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## Study of International Students' Definitions of, and Perceptions About, Domestic Violence Against Women

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*Minnesota State University, Mankato*

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Study of International Students' Definitions of, and Perceptions About, Domestic  
Violence Against Women

By

Sarbinaz Bekmuratova

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

Master of Science

In

Health Science

Community Health Education

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato, Minnesota

August 2012

Study of International Students' Definitions of, and Perceptions About, Domestic  
Violence Against Women

Sarbinaz Bekmuratova

This thesis has been examined and approved by the following members of the thesis  
committee.

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Dr. Marlene Tappe, Advisor

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Dr. Dawn Larsen

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Dr. Helen Crump

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## **Abstract**

Study of International Students Definitions of, and Perceptions About, Domestic Violence

Sarbinaz Bekmuratova, M.S., Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2012

The purpose of this study was to identify and compare definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence of international students enrolled in spring semester, 2012 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. These definitions and perceptions were compared according to the presence of domestic violence policies in the international students' countries of origin as well as their gender and the length of residence in the United States.

A quantitative cross-sectional online survey was conducted to collect data regarding participants' definitions of different types of domestic violence, appropriateness of hitting and yelling in the relationship, and their perceptions about domestic violence. International students from the following countries participated in this study: Nepal, Bangladesh, India, South Korea, Japan, Moldova, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. The survey included four-point Likert type (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree) items and dichotomous (yes or no) questions.

Analysis of variance was used to compare the students' definitions of, and perceptions about domestic violence according to the presence of domestic violence policies in the international students' countries of origin as well as their gender and the length of residence in the United States. Significant differences were noted between participants' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence. Significant differences were found between the participants' definitions of domestic violence according to existence of domestic violence legislation in their countries of origin. A

significant difference regarding the appropriateness of hitting in the relationship was also revealed according to the existence of domestic violence legislation in participants' countries of origin. Significant differences related to the participants' perceptions about domestic violence on four factors scales (healthy relationship, traditional male role, appropriateness of violence in relationships, and individuality in the relationship) were found according to the existence of domestic violence legislation in their countries of origin as well as their gender. Health educators are encouraged to advocate for domestic violence legislation and provide education interventions designed to prevent domestic violence,

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## **Chapter One: Introduction**

Violence by a husband or an intimate male partner is considered to be one of the most common forms of violence against women (Krug, Dahlberg, Mercy, Zwi, & Lozano, 2002). Domestic violence and abuse towards women is a worldwide recognized problem (Walker, 1979). It affects people of all ages, races, ethnicities, religions, geographical locations, and socio-economic classes, as well as sexual orientations (Lockhart & Danis, 2010). The damage of domestic violence on women's health has become a major concern of public health (World Health Organization [WHO], 2005). The purpose of this study is to assess international students' definition of, and perceptions about, domestic violence and compare these students' definitions and perceptions according to the existent domestic violence laws in the students' countries of origin, gender, marital status, and length of residence in the United States.

### **Background of the Problem**

Violence against women, particularly intimate partner violence, has long attracted the attention of women's organizations worldwide. With the efforts of women's organizations, violence against women has now become a recognized international problem. The research conducted internationally indicates that the seriousness and prevalence of the problem is greater than previously suspected (WHO, 2005).

Domestic violence is an epidemic worldwide, and researchers indicate that from one quarter to one half of all women in the world have experienced abuse by intimate partners (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2006). Initially viewed mainly as a human rights issue, it is increasingly seen as an important public health problem (Krug et al., 2002). The physical health consequences of violence against women include fractures, abdominal/thoracic injuries, chronic health conditions, chronic pain and gastrointestinal

disorders. Women subjected to domestic violence are three times more likely to have a gynecological problem than non-abused women. These problems include vaginal bleeding, vaginal infection, urinary tract infection, sexual dysfunction, painful menstruation, chronic pelvic pain, fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, painful intercourse, and infertility (McFarlane, Parker, & Soeken, 1996). Moreover, abused women are more likely than women that have not been abused to misuse drugs and alcohol, as well as to report suicide attempts, sexual dysfunction, post-traumatic stress, and problems of the central nervous system (Cohen & Maclean, 2004). Additionally, violence against women often results in death. Fatal consequences of violence against women include suicide, femicide, maternal mortality, and AIDS related death (United Nations General Assembly, 2006).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Domestic violence against women continues to be disconcertingly common and to be considered as “normal” in too many societies (WHO, 2005). Laws that prohibit specific forms of violence against women are considered a vital step in the eradication of such violence (United Nations General Assembly, 2006). There is legislation on domestic violence in 89 countries. However, gaps with respect to this legislation still remain in many countries. There are no specific legal provisions against domestic violence in 102 countries (United Nations General Assembly, 2006).

