Importance of Domestic Violence Awareness

Dolores B. Sablan

Northern Marianas College

CO210-04

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

Community Issues Speech Essay

Domestic Violence

 Imagine if people you knew were silently being physically, sexually, or verbally abused. When one is unable to speak up, you would never know that they are victims of domestic violence. This violence is an aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving abuse of a spouse or partner. Based on local news, there have been numerous cases of domestic violence. As of last year, the Office of Attorney General prosecuted about 73 cases of domestic violence (Maurin, 2019). The purpose of this essay is to discuss the background and importance of domestic violence awareness, refer to information found in the literature collected, and present the results of interviews with people of relevance to the topic.

 This kind of violence may be silent, in which it may be hard for victims to speak up or reach out to others. Events such as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October is significant in terms of spreading awareness of victims, survivors, or those suffering. It is a mission to educate others, prevent it, and help those in need. Unfortunately, the background of domestic violence indicated that it hasn’t always been taken seriously. It revolves around the idea that a husband may control the wife and has the right to do whatever he wants. However, this began to change as cases increased where women were killed by their husbands. Around the late 1980s, domestic violence suspects were arrested if there were evidence of abuse. It is important to obtain knowledge on the background of domestic violence to better understand the increasing cases of victims. It is important to be a voice for those suffering or affected constantly.

 This abuse may affect men, women, or teenage boys and girls. Although women make up a large percentage of those who experience this abuse, it may happen to anyone for any reason. “Men who were more controlling were more likely to be violent against their partners. In all but one setting women were at far greater risk of physical or sexual violence by a partner than from violence by other people” (Lancet, 2006). “A mindset that gives men more power over women puts individuals at risk of being involved in an abusive relationship” (Dryden-Edwards, 2019). Following that, domestic violence may also result in homicide. Victims who continue to live in a household where weapons and drugs are present, are at risk of being killed by their abuser. This abuse also affects children. Based on a recent study, an important factor of domestic violence is that abuse of pregnant women correlates with preterm deliveries of low-birthweight babies. It is stated that this abuse puts children of the couple at greater risk for lower intellectual functioning.

 One may obtain a great amount of knowledge of domestic violence cases on online databases, but interviewing those who are very familiar with the issue is important as well. In the month of October, the student researcher attended the Walk for Domestic Violence. Before the walk, a speaker told the story of a survivor of domestic violence. The victim spent years with this man and had children with him. Everything was great at first, until she started feeling the control, the insecurity he had, and then the physical abuse. For a long time, she was afraid to leave for what he might do to her family, so she continued to stay. Until things got way too far and she got the courage to leave. And based on the data the researcher collected, it is often that the victim refuses to leave the relationship because they are afraid, they are used to being controlled and they don’t know how to move on from that kind of nature. In addition, an important factor that prevents victims from leaving that abuse is because of threats from the person.

 Domestic Violence is a serious issue and it is of utmost importance to spread awareness. This essay portrays a better understanding of domestic violence through academic and non academic sources, and data obtained through interviews with people of relevance to the issue. The writer was able to present information on the background and importance of the topic in addition to obtaining data from people of relevance to domestic violence.

Works Cited

 Garcia-Moreno, C., Jansen, H. A., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. H. (2006). Prevalence of intimate partner violence: findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *The lancet*, *368*(9543), 1260-1269.

Oct. is Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Saipan News, Headlines, Events, Ads: Saipan Tribune. (2019, October 4). Retrieved from https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/oct-is-domestic-violence-awareness-month/.

Dryden-Edwards, R. (2019, January 14). Domestic Violence Facts, Types & Effects. Retrieved from https://www.medicinenet.com/domestic\_violence/article.htm#domestic\_violence\_facts.

Domestic Violence: Background. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://family.findlaw.com/domestic-violence/domestic-violence-background.html.