Violence in Interpersonal Relationships

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Violence in Interpersonal Relationships
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Abstract

Objective: This study was conducted to examine the relationships among acceptance of couple violence, attraction to abuse, and beliefs about relationship red flags among college students.

Methods: We conducted an online survey of 159 students at Chapman University to investigate the relationship among attraction to abuse, acceptance of couple violence, and perceived relationship.

Results: The results indicated that there is a positive correlation between students feeling attracted to abuse and acceptance of couple violence in their relationship. However, there was not a clear correlation between the acceptance of violence and the ability to perceive relationship red flags, but we did find that students who feel that jealousy is okay in a relationship are also more accepting of violence in their relationship.

Literature Review

Current state
- There are characteristics that women are drawn to in men, like dominance and jealousy that are also seen as predictors of abuse.
- If there are red flags early on in a relationship, young women think that they will go away or she can change him in time.

Flaws in existing literature
- Only a few social and demographic characteristics define risk groups for intimate partner violence which makes it more difficult to pinpoint who could potentially be an abuser.
- An area for future study
- The role of emotional abuse in relationships and its effect on women and studying if emotional abuse leads to physical abuse
- Further surveying individuals who continue abusive relationships to find where the attraction is rooted

Methods

- Sample: 157 Chapman students from the ages of 18 to 22
- 84.07% were female, and 15.29% were male

- Measures:
  - Participants were asked questions on several topics on a 7 point scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree
  - Acceptance of couple violence (5 questions)
  - Acceptance towards abuse (8 questions)
  - Identifying red flags in an interpersonal relationship - there were 3 separate questions:
    1. Q26: Acting jealous is normal in a romantic relationship.
    2. Q27: If someone I am just beginning to date quickly loses his or her temper, this may be a red flag warning me not to continue dating this person.
    3. Q28: If someone I am just beginning to date treats service personnel (such as waiters) rudely, this may be a red flag.

Analysis
- We correlated the relationship between attraction to abuse and acceptance of couple violence as well as the relationship between attraction to abuse and the three questions related to red flags in interpersonal relationships.

Research Questions and Hypothesis

Research Questions:
RQ 1: What is the association between students who are attracted to abuse in interpersonal relationships and acceptance of couple violence?

RQ 2: What is the association between students who can identify red flags of abuse in a relationship and those who are more attracted to abusive traits?

Results

Acceptance of Couple Violence
- A significant positive correlation (.246) was found between attraction to abuse and acceptance of couple violence.

Correlations

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Red Flags
- A significant positive correlation (.268) was found between acting jealous in a relationship is normal so if one is attracted to abuse they don’t see jealousy as a red flag.

Conclusion

- RQ 1: There is a positive correlation between acceptance of couple violence and attraction to violence.
- Our findings show that students who are initially attracted to traits that are often correlated with abuse will be more accepting towards abuse in interpersonal relationships.
- RQ 2: There is not a conclusive association between attraction to abuse and the ability to identify red flags in a relationship.
- For both of our findings the results were statistically significant in a positive way but the correlation was still weak.
- Additional research is needed to identify what traits can be identified as red flags of abuse in a relationship and how they can be used to help potential victims identify them.
- We found it interesting that the participants did not identify losing temper easily as a red flag. This could be a future direction for another study to help identify why this is not a red flag.

Acknowledgements
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