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INTRODUCTION

This is a special study on female victims of domestic violence. After nearly one and a half years of reasoning and preparation, we completed data collection and collation in December 2008 and conclude with this survey report on female victims of domestic violence, their needs, and services afforded to them.

1. Study Background

The study on female victims of domestic violence is the empirical research part of the Joint Advocacy Initiative for Female victims of Domestic Violence, a joint project supported by the Anti-Domestic Violence Network of the China Law Society and the ABA Rule of Law Initiative China Project Office. Co-sponsors include the Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, Xiaogan City Women's Federation of Hubei Province, Women's Federation of Liaoning Province, Qingdao City Women's Federation of Shandong Province, Luohe City Women's Federation of Henan Province, Qinglong County Women's Federation of Hebei Province, Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province, and their partner, the Department of Social Work of China University of Mining And Technology. The survey was conducted in seven regions, making this data report an analysis of regionally collected data.

2. Study Objectives

The objectives of the study on female victims of domestic violence are to understand the needs of the victims, to identify and fill the service gap, and to compare the different needs of female victims in different regions and the various problems facing services for these victims. It is also hoped that this study could help the Anti-Domestic Violence Network of the China Law Society and the other seven partners mentioned above gain a better understanding of the needs of female victims, making it the point of departure for further research studies and policy advocacy, and for improving services for victims of domestic violence.

3. Significance of Research

Held in Beijing in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women listed anti-domestic violence as one of the world's twelve critical areas of concern. This conference prompted China to commence a series of empirical studies on domestic violence from the 1990s onward, such as studies on occurrence of domestic violence;¹ on public awareness, such as domestic violence awareness, awareness of the causes of domestic violence, and awareness of domestic violence intervention;² on public perceptions of judicial workers;³ on causes of domestic violence; on domestic violence treatment; on ways of seeking help and services provided; on measures to be taken to prevent and stop domestic violence.⁴ Although these surveys were regionally conducted, they are enough to demonstrate the seriousness and ubiquity of domestic violence against women. Yet, these surveys are not sufficient to depict the full picture of occurrence of domestic violence, as convincing data on incidences of domestic violence are still lacking.⁵

Additionally these empirical studies lack special investigation on the living conditions of female victims of domestic violence, their needs, and the services available to them. The questionnaires conducted under the Joint Advocacy Initiative for Female Victims of Domestic Violence, a joint project supported by the Anti-Domestic Violence Network of the China Law Society and the ABA Rule of Law Initiative China Project Office, have domestically filled the gap in this

1. For studies on occurrence of domestic violence, please refer to the State Council of the People's Republic of China, White Paper on Women in China (1995); Department of Women's Rights and Benefits, All-China Women's Federation, Chinese Women Newspaper (February 16th 1996); Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Daily (August 20th 1999); Wang Zhonghui, Violence VS Non-violence – Domestic violence in the eyes of the public (China Media University Press, 2005).

2. From 2000 to 2003, China Law Society carried out a project called "Strategies and Interventions to Eliminate Domestic Violence against Women." Data collected under this project in Zhejiang, Hunan and Gansu Province for a study on domestic violence against women have reflected the status quo of the public's perception of domestic violence. Please refer to Zhang Lixi & Liu Meng, A Study on Domestic Violence in China (Beijing: China Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004).

3. Please refer to China Law Society's survey report on 1017 judicial officers working with People's Congress, courts, prosecutor offices, public security organs, and judicial and administrative organs in Liaoning Province, Dalian City, Anshan City, Fuxin City, Pulandian City, Fuxin County and Tai'an County. The survey was carried out in 2001 under "Strategies and Interventions to Eliminate Domestic Violence against Women."

4. Please refer to the report on 3,250 samples surveyed in Liaoning Province, Shan'xi Province, Qinghai Province, Jiangxi Province, Hubei Province and Wuhan City for "All-China Women's Federation sharing strategies to eliminate violence against women in pilot provinces," a project carried out by the Department of Women's Rights and Benefits, All-China Women's Federation in 2002.

5. Tong Xin, "The Production and Reproduction of Unequal Gender Relations: An Analysis of Domestic Violence in China," Sociological Studies, no. 1 (2000).

field. It is believed that follow-up research and actions will make due contributions to the anti-domestic violence initiative.

4. Study Methods

4.1 Survey respondents and survey instrument

The basic unit of analysis in this survey is the individual person. Survey respondents include women victimized by domestic violence in Beijing, Liaoning, Xiaogan City of Hubei, Qingdao City of Shandong, Luohe City of Henan, Qinglong County of Hebei, and Xuzhou City of Jiangsu.

The “questionnaire on the needs of female victims of domestic violence” is used as the instrument to collect data. This questionnaire consists of four parts: 1) general information on the female victim and her family 2) situations of domestic violence 3) the needs of the female victim 4) Services available to the victim.

4.2 Collection of survey samples

In accordance with the project design, the survey was conducted from January 2008 to July 2008. Conducted on non-random, subjectively selected samples, this survey selected seven institutions in the seven regions of China, namely, Beijing, Hubei, Liaoning, Shandong, Henan, Hebei and Jiangsu, as the agencies to acquire samples.

This survey was tested on 42 persons in seven regions to obtain feedback and to modify the questionnaire before the actual interviews were conducted. The actual interviewees were conducted on female victims seeking help in the seven institutions of the seven regions mentioned above, and a total of 473 copies of the questionnaires were collected. The sample distribution in the seven regions is as follows: (Note: the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province, Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province, Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province, Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province, and Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province, the seven institutions responsible for the survey in the seven regions, are not the exclusive source of samples collected. Samples were also gathered

from surveys conducted by public security departments, anti-domestic violence workstations, law firms, radio stations and social workers. (See Table 1)

Table 1 Sample Distribution

Region	Frequency	Effective percentage
Beijing (Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center)	61	12.9
Xiaogan City of Hubei Province (Women’s Federation)	64	13.5
Liaoning Province (Women’s Federation)	80	16.9
Qingdao City of Shandong Province (Women’s Federation)	72	15.2
Luohe City of Henan Province (Women’s Federation)	70	14.8
Qinglong County of Hebei Province (Women’s Federation)	60	12.7
Xuzhou City of Jiangsu Province (Domestic Violence Shelter)	66	14.0
Total	473	100.0

Of the 473 samples, 325 are “first-visit” samples, accounting for 68.7% of the total sample population; 148 are “re-visit” samples, accounting for 31.3%. “First-visit” samples refer to female victims seeking help for the first time in the seven institutions or other institutions during the survey period, whereas “re-visit” samples refer to female victims who had sought help in the seven institutions or other institutions before the survey was conducted.

It is worth noting that, this data report is merely the result of an analysis of samples collected, and the conclusion is not to be deduced to apply to the whole population. Whereas this data report is only a description of the group identity of the female victims of domestic violence, it reflects, to some extent, the situation of the overall population. 473 valid questionnaires have been collected, with a passing rate of 93.8%.

4.3 Reliability and validity of survey

This survey tends to be strong on reliability and validity. A detailed survey guide was produced before the survey was conducted.

The guide defined the responsibilities of survey instructors and conductors as well as explained important indicators. Survey instructors and conductors were also trained on survey methods and were acquainted with and gained an accurate understanding of the questionnaire. At the survey site, survey conductors sent out questionnaires on the spot and made reasonable explanations, in an effort to ensure the quality and quantity of questionnaire response. The respondents, female victims of domestic violence, also fully cooperated to reliably complete the questionnaire with high comprehension of the meaning of questions on the questionnaire. (Note: Relevant questions have been incorporated in the questionnaire to solicit feedback.)

1. General information on female victims of domestic violence

1.1 The victim population contains a broad age distribution, with the majority of women in their twenties and thirties.

Among the 473 female victims surveyed, the youngest is 15 years old, the oldest is 83 years old, and the average is 38.9 years old. Dividing the age into seven groups, the sample distribution is as follows: The number of victims “below 20 years old” is 12, accounting for 2.5% of the sample population; the number of victims in the “21-30 years old” group is 108, accounting for 22.8%; in the “31-40 years old” group, 178, accounting for 37.6%; in the “41-50 years old” group, 101, accounting for 21.4%; in the “51-60 years old” group, 57, accounting for 12.1%; in the “61-70 years old” group, 14, accounting for 3.0%; in the “71-83 years old” group, 3, accounting for 0.6%. Women in their twenties and thirties account for more than 60% of the total sample population. (See Figure 1)

2

GENERAL INFORMATION SURVEY

Section Two

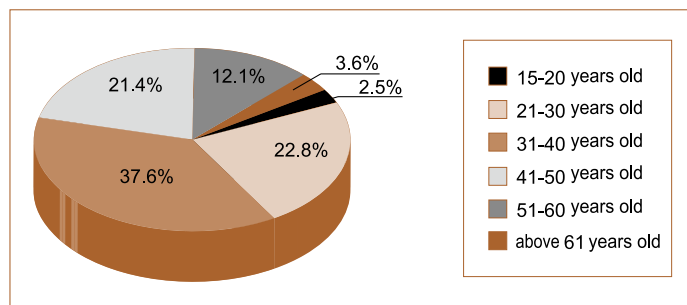


Figure 1 Age distribution

1.2 More victims were born in rural areas than in cities and towns

219 victims of domestic violence were born in cities and towns, accounting for 47.0% of the sample population; 247 victims were born in rural areas, accounting for 53.0%. There are 6% more victims born in rural areas (53%) than those born in cities and towns.

3.3 There are currently more victims living in cities and towns than those living in rural areas, and some victims are amongst the village-to-city migration.

290 victims are currently living in cities and towns, accounting for 62.4% of the sample population; 175 victims are living in villages, accounting for 37.6%. There are 24.8% more victims living in cities and towns than victims living in villages.

348 victims are currently living in provinces that are the same as their provinces of birth, accounting for 74.4% of the total samples; 120 victims were born in provinces that are different than their current provinces of residence, accounting for 25.6%.

172 victims “were born in villages and are currently living in villages,” accounting for 37.1% of total; 214 “were born in cities and towns and are currently living in cities and towns,” accounting for 46.1%; 75 “were born in villages and are currently living in cities and towns,” accounting for 16.2%; only 3 people “were born in cities or towns and are currently living in villages,” accounting for 0.6% of the total sample population. (See Figure 2)

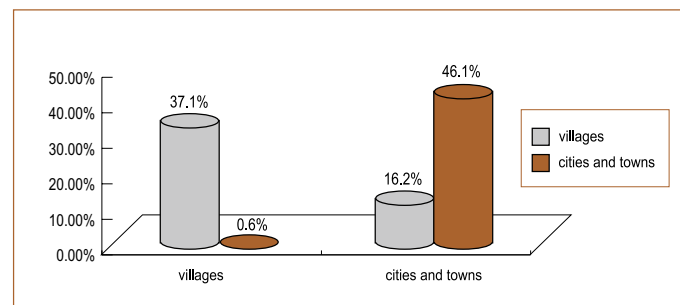


Figure 2 Place of birth vs. place of residence

1.4 Among the victims, low-educated and high-educated women both make up certain proportions.

Low-educated victims (at or below high school or secondary technical school level) take the lion’s share. 336 of the surveyed victims are low educated, accounting for 77.4%; high-educated victims (junior college degree holders or above) also make up some proportion, namely, 22.6%. (See Table 2)

Table 2 Distribution of educational levels

Educational level	Frequency	Effective percentage
No schooling	15	3.2
Primary school	83	17.5
Junior high school	156	33.0
Senior high school or secondary technical school	112	23.7
Junior college	62	13.1
University	41	8.7
Graduate school	4	0.8
Total	473	100.0

1.5 The marriage or cohabitation longevity rates are high.

385 victims are either in their first marriage with a spouse or in their remarriage with a spouse. The marriage longevity ranges from a minimum of five months to a maximum of 50 years, averaging 13.2 years. The cohabitation longevity ranges from a minimum of three

months to a maximum of 28 years, with an average span of 10.4 years.

