



**Tehran University of Medical Science
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**LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN WHO ARE
SUFFERING FROM INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:
A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY**

**A thesis fulfillment of the requirements for PhD degree in
Reproductive Health**

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Abstract

Live experience of Palestinian women who are suffering from intimate partner violence: A phenomenological study.

Introduction: Intimate partner has become a growing concern all over the world and causes numerous consequences and provokes various reactions among women. The present study was aimed to understand the lived experience of Palestinian women of domestic violence by an intimate partner.

Methodology: In this hermeneutic phenomenological study, van Manen's methodical steps used to conduct the study. Participants were 13 Palestinian married women who had experience of domestic violence by their intimate partner. After obtaining informed consent from each participant, a face-to-face, an in-depth semi-structured interview was conducted to collect the required data. Data were analyzed by thematic analysis method.

Results: The main theme was a whole life of tragedy which was extracted from five themes and sixteen sub-themes in the process of analyzing the data. The extracted themes included a challenging married life, surrounded by disempowerment, destructive life pattern, being surrounded by negativity, and submission the reality. The theme of a struggling marriage consists of four sub-themes, failed to gain love, failed to gain sexual satisfaction, failed to change for better and failed to endure this life, the theme of surrounded by disempowerment, including three sub-themes of failed to gain support, failed to gain agency and make a decision, the theme of destructive life pattern for three sub-themes physical safety destruction, psychological wellbeing destruction and sexual life destruction, the fourth theme is Being surrounded by negativity consist of four sub-themes, feel of scared, feel of jealous, feel of blame and feel of shame. The and the fifth theme of submission to the reality, including two sub-themes of Pretended life world and surrender to the violence world.

Discussion and Conclusion: The experience of Palestinian women suffering from IPV means a challenging marriage that accompanied the being disempowered and Being in a destructive life pattern. On the one hand, live the experience of IPV had aroused the being surrounded by negativity and resulted in submission to the reality. Therefore, understanding the consequences of IPV experience among in Palestinian women in Gaza Strip and supportive measures that could help in alleviating the negative consequences of IPV experience.

Key word: Intimate Partner Violence, Lived Experience, Phenomenology, Palestine