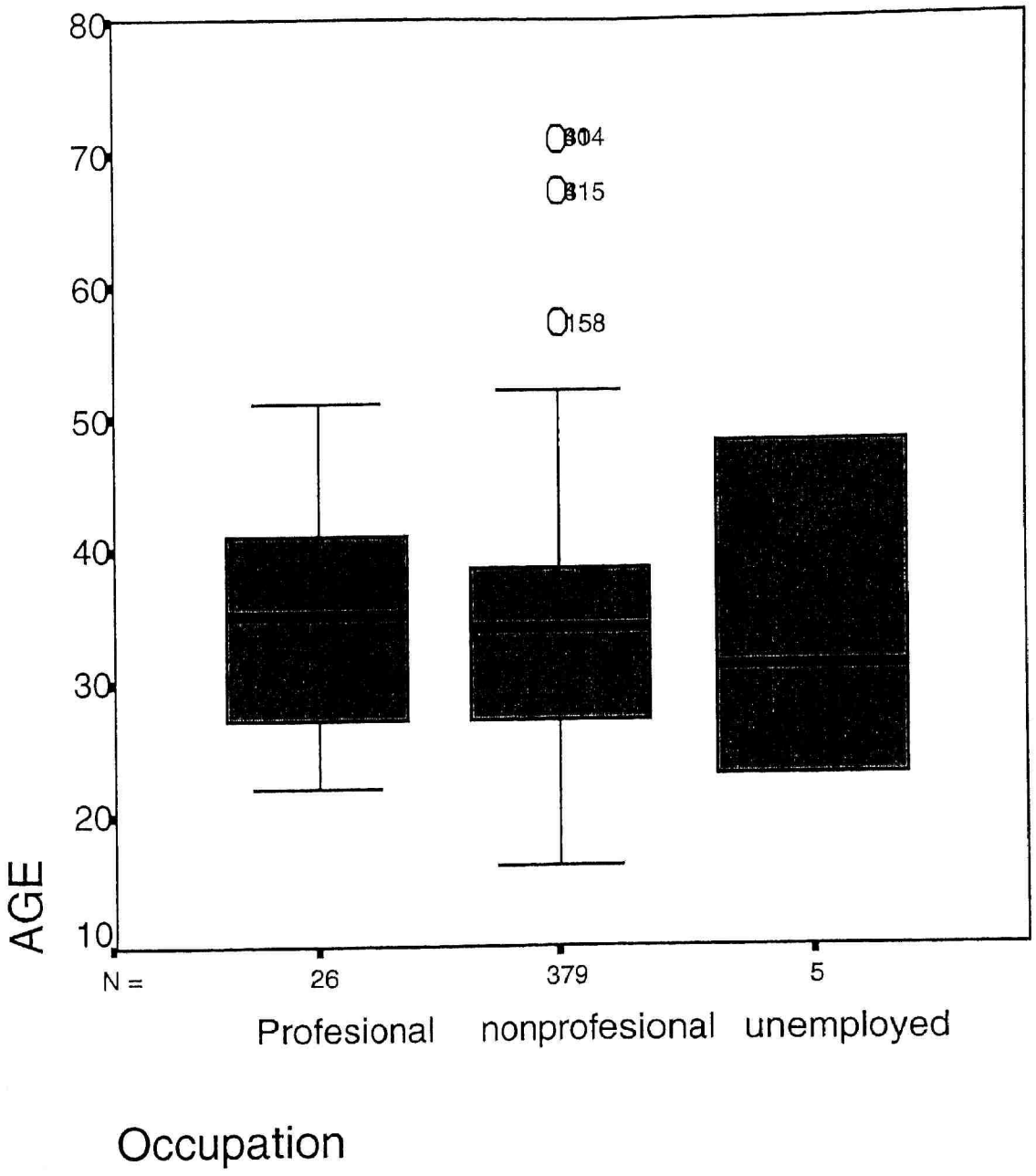