1.6 The occupational distribution the victims being surveyed is broad.

Victims categorized by profession include: 126 farmers, accounting for 26.6%; 54 workers, accounting for 11.4%; 20 teachers, accounting for 4.2%; 13 civil servants, accounting for 2.7%; 29 company employees, accounting for 6.1%; 66 unemployed, accounting for 14.0%; 21 self-employed, accounting for 4.4%; 22 retirees, accounting for 4.7%; 19 laid-off people, accounting for 4.0%; 11 housewives, accounting for 2.3%. In addition, there are judges, cadres, engineers (senior engineers), doctors, nurses, accountants, soldiers, migrant workers, managers, commercial and service personnel (garments sellers, nannies, shop assistants, cleaners, beauty salon personnel, conductors, drivers, telephone operators, sales assistants), technology staff (inspectors, designers, statisticians), students, school drop-outs, freelancers, etc, constituting a small proportion.

1.7 There are some proportions of victims with no income or low income, and the annual incomes of victims vary greatly.

71 of the victims surveyed have no income throughout the year, accounting for 15.1% of the total sample population. For those who have an income, their annual incomes vary from a minimum of RMB 400 yuan to a maximum of 300,000 yuan, with an average income of 14,191 yuan.

1.8 More victims live with their spouses' families and relatives than with their own families and relatives.

54.5% of the total samples live with their spouses' families and relatives, 9.0 percent more than victims who live with their own families and relatives.

2. General information on perpetrators

2.1 The youngest perpetrator is 21 years old, the oldest is 80 years old, and the average is 41.2 years old.

2.2 Marriage violence is the major form of domestic violence.

402 perpetrators are "husbands," accounting for 85.4% of the sample population; 28 perpetrators are "ex-husbands," accounting for 5.9%. They make up 90% of the total sample population.

2.3 Perpetrators in their thirties and forties, make up 70% of the total samples.

Dividing the age into six groups, the sample distribution is as follows: The number of perpetrators in the "21-30 years old" group is 68, accounting for 14.4%; in the "31-40 years old" group, 196, accounting for 41.6%; in the "41-50 years old" group, 136, accounting for 28.9%; in the "51-60 years old" group, 51, accounting for 10.8%; in the "61-70 years old" group, 15, accounting for 3.2%; in the "71-80 years old" group, 5, accounting for 1.1%. (See Table 3)

Table 3 Age distribution of perpetrators

Age	Frequency	Effective percentage
21-30 years old	68	14.4
31-40 years old	196	41.6
41-50 years old	136	28.9
51-60 years old	51	10.8
61-70 years old	15	3.2
71-80 years old	5	1.1
Total	471	100.0

2.4 Among the perpetrators, low-educated people (at or below high school or secondary technical school level) are the majority. High-educated perpetrators (junior college degree holders or above) also make up certain proportions. Compared with victims, more perpetrators are low educated.

Low-educated perpetrators (at or below high school or secondary technical school level) take the lion's share. 376 of the perpetrators are low educated, accounting for 80.4%; high-educated perpetrators (junior college degree holders or above) also make up some proportion, namely, 19.6%.

The percentage of low-educated perpetrators is slightly higher than that of low-educated victims, by 3.0 percent.

2.5 The occupational distribution of the perpetrators is broad.

The occupational distribution of the perpetrators is wide.

Perpetrators categorized by profession include: 106 farmers, accounting for 22.4%; 65 workers, accounting for 13.7%; 36 self-employed, accounting for 7.6%; 24 civil servants, accounting for 5.1%; 24 unemployed, accounting for 5.1%; 19 drivers, accounting for 4.0%; 16 company employees, accounting for 3.4%; 14 retirees, accounting for 3.0%; 12 teachers, accounting for 2.5%; 10 laid-off people, accounting for 2.1%. In addition, there are judges, policemen, lawyers, soldiers, cadres, engineers (senior engineers), doctors, accountants, commercial and service personnel (real estate developers and builders, managers, cleaners, shop assistants, logistics personnel), technology staff (designers and statisticians), and freelancers, etc, making up a small proportion.

2.6 Annual incomes of perpetrators vary greatly.

22 of the perpetrators have no income throughout the year, accounting for 4.9% of the sample population. Among those who have an income, some earn as little as RMB 1000 yuan per year, whereas the maximum annual income some have managed to earn is up to 2 million yuan. The average annual income is 25,619 yuan.

2.7 There is a difference in income level between the male perpetrators and the female victims.

The perpetrators have a higher average annual income than the victims do, with their average annual income being 1.8 times that of the victims.



Through compilation and analysis of the survey data, we have reached conclusions on three aspects, namely, domestic violence situations, the needs of victims of domestic violence, and the current situation of services afforded to those victims.

1. On domestic violence situations

1.1 Types of violent acts

a. Physical violence, psychological violence, and sexual violence all exist, with psychological violence taking place most frequently.

The three types of violent acts are ranked, in descending order, as (1) psychological violence (57.0%), (2) physical violence (36.9%), and (3) sexual violence (6.3%). (See Table 4)

The same conclusion has been made in previous studies on the ranking of the types of violent acts.⁶ The fact that psychological violence happens most frequently has been gradually recognized, but the reasons behind (particularly the reasons for this phenomenon currently occurring in the Chinese society), have not been given a reasonable explanation. This may have to do with the fact that previous studies have not paid enough attention to psychological violence.

Table 4 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about violent acts

Violent act	Number of responses	Percentage
Cursing and insulting	372	18.6
Keeping threatening to beat you	261	13.1
Pushing, grasping, twisting arms, and pulling hair, etc.	308	15.4
Slapping, kicking, punching and strangling	295	14.8
Beating with a stick or belt	98	4.9
Intentional burning or fighting using knives	36	1.8
Restricting your freedom of movement	128	6.4
Forcing you to have sex	96	4.8

6. Zhang Lixi & Liu Meng, A Study on Domestic Violence in China (Beijing: China Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004)

Rudely refusing to have sex with you	29	1.5
Providing no basic living allowance	140	7.0
Ignoring you, taking no notice of you	129	6.5
Threatening to kill you	107	5.4
Total number of responses	1,999	100.0

b. Younger victims (below 40 years old) suffer more serious physical violence.

Younger victims (below 40 years old) suffer more physical violence of “slapping, kicking, punching and strangling,” “beating with a stick or belt,” and “intentional burning and fighting with knives,” among other more serious violent acts.

c. The specific types of psychological violence older victims and younger victims suffer are different.

Older victims (above 50 years old) suffer more from “cursing and insulting,” “ignoring and taking no notice,” and “threatening to kill;” Young victims (below 20 years old) suffer more psychological violence of “repeated threatening to beat,” “restricting freedom of movement,” and “providing no basic living allowance.”

d. Younger victims (below 40 years old), highly-educated victims (junior college degree holders or above), and victims in cohabitation are more vulnerable to sexual violence.

1.2 Frequency of violent acts

a. The frequency of violent acts the victims suffer is, on average, 7.4 times per year.

b. The average frequency of violent acts the victims have suffered in the past twelve months, based on the survey findings from different institutions, are listed below in descending order:

The average frequency based on findings from Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province is 13.9 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing is 7.9 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from Xuzhou Domestic

Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province is 7.3 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province is 6.9 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province is 6.7 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province is 5.4 times a year;

The average frequency based on findings from Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province is 4.4 times a year.

This to some extent reflects the different domestic violence situations in the seven areas.

c. The average frequency of violent acts against cohabiting women is higher.

d. The average frequency of violent acts against older women is higher.

e. The average frequency of violent acts against women with no education is higher.

f. The average frequency of violent acts against victims who migrated from villages to cities and towns is higher.

1.3 A comparison of various reasons leading to violence

a. The specific reasons resulting in violence are complex and diverse.

The specific reasons can be generalized as the victims giving birth to girls, or being infertile, or giving birth to children with disabilities, or nagging, or being reluctant to have sex with the perpetrators; the perpetrators having an affair, or drinking and gambling, or being under psychological pressure; or the two parties not getting along. (See Table 5)

Table 5 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about reasons resulting in violence

Reasons for violent acts	Number of responses	Percentage
You have given birth to a girl.	59	5.5

You are a infertile women.	8	0.7
You have given birth to a child with disabilities	2	0.2
You keep nagging.	111	10.3
You have made a mistake.	30	2.8
You are reluctant to have sex with your partner.	45	4.2
The two of you are not getting along.	213	19.8
Your partner is having an affair.	146	13.6
Your partner is drinking and gambling.	145	13.5
Your partner is under great pressure.	144	13.4
Other reasons	171	15.9
Total number of responses	1,074	100.0

The option of “other reasons” also makes up a considerable proportion, namely, 15.9%, with reasons including: “the victim being ill;” “the victim not being a virgin;” “the victim being poor at housework;” “the victim being unable to make money;” “the victim talking back;” “the couple quarrelling;” “the victim not obeying;” “the other woman instigating;” “property disputes;” “long-term separation in two places, leading to a crisis of confidence and miscommunication;” “the victim having been abducted and forced to marry;” “the victim making friends with other men;” “the victim making friends online;” “the victim text messaging and taking pictures on camera phone with male colleagues;” “the victim being unable to satisfy the partner’s sexual needs;” “the partner having an affair;” “the partner being of an uncommunicative disposition;” “the partner being under great pressure or not performing well at work, or being unemployed;” “the partner suffering from mental illness;” “the partner being bad-tempered;” “the partner being psychologically abnormal;” “the partner suspecting disloyalty;” “the partner forcing to marry;” “the partner forcing a divorce;” “the partner becoming bad as he becomes rich;” “the partner beating with no specific reasons;” “mother-in-law and daughter-in-law conflict;” “the other woman demanding to be married;” “parents-in-law forcing a divorce;” “lack of trust and inability to communicate;” “the couple having disputes on children’s education;” “the couple having disagreements;” “the parents treating the victim bad, as she is a girl, and her step-mother has given

birth to a boy;" etc.

b. Victims in different age groups suffer violence for different reasons.

