

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the findings on the causes and the consequences of battered women based on the Battered Women General Hospital (BWGH) Survey. These findings hopefully would help inform major issues and policies regarding violence against women. The chapter also includes the limitations of the study based on the data used to analyze the findings. This chapter concludes with some recommendations on how the study could be further improved to provide better understanding on the violence against women, and strategies to be implemented by policy-makers to deal with this worldwide problem.

#### 5.1 Summary of the Findings

Findings indicate that most of the victims that seek medical treatment are majority wives who were battered by their husbands in Klang Valley. Most of the victim and the batterer have attained secondary education or lower and currently holding a non-professional job earning a minimum wage of RM1,000. Battering occurs commonly among couples married more than five years. Studies show that most of the battering starts only when a woman is above 30 years old. This is the same across all ethnic groups. Most of these women have children and cannot leave due to family pressure or even economic reasons.

Findings also indicate that involvement of batterer in crime is a factor to batter a woman. It is common among men from all races. However, men with lower education tend to be involved in crime compared to educated men. Consumption of alcohol also contributes to battering. Men with lower education, consume more alcohol before the battering begins. These victims not only get battered but most of the time they are threatened by the batterers. Sometimes victims are threatened using weapons. Fear for life is one of the consequences that these women have to face.

## **5.2 Limitations of the Study**

This survey was done in a hospital in urban area. Women living in rural areas were not considered at all. It is a phenomenon that lower and middle-income people usually visit government hospitals compared to higher earning income groups. In addition there were no control groups to compare with the selected cases.

## **5.3 Implications of the Incidents of Battering**

Once violence has begun, it continues to increase in both frequency and severity. Understanding the psychological consequences of her relationship can cause social problems. Living with domestic violence can take a lasting toll on children. Most children witness the violence and they become the secondary victims of domestic violence. It is quite clear that while the violence may not be directed at them, they are greatly affected by it. Researchers find that children often show similar emotional,

physical and behavioural disturbances as children who have themselves been victims of abuse. Some become withdrawn and others unusually aggressive.

Children of battered mothers have high rates of emotional problems like depression and sometimes show delay in learning. Witnessing domestic violence can also interfere with a child's healthy development. "Children who witness violence early in life may view the world as unpredictable, possibly dangerous or chaotic. The basic attachment of the child to the adult is at risk. This early relationship development is profound and life-lasting." "Adults can mediate the consequences by being exquisitely aware of these effects and the intervening to provide a safe environment."

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Many relevant factors could not be analyzed due to lack of information in the data. It is suggested that several other variables should be included so that the effects on battered women could further be analyzed. These variables include parent's background of victim and the batterer as well.

As for strategies, the Government should design and implement National Policy and Programme to prevent and reduce domestic violence, specifically woman-battering. Launching a national campaign like "Fight against HIV", using all formal and informal communication channels on the non-acceptability of violence in intimate and marital disputes; the moral and legal rights of women and the role of the public could do this.

Gender-sensitization and orientation on the issue of women-battering to be included in the basic and refresher training of all related personnel at all levels including doctors, nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, the police, lawyers, counselors, Religious Department officials and judges. Nevertheless, Vision 2020 with a goal to achieve quality in live to all Malaysian does not come easily. Policy-makers must ensure that this world should only be peaceful without wars but each family institution should live happily.