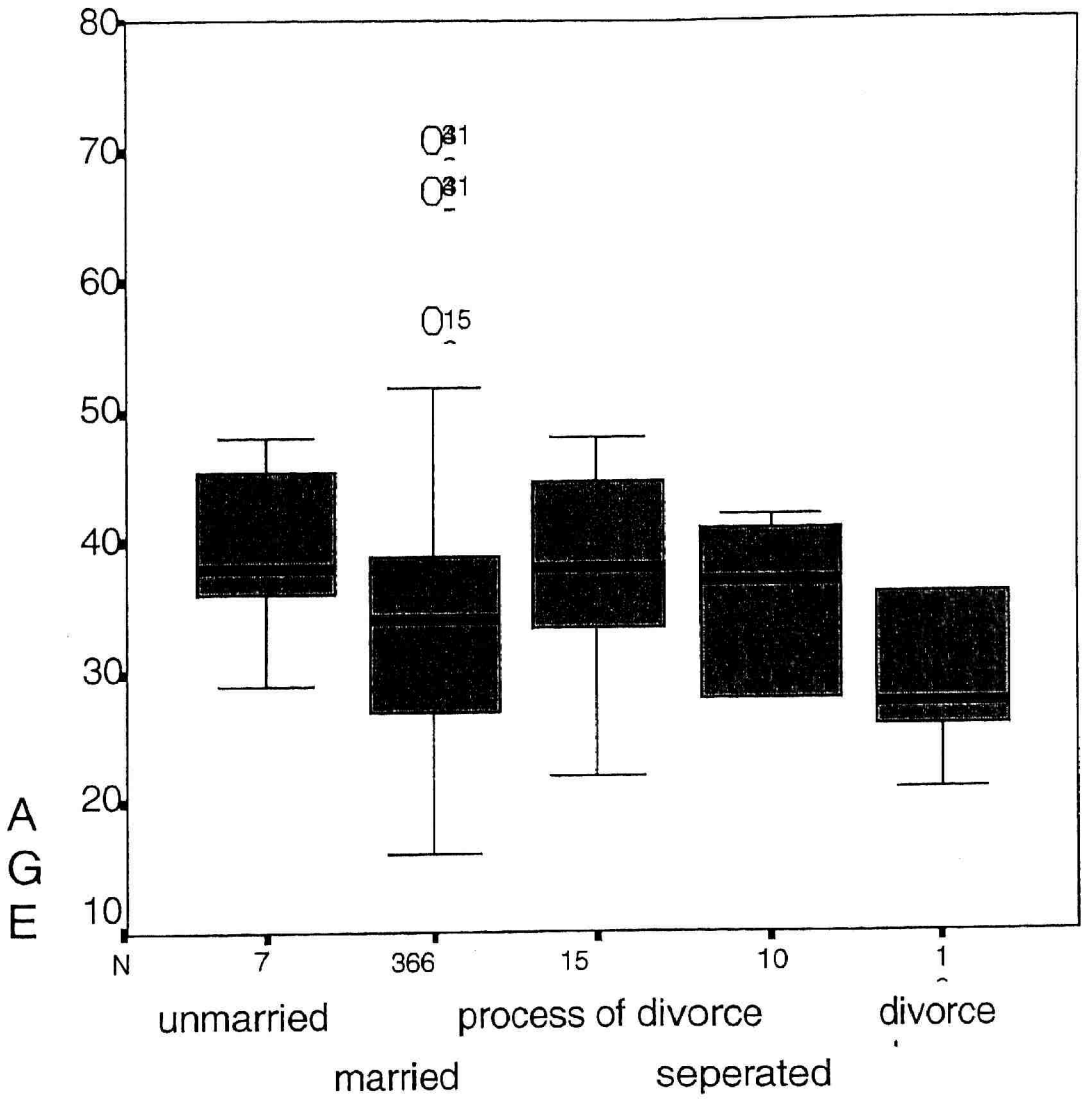