Victims "from 15 to 20 years old" suffer violence mainly because the "victims are reluctant to have sex with their partners" and the "partners are drinking and gambling;"

Victims "from 21 to 30 years old" suffer violence mainly because the "victims have given birth to girls" and the "partners are under great psychological pressure;"

The main reason for victims "from 31 to 40 years old" suffering violence is that "their partners are having an affair;"

Victims "from 51 to 60 years old" suffer violence mainly because "victims keep nagging" and "the couple does not get along well."

c. Victims in villages and those in cities and towns suffer violence for various reasons.

For victims currently living in villages, the main reasons for their suffering violence are "victims having given birth to girls," "their partners drinking and gambling," and "the couples not getting along;" For those who live in cities and towns, the main reasons for their suffering violence are "victims being reluctant to have sex" and "partners being under tremendous pressure."

There are disputes over attribution of occurrence of violence to certain factors. One view contends that the design of options (such as "you keep nagging," "you have made mistakes") and the victims' selections can objectively reflect the victims' various inclinations; whereas the opposite argues that such options should not be designed and presented to the victims, as the existence of these options is suspected to imply that the victims themselves are responsible for the violence that occurred.

1.4 Victim reaction to violence

a. Victims' immediate reactions are different when violence occurs.

Studies have pointed out that in the United States, when a wife suffers domestic violence (including mild violence and serious violence), she tends to take passive measures, with crying, cursing, and running being the three most common reactions, making up more than 60% of the total immediate reactions being observed;

12% of the victims will fight back; in the United States, only a small number of people will report domestic violence to the police, with merely 3.2% of mild violence and 14.4% of serious violence being reported to the police. (Kantor & Straus, 1995, p478, p481).⁷

This survey believes that "cursing" and "running to another room" are different from reactions such as "dodging but not fighting back" and "tolerating beating in fear of a harder one," and cannot simply be deemed as passive reactions. As a result, this survey divides victims' immediate reactions into passive, positive, and active reactions. Whether it is justifiable to divide immediate reactions as such is still needs further study.

When violence occurs, some victims react passively, such as "dodging but not fighting back" and "tolerating beating in fear of a harder one;" some women take positive measures, such as "fighting back," "running away" and "going away from home." Active reactions such as "crying for help" (to family members, neighbors, or police) only make up a small percentage (14.6%). (See Table 6)

Table 6 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about reactions to violent acts

Reactions	Number of responses	Percentage
Tolerating beating in fear of a harder one	105	8.7
Dodging but not fighting back	141	11.7
Crying, yelling, and cursing	239	19.8
Fighting back	112	9.3
Cry for help (to family members, neighbors and police)	176	14.6
Running away	164	13.6
Going away from home	172	14.3
Tolerating on the spot but trying to think of a solution later	73	6.1
Others	24	2.0
Total number of responses	1,206	100.0

b. When violence occurs, victims currently living in villages react differently from victims living in cities and towns

7. Kalmuss, D & Straus, M. A., "Wife's Marital Dependency and Wife Abuse", In Straus, M.A. & Gelles, R. J. (eds.), Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families, New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, p. 369-382.1995. Quoted from Wang Xiangxian, Violence in Intimate relationships: Examples from surveys on 1035 university students, doctoral thesis.

Victims currently living in villages tend to passively react to violence, such as “dodging but not fighting back” and “tolerating beating in fear of a harder one;” Victims living in cities and towns tend to react more positively, such as “crying for help (to family members, neighbors and police).”

c. Victims at different ages react to violence differently.

Older women (above 40 years old) are more inclined to take passive measures, while younger women react more positively.

1.5 Seeking help after violence

a. A relatively high percentage of women seek help after violence

75 victims of domestic violence have opted for “not seeking help from anyone, but trying to temporarily resolve the issue alone or with the partner;” 398 victims have sought help, representing a high rate of help-seeking at 84.1%.

b. Victims tend to seek help from informal social networks.

Victims are disposed to seek help from informal social networks, such as “the partner’s family members or friends” (18.5%), “their own family members or friends” (18.2%), with the two options mentioned above being the most selected. Yet, help-seeking from formal social systems, such as “local police station” (14.4%), “Women’s Federation” (14.0%), “neighborhood committee” (9.3%), “the partner’s work unit (the place of employment)” (4.6%); “labor union” (0.4%), represents a higher selection percentage in total. This may have to do with the fact that more options are designed under the latter category.

c. “First-visit” victims and “re-visit” victims take different help-seeking actions.

“First-visit” victims tend to ask for help from informal social networks, such as “the partner’s family members or friends” (19.7%), “their own family members or friends” (18.6%), and “neighbors” (4.0%); “re-visit” victims are inclined to seek help from formal social networks, such as the “Women’s Federation” (16.6%), “local police station” (15.8%), “neighborhood committee” (11.1%), and “the partner’s work unit” (5.7%).

d. Victims currently living in villages and victims living in cities and towns take different help-seeking actions.

Victims currently living in villages tend to seek help from informal social networks, such as “the partner’s family members or friends” (20.5%). But “neighborhood committee” (as part of the formal social networks) also makes up certain proportion (16.5%) as a source to help. Victims currently living in cities and towns tend to seek help from formal social networks, such as the “local police station” (16.0%), “Women’s Federation” (15.1%), “the partner’s working unit” (6.5%), “labor union” (0.6%). This may have to do with the unsoundness of formal social networks in villages.⁸

1.6 The consequences of violence

a. Violence has a profound influence on a victim’s physical health.

Victim symptoms include “recurrent or occasional sickness” (78.5%) and “pain, cold sweats, dismay and insomnia” (50.4%).

b. Violence also has a profound influence on a victim’s mental health.

The majority (91.6%) of the victims “fear their partners.” The victims “are under recurrent depression and irritability” (70.7%), “often feel intensity, anger, anxiety and depression” (67.7%), “often or occasionally want to commit suicide” (35.2%), and “often or occasionally have thought of killing their partners” (35.9%).

1.7 Injury assessment

297 or 63.5% of the surveyed victims have been beaten and injured. Victims are absent from work / ill in bed for an average of 12.7 days; on average, they go to the hospital 2.3 times; the average medical expenses are RMB 2,509 yuan, with 21.4% of victims spending “less than 100 yuan,” 47.4% spending “101 to 1,000 yuan,” 28.8% spending “1,000 to 10,000 yuan,” and 2.3% spending “more than 10,001 yuan.”

Through an interactive analysis of the two variants, namely,

8. Formal social networks include governments, enterprises, community organizations and markets (employment agencies, personnel exchange centers and advertising); Informal social networks include five kinds of relationships: blood relationship (one’s own and one’s spouse’s parents, siblings and children), affinity (one’s own and one’s spouse’s relatives), working relationship (colleagues and fellow classmates), geographical relationship (neighbors), and personal relationship (friends). See Qiu Haixiong, Chen Jianmin & Ren Yan, “Changes in social support structures: From unity to plurality,” *Sociological Studies*, no. 4 (1998).

“whether one has been beaten” and “whether one has taken any injury assessment,” we have found that 232 of the 296 victims have been beaten and injured but have not taken any injury assessment, accounting for 78.4%. Pearson’s chi-square test has shown that the difference is highly significant (Sig. = .000), meaning the two variants are interrelated.

Only 67 or 14.2% of the surveyed victims have taken injury assessments. 65 of the victims reported assessment results during the survey: five of them were “grievously harmed,” accounting for 7.7%; 28 had “minor injuries,” accounting for 43.1%; 32 were “slightly injured,” accounting for 49.2%. More than 90% of the victims were assessed as having “minor injuries” and being “slightly injured.”

1.8 Attitudes and notions toward violence

Victims are keen on face saving and care more about reputation. A relatively high proportion of victims completely agree or relatively agree with statements that “getting beaten is humiliating” (65.7%) and “seeking a divorce because of violence harms a woman’s reputation” (51.4%). This notion will to some extent hinder victims from seeking help.

On the other hand, a greater percentage of victims completely disagree or relatively disagree with statements such as “women are weak both physically and mentally and not able to beat men, and thus they can only tolerate abuse,” “one should not seek divorce because of children,” “one should tolerate domestic abuse for the sake of survival,” “a husband may beat his wife out of bad mood, overwork or pressure,” “a husband can beat his wife when she does something wrong,” “it is necessary to beat a woman if she does not obey,” and “women keep on nagging and they should be beaten.” (See Table 7)

Table 7 Attitudes toward violence

Attitudes	Completely agree	Relatively agree	Relatively disagree	Completely disagree
A husband can beat his wife if she has done something wrong	3.2	9.8	20.7	66.2
It is necessary to beat a woman if she does not obey	0.2	3.0	21.1	75.7

Women keep on nagging and they should be beaten	0.2	2.6	22.4	74.8
One should not seek divorce because of children	6.0	29.7	23.7	40.5
Getting beaten is humiliating	20.7	45.0	14.5	19.8
Seeking a divorce because of violence harms a woman’s reputation	12.3	39.1	24.2	24.4
Women are weak both physically and mentally and not able to beat men, and thus they can only tolerate abuse	8.5	28.0	29.7	33.8
A husband may beat his wife out of bad mood, overwork or pressure	3.8	16.6	37.1	42.4
One should tolerate domestic abuse for the sake of survival	8.1	25.3	31.1	35.5

2. On victims’ needs

2.1 A comparison of institutions from which women seek help after violence

a. The leading and ancillary institutions from which victims seek help after violence

“Women’s Federation” (27.0%), “local police station/110” (20.6%), and “neighborhood committee” (12.5%) are the three leading institutions from which victims seek help after violence.

Ancillary institution from which victims seek help include: “Court of law” (8.1%), “legal aid center for female victims of violence” (5.4%), “psychological counseling agency” (4.9%), “the partner’s work unit” (4.3%), “community-based violence complaint center” (3.8%), “shelter / relief station” (3.8%), “hotlines” (3.2%), “injury assessment center” (2.7%), “labor union” (2.0%) and “others” (1.7%), including “the victim’s working unit,” “Internet,” “law firm,” “judicial institution,” and “medical institution” and so on. (See Table 8)

Table 8 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about institutions from which victims seek help after violence

Institution	Number of responses	Percentage
Women's Federation	349	27.0
Local police station / 110	266	20.6
Neighborhood committee	162	12.5
Court of law	105	8.1
Legal aid center for female victims of violence	70	5.4
Psychological counseling agency	63	4.9
The partner's working unit	55	4.3
Community-based violence complaint center	49	3.8
Shelter / relief station	49	3.8
Hotline	41	3.2
Injury assessment center	35	2.7
Labor union	26	2.0
Others	22	1.7
Total	1,292	100.0

“Women’s Federation,” “local police station/110,” and “neighborhood committee” are also traditional institutions (established prior to Reform and Opening-up). “Legal aid center for female victims of violence,” “psychological counseling agency,” “community-based violence complaint center,” “shelter / relief station,” “hotline,” “injury assessment center,” “Internet” are new-type institutions (established after Reform and Opening-up).

b. Women appear to resort to different institutions for help after violence, based on the survey findings from different survey institutes.

