

Abstract

Violence against the elderly is not a new phenomenon even so; this phenomenon was first researched in the past two decades only (Landau 1998 and Zubi 2000). Wolf 1973 sees that the violence against the elderly is still limited, because most of the research regarding this topic is still descriptive, whereas, the studies that focused on the causes of violence (explanatory studies) are very slim.

This study aims to do the following:

- 1- To understand the phenomenon of violence against the elderly and its causes from the elderly's point of view.
- 2- To acknowledge the extent of the prevalence of this phenomenon among the elderly of the East Jerusalem's centers for the elderly.
- 3- To assess the validity of some of the major theories that focus on and explain the causes of violence against the elderly and to acknowledge the extent of the applicability of these theories to the Palestinian in East Jerusalem.

This study included 10 elderly for the qualitative descriptive part and 101 elderly from the centers of elderly people in east Jerusalem for the quantitative descriptive and explanatory part of the study.

The main results

In the descriptive sector of this study, the researchers add a new factor to violence and that is a social factor. This factor indicates that there is a lack of intra-social relationships and visitation with the elderly. A future study should focus on this topic due to its importance.

The explanatory part of the study shows that %25 of the study subjects i.e. 101, have been victims to at least one form of

verbal violence, for example, %19 of them have been yelled or screamed at.

%3 of the study subjects have been victimized with at least one form of physical violence. This percentage is very close to global percentages on this phenomenon.

%3 of the study subjects have been victimized with at least one form of economical violence.

%5 of the study subjects has lent money to their children, and that money was never re-paid.

To the matter of neglect this study shows that up to %33 of the study subjects did not receive their medication on time.

As to the percentages of some of the theories results were as the following:

- 1- The elderly who were attached to their care-providers were less victimized in one or more forms of verbal violence in comparison to those who are not attached to their care-providers (%21 in comparison to %26).
- 2- The study subjects whom children are religious to some extent were less victimized in one or more forms of verbal violence %4 in comparison to those whom their children are not religious %46. The study subjects who have been victims of at least one form of verbal violence indicated that their children were religious to a certain extent
- 3- The elderly who do not help out their children with baby-care %30 are more victimized than those who do help-out with baby-care %20.
- 4- As to those elderly who used to punish their children by cutting their allowances, the study shows that %36 of these elderly have been victims to at least one form of verbal violence and that they are more victimized with more than four forms of verbal violence. i.e. %18 of all the study subjects.