Figure 4.7: Box-plot showing the median age according to marital status



4.5 The Contributing Factors and Consequences To Batter A Woman First Time

4.5.1. The Involvement of the Batterer in Crime

Victims were questioned whether the batterer was involved in any crime during the assault. Analysis is done using the odds-ratio and the Mantel-Haenszel test. It is found that the odds-ratio is 0.249 and the 95% confidence interval is between 0.087 and 0.707. The Mantel-Henszel chi-squared gives a value of 7.824 with p-value of 0.005. This shows that there is sufficient evidence of an association between the frequency of batterers and the involvement of the batterer in crime. Men who get involved in crime tend to become more aggressive and show their tamper by battering their partners repeatedly. They do not like to be questioned and battering is the easiest way to stop any arguments.

Table 4.8 Contingency table of frequency of battering and involvement in crime

		Crime		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	4	59	63
	No	72	264	336
Total		76	323	399

Table 4.9 Involvement in crime according to ethnic group

		Crime		
		Yes	No	Total
Ethnic	Malays	43	209	252
	Non-malays	33	125	158
Total		76	334	410

Using the figures from the above contingency table, it is found that the odds-ratio is 0.779 and the confidence interval is between 0.47 and 1.29. The Mantel-Haenszel test gives a value of 0.94 with p-value of 0.332. We can conclude that there is insufficient evidence of an association between ethnic groups and involvement in crime. Education is also believed to be a contributing factor for batterers to get involved in crime. Men with tertiary education is considered as educated where as men with less education is taken as not educated. Analysis shows that the chi-square value is 7.842 with p-value of 0.005. The odds-ratio is 0.343 and the confidence interval is between 0.492 to 0.855. Hence, men with minimal education tend to be involved more in crime as compared to educated men.

Table 4.10 Involvement in crime according to education

		Crime		
		Yes	No	Total
Education	Yes	23	90	113
	No	53	244	297
Total		76	334	410

4.5.2. Consumption of alcohol

Table 4.11 Contingency table of frequency of battering and consumption of alcohol

		Alcohol		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	10	53	63
	No	134	202	336
Total		144	255	399

Many victims get battered when their partners are drunk. Therefore, consumption of alcohol can be considered as a factor to batter a woman repeatedly. Odds-ratio value

shows 0.284 with 95% confidence interval of 0.14 to 0.579. Chi-square value is 13.257 and p-value is 0.001, shows that men tend to batter women more than once after consuming alcohol. This may be considered as a social problem to the country as men become alcoholics to run away from problems, leaving the women to run the family.

Table 4.12 Consumption of alcohol according to ethnic group

		Alcohol		
		Yes	No	Total
Ethnic	Malays	59	193	252
	Non-malays	87	71	158
Total		146	264	410

It is found that majority of men consume alcohol before battering their wives regardless of their ethnic groups. The odds-ratio value is 0.989 and the chi-square value is 0.231 with p-value of 0.326. This shows there is no sufficient evidence of an association between ethnic groups and consumption of alcohol before battering. However, results show that men with low education consumed alcohol during the incidents. The chi-square value is 12.327 with p-value of 0.001. Odds-ratio gives a value of 0.295 with confidence interval of 0.24 to 0.433.

Table 4.13 Consumption of alcohol according to education

		Alcohol		
		Yes	No	Total
Education	Yes	44	69	113
	No	102	195	297
Total		146	264	410

4.5.3. Usage of drugs

It is found that the usage of drugs is not a contributing factor towards first time battering. The odd-ratio is 0.976 and the 95% confidence interval gives a wide range between 0.453 to 2.104. Mantel-Heanszel chi-square value is 0.004 with a p-value of 0.951. This clearly shows that there is insufficient evidence that the two variables have any association.

Table 4.14 Contingency table of frequency of battering and usage of drugs

		Drug		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	9	54	63
	No	49	287	336
Total		58	341	399

Table 4.15 Usage of drugs according to ethnic group

		Drugs		
		Yes	No	Total
Ethnic	Malays	35	217	252
	Non-malays	25	133	158
Total		60	350	410

Most batterers are not drug addicts. Therefore usage of drugs is not common among the ethnic groups as well as not educated men. The chi-square value 0.439 and p-value of 0.235 shows that there is no relationship between the usage of drugs across the ethnic groups and education level too.