Through the horizontal comparison among survey results from different survey institutes, the variance in victims’ preferences among sources of help can be clearly seen:

For the answer option “neighborhood committee,” the highest selection rate (30.1%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei; whereas the lowest selection rate (3.4%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing. The difference in percentage is 26.7%.

For the answer option “shelters / relief stations,” the highest

selection rate (17.4%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas no victim, according to findings from Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, has thought about getting this kind of service. The difference in percentage is 17.4%.

For the option “Women’s Federation,” the highest selection rate (31.1%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province; findings from the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, on the other hand, indicate the lowest rate of selection, namely, 16.2%. The difference in percentage is 14.9%.

For the option “local police station/110,” the highest selection rate (26.3%) is reported by Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province; on the contrary, findings from the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province have the lowest selection rate, namely, 11.8%. The difference in percentage is 14.5%.

For the option “hotline,” the highest selection rate (12.8%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing; but no victims, according to findings from the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, has thought about getting this kind of service. The difference in percentage is 12.8%.

Findings from the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing also show the highest selection rate of the option “psychological counseling agencies,” namely, 12.2%; whereas the lowest selection rate (0.6%) for this option is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province and the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei. The difference in percentage is 11.6%.

The Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports the highest percentage of victims seeking help from “community-based violence complaint centers,” namely, 11.0%; findings from the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province and the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province, on the other hand, indicate that no victim has expected to have this kind of institutional service. The difference in percentage is 11.0%.

The Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports the highest percentage of victims seeking help from “courts of law,” namely, 11.6%; the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, on the other hand, reports the lowest percentage, namely, 4.3%. The difference in percentage is 7.3%.

The Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports the highest

percentage of victims seeking help from “legal aid centers for female victims of violence,” namely, 8.5%; whereas the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a low percentage of 1.3%. The difference in percentage is 7.2%.

The Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports the highest percentage of victims seeking help from “injury assessment centers,” namely, 5.4%; no victim has opted to use this service based on findings from the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 5.4%.

The Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province also reports the highest percentage of victims seeking help from “the partners’ work units,” namely, 7.5%; the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province, on the contrary, reports a low percentage of 2.3%. The difference in percentage is 5.2%.

The Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports the highest percentage of victims seeking help from “labor unions,” namely, 4.9%; on the other hand, no victim, according to findings from the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province, has thought about getting this kind of service. The difference in percentage is 4.9%.

2.2 A comparison of specific services that victims expect to get

a. Specific services that victims expect to get, including services afforded to victims and to perpetrators

Specific services that victims expect to get mainly include: “assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage” (16.9%), “correcting the wrongdoings of the perpetrators” (16.5%), “emotional support” (14.8%), “divorce” (12.6%), “economic compensation” (8.7%), “legal aid” (7.4%), “housing” (6.8%), “getting child custody and allowance” (4.4%), “assistance in stopping continuous violence after marriage” (4.2%), “job hunting” (3.2%), “medical services” (2.1%), “others” (2.3%), including legal advice, expert consulting, and assistance in asking the husband to go back to his wife and children, in ending a relationship between the couple, in stopping harassment, and in stopping the husband’s extramarital affairs. (See Table 9)

Table 9 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about specific services that victims expect to get

Specific service	Number of responses	Percentage
Assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage	216	16.9
Correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators	212	16.5
Emotional support	189	14.8
Divorce	162	12.6
Economic compensation	111	8.7
Legal aid	95	7.4
Housing	87	6.8
Getting child custody and allowance	57	4.4
Assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage	54	4.2
Job hunting	41	3.2
Medical services	27	2.1
Others	30	2.3
Total number of responses	1,281	100.0

b. Women expect to get different kinds of specific services, based on the survey findings from different surveying institutes.

For the option “correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators,” the highest selection rate (23.1%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing; whereas the lowest selection rate (6.0%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province. The difference in percentage is 17.1%.

For the option “assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage,” the highest selection rate (24.3%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei; whereas the lowest selection rate (10.3%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province. The difference in percentage is 14.0%.

For the option “emotional support,” the highest selection rate (21.1%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (9.1%) is reported by the

Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province. The difference in percentage is 12.0%.

For the option “economic compensation,” the highest selection rate (13.1%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.9%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing. The difference in percentage is 11.2%.

For the option “legal aid,” the highest selection rate (12.7%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (2.1%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 10.6%.

For the option “housing,” the highest selection rate (10.2%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.3%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 8.9%.

For the option “job hunting,” the highest selection rate (8.9%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas no victim, according to findings from the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province, would expect to get this kind of service. The difference in percentage is 8.9%.

For the option “getting child custody and allowance,” the highest selection rate (9.6%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.0%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 8.6%.

For the option “assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage,” the highest selection rate (7.4%) is reported by the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (0.7%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 6.7%.

For the option “divorce,” the highest selection rate (15.1%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (9.9%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 5.2%.

For the option “medical service,” the highest selection rate (3.1%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas no victim, according to findings from the Qingdao

City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province, would expect to get this kind of service. The difference in percentage is 3.1%.

2.3 A comparison of expected ways to deal with perpetrators

a. Ways in which victims expect to deal with perpetrators

Ways in which victims expect to deal with perpetrators, listed in descending order by percentage, include: “persuasion and education” (24.3%), “psychological counseling” (15.1%), “divorce” (14.2%), “warning” (8.8%), “compulsory treatment” (7.6%), “detention” (7.5%), “law and order punishment” (7.1%), “prison sentence” (5.4%), “community service” (3.1%), “levying fines” (2.6%), “media exposure” (2.3%), “administrative punishment” (1.4%), and “others” (0.5%), including some economic compensation, a reasonable division of family property. (See Table 10)

Table 10 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about expected ways to deal with perpetrators

Ways to deal with perpetrators	Responses	Percentage
Persuasion and education	279	24.3
Psychological counseling	173	15.1
Divorce	163	14.2
Warning	101	8.8
Compulsory treatment	87	7.6
Detention	86	7.5
Law and order punishment	82	7.1
Prison sentence	62	5.4
Community service	36	3.1
Levying fines	30	2.6
Media exposure	26	2.3
Administrative punishment	16	1.4
Others	6	0.5
Total number of responses	1147	100.0

b. Based on survey results from different institutes, victims expect to deal with perpetrators in different ways.

For the option “psychological counseling,” the highest selection rate (29.7%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing; whereas the lowest selection rate (4.1%)

is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 25.6%.

For the option “warning,” the highest selection rate (14.5%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.4%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 13.1%.

For the option “persuasion and education,” the highest selection rate (31.8%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (19.6%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province. The difference in percentage is 12.2%.

For the option “compulsory treatment,” the highest selection rate (13.9%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing; whereas the lowest selection rate (2.9%) is reported by the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province. The difference in percentage is 11.0%.

For the option “detention,” the highest selection rate (13.7%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (2.7%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 11.0%.

For the option “levying fines,” the highest selection rate (10.3%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas no victim would opt for this option, according to findings from the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province, and the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 10.3%.

For the option “divorce,” the highest selection rate (19.0%) is reported by the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (8.9%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing. The difference in percentage is 10.1%.

For the option “prison sentence,” the highest selection rate (10.3%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.9%) is reported by the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing. The difference in percentage is 8.4%.

For the option “community service,” the highest selection rate

(8.0%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (0.7%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 7.3%.

For the option “media exposure,” the highest selection rate (6.3%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province; whereas no victim would expect to deal with perpetrators this way, according to survey findings from the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province. The difference in percentage is 6.3%.

For the option “administrative punishment,” the highest selection rate (3.0%) is reported by the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province; whereas no victim, according to findings from the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province and the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, would like to treat perpetrators this way. The difference in percentage is 3.0%.

3. On services afforded to victims of domestic violence

3.1 Whether victims have actually received institutional services

a. The majority of victims have received institutional services

356 of the 473 victims have received institutional services after violence, accounting for 75.3%; 117 of them have not received any institutional service, accounting for 24.7% of the sample population.

b. There are gaps in the institutional services that victims have received. This discrepancy indicates that, to various degrees, there are situations where service is not available.

The number of victims that have received institutional services after violence, according to survey findings from the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province, the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province, the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province, the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province, the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province, and the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province, are 29, 45, 68, 55, 56,

59, and 44, respectively, accounting for 47.5%, 70.3%, 85.0%, 76.4%, 80.0%, 98.3%, 66.7%, respectively.

The number of victims that have not received institutional services after violence are, according to survey findings from the seven institutes, 32, 19, 12, 17, 14, 1, 22, respectively, each accounting for 52.5%, 29.7%, 15.0%, 23.6%, 20.0%, 1.7%, 33.3%, respectively.

The correlation between the various institutes and institutional services being received, upon Pearson’s chi-square test, is highly significant (Sig. = .000), meaning that there are gaps among institutional services that victims have received from different institutions. (See Table 11)

Table 11 A comparison of numbers of victims having received institutional services, based on survey results from different institutes

Survey institute	Number and percentage of victims having received institutional services	Number and percentage of victims having not received institutional services	Difference in percentage
Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province	59/98.3%	1/1.7%	96.6
Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province	68/85.0%	12/15.0%	70.0
Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province	56/80.0%	14/20.0%	60.0
Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province	55/76.4%	17/23.6%	52.3
Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province	45/70.3%	19/29.7%	40.6
Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province	44/66.7%	22/33.3%	33.4
Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing	29/47.5%	32/52.5%	5.0

c. About 20 percent of victims have not received any institutional service after help-seeking

Through an interactive analysis of the two variants, namely, “whether one has sought help” and “whether one has received any institutional service,” we have found that 320 of the 398 victims who have sought help have received institutional services, accounting for 80.4%; 78 victims have sought help but not received any service from any institution, accounting for 19.6%. Pearson’s chi-square test has shown that the difference is highly significant (Sig. = .000), meaning the two variants are interrelated.

3.2 Situation of institutions providing service after violence

a. The institutions that provide services to victims basically corresponds to the institutions from which victims seek help after violence.

“Women’s Federation” (29.1%), “local police station/110” (19.6%), and “neighborhood committee and town government” (18.2%) are the three leading institutions that provide services to victims of domestic violence. These three are also the three leading institutions from which victims seek help after violence (see table 8).

“Court of law” (6.4%), “the partner’s work unit” (5.0%), “shelter / relief station” (4.5%), “hotline” (4.0%), “community-based violence complaint center” (3.9%), “psychological counseling agency” (3.4%), “injury assessment center” (2.7%), “legal aid center for victims of violence” (1.7%), and “labor union” (0.7%), have played a supporting role in providing services to female victims of domestic violence. (See Table 12)

Table 12 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about institutions from which victims have received services

Institution	Number of responses	Percentage
Women’s Federation	260	29.1
Local police station / 110	175	19.6
Neighborhood committee (town government)	163	18.2
Court of law	57	6.4
The partner’s working unit	45	5.0
Shelter / relief station	40	4.5

Hotline	36	4.0
Community-based violence complaint center	35	3.9
Psychological counseling agency	30	3.4
Injury assessment center	24	2.7
Legal aid center for female victims of violence	15	1.7
Labor union	6	0.7
Others	9	1.0
Total	895	100.0

“Women’s Federation” (29.1%), “local police station/110” (19.6%), and “neighborhood committee and town government” (18.2%) are the three leading institutions from which victims seek help and receive services after violence. The institutions that provide service to victims basically correspond to the institutions from which victims seek help after violence.

b. There are not huge gaps between expected services and institutional services actually received.

A comparison of expected institutional services and services actually received (see table 8) has shown that: Generally speaking, the discrepancy between the two is not significant. However, “neighborhood committee,” “Women’s Federation,” “community-based violence complaint center,” “hotline,” “the partner’s work unit,” and “shelter / relief station” have offered victims more help than they would have expected; whereas “legal aid center for female victims of violence,” “court of law,” “psychological counseling agency,” “labor union,” and “local police station / 110” have not met the victims’ expectations. (See Table 13)

Table 13 Proportion of each institution that provide services to victims vs. proportion of each institution from which victims seek help

Institution	Proportion of each institution that provides services to victims	Proportion of each institution from which victims seek help	Difference
Women’s Federation	29.1	27.0	+2.1
Labor union	0.7	2.0	-1.3
Neighborhood committee	18.2	12.5	+5.7

Community-based violence complaint center	3.9	3.8	+0.1
Local police station / 110	19.6	20.6	-1.0
Court of law	6.4	8.1	-1.7
Legal aid center for female victims of violence	1.7	5.4	-3.7
Injury assessment center	2.7	2.7	0
Hotline	4.0	3.2	+0.8
Psychological counseling agency	3.4	4.9	-1.5
The partner’s working unit	5.0	4.3	+0.7
Shelter / relief station	4.5	3.8	+0.7
Others	1.0	1.7	-0.7

c. There are service discrepancies in different regions.

For the three most frequently visited institutions, “Women’s Federation,” “local police station/110,” and “neighborhood committee or town government,” there are differences in visiting rates in different regions:

For “local police station / 110,” the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports the highest visiting rate of 26.9%; whereas the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports the lowest of 9.2%. The difference in percentage is 17.7%.

For “Women’s Federation,” the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports the highest rate of 35.5%; whereas the Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports the lowest rate of 13.4%. The difference in percentage is 22.1%.

For “neighborhood committee or town government,” the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports the highest rate of 34.2%; whereas the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports the lowest rate of 9.9%. The difference in percentage is 24.3%.

d. Most victims of domestic violence have received services from 2-3 institutions

For information on number of institutions from which each victim has received services, see Table 14.

Table 14 Number of institutions from which each victim has received services

Number of institutions from which each victim has received services	Number of responses	Percentage
One	35	9.8
Two	108	30.3
Three	117	32.9
Four	66	18.5
Five	16	4.5
Six	10	2.8
Seven	3	0.8
Eight	1	0.3

More than 60% of victims have received services from 2-3 institutions after violence.

3.3 Most institutions are “hospitable” when providing services.

Among the 356 victims of domestic violence, 323 considered the institutions to be “hospitable” when providing services, accounting for 92.0%; 24 considered the institutions to be “perfunctory,” accounting for 6.8%; 4 considered the institutions to be “irresponsible,” accounting for 1.1%.

3.4 A comparison of situations of victims’ help-seeking from institutions after violence

a. Seeking help from the Women’s Federation

274 victims have sought help from the Women’s Federation, the majority (260) of which have visited the Women’s Federation from one to three times. 155 victims have visited the Women’s Federation once, accounting for 56.6%; 81 victims have visited the Women’s Federation twice, accounting for 29.6%; 24 victims have visited the Women’s Federation three times, accounting for 8.8%; only a small number (namely, 14) of victims have visited the Women’s Federation more than four times, accounting for 5.2%; one victim has visited the Women’s Federation for a maximum of 13 times.

The majority of victims (241) received a limited service of “case recording” from the Women’s Federation after violence, accounting for

88.0%; 20 victims were “comforted,” accounting for 7.3%; 13 victims were provided services such as “condemning the perpetrators,” “mediating,” “educating the perpetrators,” “legal aid,” “referral to another institution (such as women’s hotline),” and “coordinating with other institutions,” accounting for a low percentage of 4.7%. One victim mentioned that at the Women’s Federation she was told that cohabitation was not protected by law and was encouraged to live a new life.

b. Seeking help from a local police station / 110

192 victims have sought help from local police stations / 110 after violence, the majority (160) of which have visited a local police stations / 110 from one to three times. 82 victims have visited a local police station once, accounting for 42.7%; 55 victims have visited a local police station twice, accounting for 28.6%; 23 victims have visited local police stations three times, accounting for 12.0%; a small number (namely, 29) of victims have visited local police stations more than four times, accounting for 16.6%; one victim has visited the local police station for a maximum of 16 times.

The majority of victims (142) received a limited service of “registration of case” from local police stations / 110 after violence, accounting for 72.8%; 34 victims have had “police dispatched on-site in a timely manner,” accounting for 17.4%; 8 victims have been “referred to other institutions,” accounting for 4.1%; 7 victims received the service of “educating the perpetrators,” accounting for 3.6%; “other services” account for 2.1%, such as “persuading the victims to go home,” “collecting evidence on site and educating the perpetrators,” “contacting the HR department of the perpetrator’s work unit,” and “claiming to seize the perpetrators if they continue their violent acts.” Yet, two victims have mentioned that police stations / 110 have been totally apathetic and failed to dispatch any policeman on site.

c. Seeking help from a court of law

93 victims have visited courts of law after violence, the majority (79) of which have visited a court once or twice. 56 victims have visited a court once, accounting for 60.2%; 23 victims have visited a court twice, accounting for 24.7%; a small number (namely, 14) of victims have visited a court for more than three times, accounting for 15.2%; one victim has visited a court for a maximum of eight times.

79 victims had their cases placed on file, accounting for 84.9%.

Among them, 67 victims had their case placed on file once, accounting for 84.8%; 9 victims had their cases placed on file twice, accounting for 11.4%; 2 victims had their cases placed on file three times, accounting for 2.5%; one victim had her cases placed on file for a maximum of four times, accounting for 1.3%.

54 victims were “advised on how to get their cases placed on file,” accounting for 59.3%; 25 victims were provided with “mediation” services, accounting for 27.5%; 8 victims were “introduced to attorneys,” “had the court take into consideration their partners’ violent acts,” and “helped with keeping the marriage,” accounting for 8.8%; “other services” account for 4.4%, including “divorce,” “remand after appeal,” and “advisory service.”

d. Seeking help from a neighborhood committee and town government

184 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments, with a majority (134) having visited neighborhood committees and town governments one to three times. 38 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments once, accounting for 20.7%; 50 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments twice, accounting for 27.2%; 46 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments three times, accounting for 25.0%; 12 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments four times, accounting for 6.5%; 21 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments five times, accounting for 11.4%; 17 victims have visited neighborhood committees and town governments for more than six times, accounting for 9.1%; one victim has visited the neighborhood committee and town government for a maximum of 16 times.

Most (132) victims have been “comforted” by neighborhood committees and town governments, accounting for 69.1%; 41 victims have received mediation service, accounting for 21.5%; a small number (14) of victims have received various services such as “case recording,” “educating the perpetrators,” and “referral to other institutions,” accounting for 9.4%; “other services” account for 2.1%, such as issuing a certificate, assisting with application for living allowances, and coordinating homestead and housing; Yet, there are neighborhood committees that are apathetic.

e. Seeking help from the perpetrators’ work units

62 victims have sought help from the perpetrators’ work units after violence, the majority (54) of whom have visited the perpetrators’ work units from one to three times. 25 victims have visited the perpetrators’ work units once, accounting for 40.3%; 17 victims have visited the perpetrators’ work units twice, accounting for 27.4%; 12 victims have visited the perpetrators’ work units three times, accounting for 19.4%; a small number (8) of victims have visited the perpetrators’ work units for more than four times, accounting for 12.9%; one victim has visited the perpetrator’s work unit for a maximum of 7 times.

Most (36) victims have been “comforted” by the perpetrators’ work units, accounting for 57.1%; 19 victims have received mediation service, accounting for 30.2%; 3 victims have had the perpetrators’ work units “educate the perpetrators,” accounting for 4.8%; other services account for 7.9%; yet, some victims have mentioned that the perpetrators’ work units are apathetic, saying that domestic violence is a private matter and it is not proper to get involved, and that the victims are psychopathic.

f. Seeking help from legal aid centers

33 victims have sought help from legal aid centers, the majority (25) of whom have visited legal aid centers once, accounting for 75.8%; only eight victims have visited legal aid centers more than twice, accounting for 24.2%; one victim has visited a legal aid center for a maximum of five times.

13 victims have had “their cases recorded” at legal aid centers after violence, accounting for 38.2%; six victims have been “introduced to other institutions,” accounting for 17.6%; four victims have been “comforted”; another four have been “assisted with getting the cases placed on file;” four other victims have been “helped with collecting evidence;” the 12 of them account for 35.4%; one victim has been provided with mediation service, accounting for 2.9%; “other services” account for 5.9%, such as “helping with writing the complaints,” “legal aid qualification check,” and “referral to attorneys.”

g. Seeking help from hotline / psychological counseling institution

72 victims have sought help from hotline / psychological counseling institutions after violence, with a majority (50) of having dialed hotlines or visited psychological counseling centers once or

twice. 33 victims have contacted hotline / psychological counseling institutions once, accounting for 45.8%; 17 victims have contacted hotline / psychological counseling institutions twice, accounting for 23.6%; 22 victims have contacted hotline / psychological counseling institutions for more than three times, accounting for 30.6%; one victim has sought help from hotline / psychological counseling institutions for a maximum of ten times.

The majority (55) of victims received “comfort” from hotline/ psychological counseling institutions, accounting for 74.3%; 14 victims have received “psychological counseling,” accounting for 18.9%; five victims were provided with “legal aid,” accounting for 6.8%.

h. Seeking help from shelter / relief stations

55 victims have sought help from shelters and relief stations, 52 of whom have visited shelters and relief stations once or twice. Among the 52 victims, 38 have visited shelters and relief stations once, accounting for 69.1%; 14 have visited shelters and relief stations twice, accounting for 25.5%; only three victims have visited shelters and relief stations for more than three times, accounting for 5.4%; one victim has visited shelters and relief stations for a maximum of six times.