Table 4.16 Usage of drugs according to education

		Drugs		
		Yes	No	Total
Education	Yes	38	259	297
	No	22	91	113
Total		60	350	410

4.5.4. Victim being threatened

One of the consequences of battering is that the victims are often threatened of life if they were to inform the matter. It is found that the odds-ratio is 0.683 and the confidence interval is between 0.295 and 1.581. The chi-squared gives a value of 5.231 with p-value of 0.0021. This shows that there is sufficient evidence of an association between the frequency of battering and being threatened of life. These women are sometimes threatened verbally but at times, weapon are used to threaten them.

Table 4.17 Contingency table of frequency of battering and threat of life

		Threatened Life		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	7	56	63
	No	52	284	336
Total		59	340	399

Table 4.18 Threatened life according to ethnic group

		Life		
		Yes	No	Total
Ethnic	Malays	31	219	250
	Non-malays	30	130	160
Total		61	349	410

Batterers from all ethnic groups tend to threaten their victims after battering. The odds-ratio value is 0.657 and the chi-square value is 2.216 with p-value of 0.0137. This shows that not only Malay men threaten their wives but all men. However, analysis shows that men with lower education tend to threaten their wives compared to educated men. The chi-square value is 3.169 with p-value of 0.004. The odds-ratio is 0.593 and the 95% confidence interval is between 0.332 to 0.597.

Table 4.19 Threatened life according to education

		Life		
		Yes	No	Total
Education	Yes	37	258	255
	No	24	91	115
Total		61	349	410

4.5.5. Admission in hospital

It is found that most victims received outpatient treatment from the hospital. They do not get admitted in the hospital. The odds-ratio between first time battering and admission in hospital gives a value of 1.069 with confidence interval of 0.229 to 4.999. This shows that there is no association between admission to the hospital with the number of times a woman being battered. The wounds are often treated immediately by the

doctors and victims are often sent home. These women are given the opportunity to seek help from the police or the social worker. Most of these women are wounded physically and also mentally. Therefore these women are advised to get help.

Table 4.20 Contingency table of frequency of battering and admission in hospital

		Admitted Hospital		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	2	61	63
	No	10	326	336
Total		12	387	399

4.5.6. Location of battering

Victims were also asked the location of the incident. Since most of the batterers are husbands, therefore battering happens at home. The odds-ratio value is 1.919 and the confidence interval is between 0.836 and 4.405. There is no significant relationship between first time battering and the location since the chi-square value is 2.432 and p-valuc is 0.119. Battering often happens at home because batterers do not want anyone to know about it. Most of the time, it happens in the bedroom, even the children will not realize it.

Table 4.21 Contingency table of frequency of battering and location

		Home		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	56	7	63
	No	271	65	336
Total		327	72	399

4.5.7. Police assistance

When a victim is treated in a hospital for battering, doctors usually advice these women to report the incident to the police. At that moment of anger, they make report to the police but later these women will refuse to go on with the matter. Police cannot help these women. After a while, battering continues but the police will be reluctant to look into the matter again. The odds-ratio value is 0.902 and the chi-square value is 5.236 with p-value of 0.005. It shows that women often make the report when they get battered the first time.

Table 4.22: Contingency table of frequency of battering and police assistance

		Police		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	29	31	60
	No	170	164	334
Total		199	195	394

4.5.7. Social worker's assistance

Table 4.23 Contingency table of frequency of battering and acceptance of social worker

		Social Worker		
		Yes	No	Total
First time	Yes	28	35	63
	No	147	183	336
Total		175	218	399

It is found that the victims often refuse to seek assistance from the social workers for any advice or counseling. These women might feel embarrassed to talk about it. Chi-square value of 0.02 and p-value of 0.988 shows that there is no relationship between the first time battering and the assistance from the social worker.