Most (39) victims were provided with “temporary shelter,” accounting for 70.9%; nine victims were provided with “long-term housing,” accounting for 16.4%; six victims were provided with “psychological counseling,” accounting for 10.9%; one victim was provided with “legal aid,” accounting for 1.8%.

i. A comparison of situations of victims’ seeking help from institutions

The most frequently visited institutions, listed in descending order by percentage, are the Women’s Federation, local police station / 110, neighborhood committee and town government, court of law, hotline / psychological counseling, the perpetrator’s working unit, shelter / relief station, and legal aid center, reflecting that victims are inclined to turn to traditional institutions for help, and victims resorting to new types of institutions are not enough.

There is an obvious primary service from each institution: recording for the “Women’s Federation”, case registration for a “local police station / 110”, comforting for a “neighborhood committee, town

government,” “hotline,” “psychological counseling agency,” and “the partner’s working unit,” instruction of prosecuting for “courts of law,” temporary shelter for “shelter / relief station.” There is overlap among the main services provided from each institution while other services are relatively weak. (See Table 15)

Table 15 A comparison of situations of victims’ help-seeking from institutions after violence

Institution	Frequency / Percentage	Service
Women’s Federation	274/260/1-3 times /98.9%/13 times	“Case recording” (88.0%), “comforting” (7.3%), “condemning the perpetrators,” “mediation,” “educating the perpetrators,” “providing legal information / aid,” “referral to other institutions” (such as hotline), “coordinating with other institutions” (4.7%).
Local police station / 110	192/160/1-3 times/83.3%/16	“Case registration” (72.8%), “policemen dispatched to sit in a timely manner” (17.4%), “referral to other institutions” (4.1%), “educating the perpetrators”(3.6%). Two victims have mentioned that police stations / 110 have been totally apathetic and failed to dispatch any policeman on site.
Neighborhood committee and town government	184/134/1-3 times/72.8%/16 times	“Comforting” (69.1%), “mediation” (21.5%), “case recording,” “educating the perpetrators,” “referral to other institutions” (9.4%). Some victims have mentioned that neighborhood committees are apathetic.
Court of law	93/79/once or twice/84.9%/8 times	Prosecution rate is 84.9%, with case placed on file for once to four times; “instruction of prosecuting” (59.3%), “mediation” (27.5%), “referral to attorneys,” “the court takes into consideration the violent acts of the perpetrators,” “help with keeping the marriage” (8.8%).
Hotline / psychological counseling center	72/50/once or twice/69.4%/10 times	“Comforting” (74.3%), “psychological counseling” (18.9%), “legal aid” (6.8%).

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Perpetrators' working units	62/54/1-3 times /87.1%/7 times	"Comforting" (57.1%), "mediation" (30.2%), "educating the perpetrators" (4.8%). Some victims have mentioned that some perpetrators' working units believe that domestic violence is a private matter and it is not proper to get involved, and that the victims are psychopathic.
Shelter / relief station	55/52/once or twice/94.5%/6 times	"Temporary shelter" (70.9%), "long-term housing"(16.4%), "psychological counseling" (10.9%), "legal aid" (1.8%).
Legal aid center	33/25/once/75.8%/5 times	"Case registration" (38.2%), "referral to other institutions" (17.6%), "comforting," "help with prosecuting," "collecting evidence" (35.4%).

3.5 Reasons for seeking help from institutions

Victims appeal to institutions for two reasons: First, to stop violence (such as "I can not stand the violence," and "the partner becomes more and more violent"), the second is to seek help (such as "I have heard that you can help me." or "the partner becomes more and more violent"). (See Table 16)

Table 16 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about reasons for help-seeking from institutions

Reason	Number of responses	Percentage
I cannot stand the violence.	219	31.8
I have heard that you can help me.	214	31.1
Other people cannot stop the violence.	121	17.6
The partner becomes more and more violent	104	15.1
Other	31	4.5
Total	689	100.0

3.6 Ways through which victims become aware of services

a. There are multiple ways through which victims become aware of services

Media broadcasting, victims' own experience, and notice from others are the main ways through which victims become aware of the services. On the other hand, channels such as leaflets, brochures, referral agencies, community activities have yet to be effective enough to acquaint the victims with the services provided. (See Table 17) There are also other means, such as 110, taxi drivers, the White Ribbon volunteers, relevant training, online search, and relief stations.

Table 17 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about ways through which victims become aware of services provided

Way	Number of responses	Percentage
Media broadcasting, newspapers and billboards	185	25.5
Victims' sense that the institution should provide services	177	24.4
Notice from others	169	23.3
Relevant leaflets and brochures	98	13.5
Referral from other institutions	41	5.6
Relevant community activities	40	5.5
Others	16	2.2
Total	726	100.0

b. Victims become aware of services provided in different ways, based on the survey findings from different survey institutes.

For the option "media broadcasting, newspapers and billboards," the highest selection rate (31.3%) is reported by the Luohe City Women's Federation of Henan Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (18.0%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province. The difference in percentage is 13.3%.

For the option "relevant leaflets and brochures," the highest selection rate (21.5%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women's Federation of Hebei Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (3.1%) is reported by the Luohe City Women's Federation of Henan Province. The difference in percentage is 18.4%.

For the option "relevant community activities," the highest

selection rate (11.2%) is reported by the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province; whereas no victims have been acquainted with services this way, according to survey findings of the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 11.2%.

For the option “victims’ sense that the institution should provide services,” the highest selection rate (34.5%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (10.8%) is reported by the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province. The difference in percentage is 23.7%.

For the option “referral from other institutions,” the highest selection rate (11.5%) is reported by the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (1.7%) is reported by the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province. The difference in percentage is 9.8%.

For the option “notice from others,” the highest selection rate (38.5%) is reported by the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province; whereas the lowest selection rate (14.1%) is reported by the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province. The difference in percentage is 24.4%.

3.7 Situations of different needs being met

a. Needs have been met to different extents

“Emotional support,” “correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators,” and “assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage” makes up a relatively high percentage. “Legal aid,” “divorce,” “economic compensation,” “medical service,” “housing,” “getting child custody and allowance,” “job hunting / stable income,” and “assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage” make up a relatively low percentage. (See Table 18)

Table 18 Analysis of responses to multiple choice questions about needs being met by institutions

Needs	Number of responses	Percentage
Emotional support	232	29.0
Correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators	131	16.4

Assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage	127	15.9
Legal aid	77	9.6
Divorce	60	7.5
Economic compensation	33	4.1
Medical services	32	4.0
Housing	22	2.7
Getting child custody and allowance	17	2.1
Job hunting / stable income	15	1.9
Assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage	14	1.7
Others	41	5.1
Total	801	100.0

b. There are discrepancies on the extent to which needs have been met, based on the survey findings from different survey institutes.

For the option “correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators:” the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 26.7%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 21.4%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 17.1%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 14.8%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 11.7%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 10.9%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 4.8%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 21.9%.

For the option “emotional support:” The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 37.0%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 33.6%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 32.4%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 29.1%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 27.1%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 25.7%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 21.8%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 15.2%.

For the option “legal aid:” the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 17.1%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 13.2%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 11.9%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 10.7%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 5.8%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 5.6%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 2.1%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 15.0%.

For the option “assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage:” the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 24.3%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 20.4%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 19.1%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 12.9%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 11.7%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 11.6%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 10.5%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 13.8%.

For the option “divorce:” the Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 14.3%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 13.9%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 9.3%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 6.6%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 5.8%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 3.6%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 3.4%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 10.9%.

For the option “medical services:” the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 9.6%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 8.7%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 3.0%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 2.6%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of

Shandong Province reports a percentage of 1.9%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing and Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province report no such service being provided. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 9.6%.

For the option “medical services:” the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 9.6%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 8.7%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 3.0%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 2.6%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 1.9%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing and Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province report no such service being provided. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 9.6%.

For the option “housing:” the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 7.8%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 3.8%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 3.7%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 3.3%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 2.0%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 0.7%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports no such service being provided. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 7.8%.

For the option “job hunting / stable income:” the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 7.8%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 2.1%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 1.4%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 1.3%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing, Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province, and Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province report no such service being provided. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 7.8%.

For the option “economic compensation:” the Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 7.1%; Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports

a percentage of 5.9%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 3.9%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 3.8%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 3.4%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 2.6%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports no such service being provided. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 7.1%.

For the option “getting child custody and allowance:” the Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 5.0%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 2.9%; Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 2.0%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 1.9%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province and Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province each reports a percentage of 1.4%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports a percentage of 1.0%. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 4.0%.

For the option “assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage:” the Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province reports a percentage of 3.9%; Qinglong County Women’s Federation of Hebei Province reports a percentage of 2.1%, Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports a percentage of 2.0%; The Maple Women’s Psychological Counseling Center of Beijing reports a percentage of 1.9%; Qingdao City Women’s Federation of Shandong Province reports a percentage of 1.0%; Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports a percentage of 0.7%; Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter of Jiangsu Province reports no such service. The difference between the highest percentage and the lowest is 3.9%.

c. A comparison between expected services and services offered

A comparison between expected services and services offered shows that the difference is not significant, although some of the victims’ needs have yet to be met. Listed in descending order by percentage, the discrepancies between expected services and services offered are: 5.1% for “divorce,” 4.6% for “economic compensation,” 4.1% for “housing,” 2.5% for “assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage,” 2.3% for “getting child custody and allowance,” 1.3% for “job hunting / stable income,” and 0.1% for “assistance in stopping

violence and also saving the marriage.” (See Table 19)

Table 19 A comparison between expected services and services offered

Service	Expected	Offered
Emotional support	14.8	29.0
Correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators	16.5	16.4
Assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage	16.9	15.9
Legal aid	7.4	9.6
Divorce	12.6	7.5
Economic compensation	8.7	4.1
Medical services	2.1	4.0
Housing	6.8	2.7
Getting child custody and allowance	4.4	2.1
Job hunting / stable income	3.2	1.9
Assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage	4.2	1.7
Others	2.3	5.1

3.8 Reasons for needs not being met

As to reasons why needs are not being met, we have set up an open question, and 194 victims have answered this question. After an analysis of the reasons why needs are not being met, we have categorized the reasons into “needs being met” (some victims have answered that their needs have been met for this question.), “needs being unmet due to institutional (mechanical) reasons,” “needs being unmet due to victims themselves,” “needs not being met due to perpetrators,” “needs being unmet due to other people,” and “unknown reasons” (eight victims have mentioned this reason, accounting for 4.1%).

a. “Needs being met”

Only seven victims reported their “needs being met,” accounting for 3.6%. The Xiaogan City Women’s Federation of Hubei Province reports one victim having her needs met, accounting for 3.6%; the Luohe City Women’s Federation of Henan Province reports six victims

having their need met, accounting for 15.8%.

b. Specific reasons for needs being unmet

Reasons related to an unsound system and a lack of protection: Rules and regulations are not sound enough; sanctions against perpetrators and the third parties are not strict enough; practical measures and implementation efforts to protect women’s rights are lacking.

Reasons related to loopholes in institutional services: Some institutions do not pay due attention to the needs of female victims and neglect or dodge their appeals in an incorrect attitude. Some institutions do not believe that battered women are victims, as demonstrated in the following five aspects: first, the village committees are biased towards the perpetrators and do not provide support of medical expenses for victims. Secondly, the leaders in places where perpetrators work are not willing to get involved in domestic affairs, and they only conduct verbal education, which has little effect in helping victims. Thirdly, it is difficult for courts to collect evidence and ascertain the truth, thus preventing handling of domestic violence cases. Economic compensation has not been allocated to victims; courts and lawyers pass and buck with each other. Fourthly, the Women’s Federation has no enforcement power. Their mediation force is not strong, and they leave victims to 110. Fifthly, punishment force is not strong enough. The police think that wife beating is a private family matter and only conduct education to perpetrators, or merely record the case instead of intervening. The policemen deal with cases perfunctorily, refuse to take the cases because injuries are very slight, ask victims to appeal to the Women’s Federation, or tell them to go to court on their own.

3.9 Victims’ situations after seeking help from the institutions

After victims sought help from the institutions, more than 50% of violence was stopped or reduced, meaning the intervention was effective; yet, about 30% of violence has not been stopped or reduced, or was even aggravated, meaning that the effectiveness of intervention needs to be enhanced. (See Table 20)

Table 20 Situations after victims’ seeking help from institutions

Current situation	Frequency	Percentage
Violence has been reduced but not stopped	102	28.9
Violence has been stopped	94	26.6
Violence temporarily stopped before recurring	66	18.7
Violence continues	41	11.6
Violence becomes more serious	7	2.0
Others	43	12.2
Total	353	100.0

At present, agencies for victims of violence are still deficient in meeting the needs of and providing services for female victims. More attention from all of society is needed. For this reason, we put forward some suggestions and countermeasures on aspects of effectively meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence, providing quality and comprehensive services, and carrying out research on domestic violence issues.

1. Main conclusions

The survey has reached the following conclusions:

1.1 On the occurrence, response and appeals of violence and perpetrators

a. The three types of violent acts are ranked, in descending order, as psychological violence, physical violence and sexual violence.

The fact that psychological violence happens most frequently has been gradually recognized, but the reasons behind this has not been given a reasonable explanation. This may have to do with the fact that previous studies have not paid enough attention to psychological violence. Although sexual violence has the lowest surveyed rate, considering Chinese people's taboo on talking about sex, the actual rate of sexual violence is not necessarily that low.

b. When violence occurs, immediate reactions of female victims include passive reactions, active reactions and positive reactions.

Victims currently living in villages tend to react more passively than victims from cities and towns. Older women (above 40 years old) are more inclined to take passive measures, while younger women react more positively. Rural victims and older victims tend to take a passive measure to violence due to the reason that they hold a more conservative value, i.e. more used to swallowing the pain, and the ability to accept new information is comparatively weak. However, female victims should not be blamed for their passive reactions. Instead, lack of support systems in society should be responsible.

c. Violence exerts such tremendous influence on women's

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CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

physical and mental health that they often have extreme thoughts and actions, such as “frequently and occasionally attempting suicide” (35.2%), “frequently and occasional having the idea of killing him” (35.9%), which is recognized as “battered woman syndrome.”

d. Nearly fifty percent of battered women have not taken injury assessments, possibly because of shortage of money, embarrassment, or no awareness of injury assessment organizations. Also, fewer than fifteen percent of battered women take injury assessments and over ninety percent of them have been identified as “minorly injured” and “slightly injured.” This reflects that victims of female violence have indeed suffered varying degrees of physical injuries.

e. Battered women, especially victims from rural areas are more inclined to seek help from informal social networks after violence, as formal social networks are not mature enough.

f. Battered women care more about face and reputation, which to some extent prevents them from seeking help.

g. Battered women appeal to institutions out of two reasons: First, to stop violence (such as “I can not stand the violence,” and “the partner becomes more and more violent”) while the second is to seek help (such as “I have heard that you can help me.” or “the partner becomes more and more violent”).

1.2 On victims’ demands and services

a. The specific services that are most wanted by female victims are “stopping violence, but not going to divorce,” “correcting the wrongdoings of perpetrators,” “emotional support” and “divorce.” After comparing the specific services the victims want and the help they have actually received from institutions, we have not noted any significant difference. However, some victims still have not had their needs met, including “divorce,” “economic compensation,” “housing,” “assistance in stopping continuous violence after a marriage,” “getting child custody and allowance,” “job hunting,” “stopping violence, but not going to divorce,” and so on.

b. The reasons for unmet needs lies in the unsound system and loopholes in institutional services.

Firstly, rules and regulations are not sound enough, and sanctions against perpetrators and third parties are not strict enough. Practical measures and implementation efforts to protect women’s rights are lacking.

Secondly, some institutions do not pay due attention to the needs of female victims as well as neglect or dodge their appeals in an incorrect attitude. Some institutions do not believe that battered women are victims, as demonstrated in the following five aspects: first, the village committees are biased towards the perpetrators and do not provide support of covering medical expenses for victims. Second, the leaders in the perpetrator’s workplace are not willing to get involved in domestic affairs, and they only conduct verbal education, which has little effect in helping victims.

Thirdly, it’s difficult for courts to collect evidence and ascertain the truth, thus preventing their handling of domestic violence cases. Economic compensation have not been allocated to victims; courts and lawyers pass and buck with each other.

Fourthly, the Women’s Federation has no enforcement power. Their mediation force is not strong, and they leave victims to 110.

Fifthly, punishment force is not intense enough. The police think that wife beating is a private family matter and only conduct education to perpetrators or just record the case instead of intervening. Police stations deal with cases perfunctorily, refuse to take the case because injuries are very slight, ask victims to appeal to Women’s federation, or to go to court on their own.

c. Different institutional (or regional) surveys on female victims of domestic violence come to various conclusions as to what is the most needed help for victims after violence. This does not only reflect the various degrees of effectiveness different areas have achieved and the distinguishing features in different local areas but also reflects the different needs of female victims in different areas.

d. The three most frequently visited institutions from which victims seek help and receive services after violence are the Women’s Federation, local police station/110 and neighborhood committee or town government.

They shelter the greatest number and comparatively largest share

of victim visitors. Therefore, they can be regarded as the traditional leading institutions (the institutions which already existed before reform and opening up) where victims of domestic violence have their needs met and their appeals and requests realized.

Victims seek less help from some traditional institutions such as “courts of law,” “the partner’s work unit” and “labor unions”. Meanwhile, some new types of institutions (institutions that appeared after reform and opening up), including “legal aid center for female victims of violence,” “psychological counseling agency,” “community-based violence complaint center,” “Shelter / relief station,” “hotline,” “Injury assessment center” also have comparatively low visiting rate, which indicates that these institutions only play a supporting role.

Victims are more inclined to appeal to the traditional institutions, and less so to new types of institutions. Therefore, they receive more services from traditional institutions (especially the three leading ones) and comparatively fewer from the new ones.

e. When comparing the help victims seek and that they actually receive, we find little difference in general. However, some institutions, namely, “neighborhood committee,” “Women’s Federation,” “community-based violence complaint center,” “Hotline”, “partner’s work unit”, and “shelter / relief station,” actually provide more services than victims would expect. On the other hand, institutions like “community-based violence complaint center,” “court of law,” “psychological counseling agency,” “labor union,” and “local police station / 110” provide fewer services than expected by victims.

f. Most victims have received services from institutions, but still nearly twenty percent of requests are unresolved. In addition, different institutional (or regional) surveys on victims come to various conclusions on help victims have actually received after violence, which indicates that services are still not offered/or satisfied in different places to various extents.

g. Different institutions have different primary services provided: recording for “Women’s Federation”, case registration for “local police station / 110”, comforting for “neighborhood committee, town government,” “hotline,” “psychological counseling agency,” and “the partner’s work unit,” instruction of prosecuting for “court of law,” temporary shelter for “shelter/relief station” and “legal aid

center for female victims of violence.” The leading services in different institutions overlap and other services are relatively weak.

h. Most institutions are kind and helpful when providing services, but unpleasant situations still exist. Nevertheless, good attitude does not equal to good service quality, and the improvement of service quality is an important aspect on which institutions need to focus.

i. Media broadcasting, victims’ own experience, and notice from others are the main ways through which victims become aware of the services. On the other hand, channels like leaflets, brochures, referral agencies, community activities have yet to be effective enough to acquaint the victims with the services provided. There are also other means, such as trainings, online searches, and relief stations.

j. Fifty percent of violent acts stop or decrease after victims appeal to institutions, indicating that the intervention is effective. However, thirty percent of violent acts are not stopped or reduced, and instead escalate, showing that the intervention needs to be further enhanced.

K. Perpetrators in their thirties and forties are the majority, making up over 70% of the total samples. High-educated perpetrators (junior college degree holders or above) also make up certain proportions. Ways in which victims expect to deal with perpetrators, listed in descending order by percentage, include: “persuasion and education,” “psychological counseling,” “divorce”, “warning,” “compulsory treatment,” “detention,” “law and order punishment,” “prison sentence,” “community service,” “levying fines,” “media exposure,” and “administrative punishment.”

1.3 Summary of Needs and Services:

a. The situations of and reasons for unmet needs

- Some demands such as “divorce,” “economic compensation,” “housing,” “assistance in stopping continuous violence after divorce,” “getting child custody and allowance,” “job hunting / stable income,”

and “assistance in stopping violence and also saving the marriage” have not been fulfilled.

- The reasons for needs being unmet include: system (such as the legal system) being unsound and a lack of protection of women’s rights. Also, institutional services in three layers are underdeveloped, namely in concept, attitude and behavior. Conceptually, some don’t think that victims are weak, and believe that wife beating is a private family affair. Attitudinally, some do not pay attention to victims, either neglecting or dodging them. As for behavior manner, some do not dare to interfere with the violence and only implement superficially or shuttle the responsibility to others.

b. Gaps among institutional services

- Some institutions have failed to provide services to female victims due to their immature institutional structures.

- The three leading institutions are the “Women’s Federation,” “local police station” and “neighborhood committee or town government.” Some other traditional institutions such as “courts of law,” “the partner’s working unit” and “labor union” provide relatively less help for victims. “Legal aid centers for female victims of violence,” “psychological counseling agency,” “community-based violence complaint center,” “shelter / relief station,” “hotline,” “Injury assessment center” and other new type institutions do not provide enough services to victims. This reflects the fact that help is mostly provided by traditional institutions, and the role of new institutions has not been fully realized.

- Some institutions, such as a “legal aid center for female victims of violence,” “court of law,” “psychological counseling agency,” “labor union,” “local police station / 110” provide fewer substantive services than what victims expect. This indicates that services provided by these institutions cannot meet the needs of female victims. For instance, although “local police station / 110” is the main source of services, it still has much to do when it comes to actually meeting the needs of female victims of domestic violence.

- There is an obvious leading service in each institution, and other services are relatively weak.

- Some institutions do not serve victims well, doing such things as dodging or leaving victims alone.

- The channels of institutional interventions are too narrow to let the important means of publicizing, namely, promotional flyers, brochures, referral agencies and community activities to be fully utilized.

- The effectiveness of intervention is not satisfactory; nearly thirty percent of the violence is not stopped or reduced.

- Reasons for the service gaps:

Institutions do not understand the needs of the victims as their needs are often complicated due to individual differences (Victims’ actual needs are more than those that are mentioned in the questionnaire). If the institutions lack such full understanding, they would certainly be unable to provide quality services. The institutions tend to believe that domestic violence is in a private domain and public power should not necessarily interfere with it. They also fail to recognize the risks associated with non-intervention with domestic violence, namely, the possibility of leading to serious criminal cases. Although intervention in domestic violence is increasingly emphasized as a social responsibility, there still lacks an appropriate accountability system to ensure the realization of this social responsibility.

2. Countermeasures

The establishment of a domestic violence intervention mechanism with Chinese characteristics is urgently needed. The intervention mechanism should include the construction of an emergency violence response mechanism, long-term governance mechanism and research mechanism.

2.1 Construction of an emergency violence response and long-term governance mechanisms.

a. Emergency violence response mechanism

The survey finds that when domestic violence occurs, victims need timely and effective services, but the various institutions as part of the formal social supporting network do not provide the needed services. Therefore, we see the necessity in establishing an emergency violence response mechanism.

An emergency violence response mechanism is a set of urgent treatment procedures and measures when domestic violence occurs. The institutions involved include 110 or local police station, medical institution, injury assessment center, psychological consultation institution, Women's Federation, and other social organizations. When victims appeal to 110 or local police station, it should promptly notify the local police and have the case solved. Meanwhile, it should also notify the local Women's Federation and the Federation should coordinate with medical institutions, injury assessment centers and psychological counseling agencies to provide timely and effective services.

One of the most critical parts in an emergency violence response mechanism is to contrive an "emergency workbook" that includes a case registration form, on-site service staff attitude instruction, language-use instruction, work procedures, and applicable laws and regulations, etc.

Institutions should continually summarize the experience of victims and develop long-term strategies to counter violence. They should also collect relevant data and gather information through case interviews, focus groups, oral recording, and team work, etc, into brochures or pictorials, and introduce these positive experience and strategies to rural and older victims. Organizations and community co-operatives can also be set up to allow the victims to exchange experiences, support each other and regain their confidence in life through the process of self-help, which would better provoke the dynamic role of victims.

b. Long-term governance mechanism

Long-term governance mechanism refers to long-term and effective services provided to female victims after the occurrence of domestic violence.

- Local governments and non-governmental organizations should collaborate to establish an emergency violence response mechanism

as a component of a long-term governance mechanism.

- Establishing a database for female victims

The survey finds that when receiving female victims, different institutions fill in their own records with dispersed information. Every time victims come to an institution, they will repeat their experiences, which may cause further harm to them. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a database for female victims that includes their living and working conditions, help-seeking experience, their specific needs, services provided to them and even service evaluations from victims and follow-up investigations. This database should be shared by local anti-domestic violence institutions.

- Establishing a victim protection mechanism

First, establishing a medical insurance mechanism

Although the rate of victims seeking medical service occupies a very low share (2.1%), the survey finds that domestic violence exerts a huge influence on victims' physical and psychological health. The victims have been beaten, mostly to the degree of micro trauma and slight injury, with a small portion to serious injury and grievous bodily harm. (For example, a respondent suffered severe trauma and was handicapped.) This fact indicates that medical services are still in need. However, nowadays medical insurance and psychological treatment mechanisms are still lacking, and it should be improved in an urgent manner.

One of the medical insurance mechanisms that needs to be established is the designated hospital for victims. There is no policy in regard to the establishment of designated hospitals for female victims of domestic violence. Although victims could receive certain medical care in conventional medical institutions, there is no institutionalized policy available for them to refer to. Only when institutionalized medical care is provided can we avoid blind payment of victims' medical expenses and random rescue. We suggest that one or two pilot provinces should be selected where designated hospitals for victims are established. In the meantime, we suggest that designated hospitals at the provincial level be set up, so that lower levels of hospitals could report cases in a timely manner to provincial hospitals when they receive victims. After careful reviews, the provincially established designated hospitals would allocate special funds to lower level hospitals for them to take care of the victims and monitor the

use of the funds. Injury assessment centers as well as injury treatment center, psychotherapy center and medical social work departments to provide a full range of medical services for victims can be established at designated hospitals .,

The second medical care mechanism in need is the founding of a special fund for female victims' medical care in an effort to achieve quick relief purpose. The government can allocate funds and make use of charity donations to establish the victims' medical care special fund for injuries and psychological treatment services and so on, which means that the government pays for services afforded to victims. The victims' fund can also be operated by designated hospitals at the provincial level but with an appropriate monitoring mechanism.

Secondly, establishing a psychological treatment mechanism for victims

It is necessary to establish a long-term psychological counseling and treatment system for female victims, to focus on victims' psychological problems and the mental and sexual violence they have suffered, to strengthen the research of psychological violence and sexual violence, to raise awareness from institutions and the whole society, and to implement effective intervention measures.

Thirdly, establishing a living support mechanism. Female victims and their families may be trapped in poverty due to injury and disability. To establish a special fund for victims' lives can help them survive poverty.

The establishment of any mechanisms for female victims can be an action from both the government and non-governmental organizations. All the institutions should make an active effort in promoting this.

- Establishing an education and training system.

First, nurturing victims' abilities

We can set up training sessions to cultivate female victims' proactive response capabilities in domestic violence, help them learn to ask for help and choose appropriate strategies, particularly from official social networks. We can also lead them to fully understand the means of services, guide them to read media reports, leaflets and brochures and actively participate in community activities, and teach them how to correctly analyze the reasons for violence.

Secondly, providing education and psychological treatment to perpetrators

We should carry out sex education and violence prevention education to youngsters, such as incorporating sex education and violence prevention education into secondary school and university education, and launching "16 Days Action" in secondary schools and universities. Service institutions and personnel should understand the basic background of perpetrators and conduct psychological and social intervention in perpetrators' behaviors, such as organizing perpetrator group workshops.

Thirdly, providing training for service institutions

As to the fact that institutions and their staff lack gender sensitivity, regarding domestic violence as a private family matter, rationalize the violent behavior of perpetrators, and hold an irresponsible and dodging attitude when victims ask for help, we should conduct gender awareness training, training to help institution staff form a correct notion of domestic violence, (namely, domestic violence is a social problem in need of public intervention,) and work attitude training.

When institutions and their staff receive victims, they should be proactive in conducting suicide intervention and have an understanding of "victim syndrome." They should be sensitive to victims' thinking, noticing whether the latter have the idea of committing suicide or killing their partners. They should also conduct early intervention, to prevent female victims from committing suicide and countering violence with violence, for it will be too late and have a baneful influence in society when victims conduct criminal offence. If any victim who has appealed to institutions conducts suicide or murders her husband, it is institutions and their personnel that should take the responsibility. As a result, we believe it necessary to carry out systematic training on suicide intervention awareness and techniques of suicide intervention, and "victim syndrome" training, in order to restudy and adjust cognition and avoid harming the victims for another time.

- Establishing an accountability system

As there are quality gaps among the services provided to victims, it is of great significance in establishing an institutional accountability system. An institutional accountability system is effective in emphasizing the institutions' responsibilities of countering domestic violence, which include promoting special laws against domestic violence, improving services for female victims,

signing commitment letters on anti-domestic violence, formulating scientific evaluating index systems in services, enhancing intervention effectiveness and so on. Accountability can be either from the outside or within the institutions. External accountability includes government accountability (such as the Women and Children Working Committee accountability), the accountability of NGOs (some NGOs specializing in anti-domestic violence, such as the accountability of the Anti-domestic Violence Network), and accountability of specialized evaluation authorities. Internal accountability is to establish relevant departments and mechanisms within institutions and discipline themselves through self-assessment. In order to realize accountability, we need to include violence intervention into performance evaluations, reward effective intervention, and punish inaction and negligence accordingly.

- Establishing an institutional service system

It is the government's responsibility to develop formal social networks to serve victims of domestic violence, such as establishing professional service institutions for victims. But at present, professional service institutions are so underdeveloped that the endeavor to enhance the existing service standard is urgently needed.

We should respond to victims' help seeking from service institutions, and continuously bring the three leading traditional institutions, namely, "Women's Federation," "local police station/110" and "neighborhood committee" to the role of rescuing the victims. Although these three institutions are rather traditional, their structures and functions have experienced great changes along with the social transition. Particularly with the service function being valued and reinforced, it's possible and feasible to give full play to their role as the rescuer. For instance, with the reform of society, the "small government, big society" pattern has been gradually formed, with people returning to the community and becoming a part of the whole community. In the meantime, as the base of the urban and new rural construction movement, the community becomes more and more important, where institutions such as the "Women's Federation," "local police station / 110" and "neighborhood committee," along with some new institutions, come together and use the community as the starting point of intervention in domestic violence. Currently, many community workers are receiving professional training on social work (to participate in social work qualification test). We can take it

as an opportunity to intervene effectively in domestic violence at the community level.

At the same time, we should reinforce the effectiveness of the new institutions in rescuing victims, such as "legal aid center for female victims of violence," "psychological counseling agency," "community-based violence complaint center," "shelter / relief station," "hotline," and "injury assessment center," and make full use of these institutions.

2.2 The combination of quantitative and qualitative studies and action studies

a. On the study method

This survey uses questionnaires for the quantitative analysis of the data. Yet, interpretation of the data still needs support from qualitative analysis. In order for further study, it is necessary to conduct in-depth individual and focus group interviews with female victims and perpetrators and combine the quantitative and qualitative studies together.

b. On action research

For further studies, we can also conduct an action research, which is a research method having a great influence on social sciences. According to Eliot's definition, action research is to study the social situation from the angle of improving the action quality in specific scenarios.⁹ Action research enables researchers, staff in institutions, and female victims to jointly explore methods against domestic violence in practice and strengthen the ability of service institutions and the victims. In action research, victims are no longer the object or objects, but the subjects and the participants in the anti-domestic violence study. Through the interaction of "research" and "action," the subjectivity of female victims is awakened, and their ability is strengthened. During this process, victims are made to feel more powerful with a deeper understanding of domestic violence.

9. Quoted from Ruan Zeng Yuanqi, Song Chen Baolian, Study development and practice theory from actions: Reflection and revelation from the project "Women in Beijing and family and community supporting networks" The 2nd Seminar on Hong Kong Chinese society-the social crowding and marginalizing issue: the afterthought and creation of citizen identity, 2003.

They put forward their own suggestions, get involved in studies on the specific contents and procedures of a emergency response mechanism and long-term governance mechanism, and work with researchers and institutional workers to further the progress of establishing a professional service system (that incorporates judicial, police, medical and social service group, etc.).