### **Purpose Statement**

The purpose of this study was to determine and compare the definitions and perceptions about domestic violence by the presence of domestic violence laws in the countries of origin of international students currently residing in the United States and

compare these definitions and perceptions about domestic violence according to the participants' gender, marital status, and length of residence in the United States.

### **Significance of the Problem**

There is a high prevalence of domestic violence globally, and there are many short and long term negative physical and mental health outcomes associated with domestic violence (Campbell, 2002; Heise, Ellsberg, & Gottemoeller, 1999). Acts of violence induce more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war combined among women ages 15 to 44 (WHO, 2005). Globally, 40 to 70 percent of all women murder victims are killed by an intimate partner (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2010).

Violence against women harms individual women, their families, communities, societies and nations. It diminishes the ability of victims to contribute productively to the family and public life. Domestic violence worsens victims', their children's and even perpetrators' overall educational skills, and potential for innovation and mobility (Council of Europe, 2006).

Countries burden huge economic costs due to the consequences of domestic violence. These costs include direct costs to health, legal, police, and other services (Garcia-Moreno & Watts, 2011). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2003), the cost of the intimate partner violence in the United States exceeds \$5.8 billion per year. The cost for direct medical and mental care services is estimated to be \$ 4.1 billion, and productivity loss due to absenteeism and homicide is estimated to be nearly \$1.8 billion (CDC, 2003).

## **Research Questions**

Three research questions were examined in this study.

**Research question one.** Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants' countries of origin and their gender?

**Research question two.** Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants' countries of origin and their marital status?

**Research question three.** Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants' countries of origin and the length of participants' residency in the United States?

## **Limitations**

The following limitations apply to this study:

1. The results of this study were limited to responses received from international students from selected countries attending Minnesota State University, Mankato.
2. The study results were limited by the responses received from international students, who are likely from higher income families due to the fact that they could afford to study in the United States. Therefore, their responses may not be representative of all people from their respective countries.
3. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the respondents may have provided what they perceive to be socially acceptable responses rather than their actual opinions about domestic violence.



4. The study was limited by the use of an online survey.

### **Delimitation**

The following delimitation applied to this study:

1. This study was limited to international students from selected countries attending Minnesota State University, Mankato, in the spring semester of 2012.

### **Assumptions**

The following assumptions were made with respect to this study:

1. The participants understood the items on the survey.
2. The participants' responses to questionnaires were honest and accurate.

### **Operational Definitions**

Five definitions apply to this study.

**Domestic violence.** Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in any relationship where one partner controls the other partner through abusive actions, such as physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological abuse, or threats of actions. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound someone (United States Department of Justice, 2011). "Domestic violence", "domestic abuse", and "intimate partner violence" are terms that are often used interchangeably (Lockhart & Danis, 2010).

**Physical violence.** Physical abuse is the pattern of behaviors where physical force is used intentionally and that potentially causes death, disability, injury or harm. It includes, but is not limited to, throwing; shoving; pushing; scratching; punching; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; burning; and using a weapon, one's body or

strength, as well as restraints, against another person (Saltzman, Fanslow, McMahon, & Shelley, 2002, p. 35).

**Sexual violence.** Sexual violence is to

1. Make a person engage in a sexual act against her or his will using physical force, whether or not the act is completed;
2. Attempt or complete a sexual act involving an individual who is not able to comprehend the nature or condition of the act, refuse participation, or express unwillingness to participate in the sexual act, e.g., due to illness, mental or physical ability, alcohol or other drug influence, or pressure and intimidation;  
or
3. Engage in/carry out abusive sexual contact (Saltzman et.al., 2002, p. 35).

**Threats of violence.** Threats of violence involves the use of words, gestures and weapons to communicate or express the intention to cause death, disability, injury, or physical harm (Saltzman et.al., 2002, p.35).

**Psychological/emotional violence.** Psychological/emotional violence traumatizes the victim through acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics. For example, it might involve humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information, isolating the victim from friends and family, and/or denying access to money or other basic resources. Mostly, emotional violence precedes acts or threats of physical or sexual violence (Saltzman et.al., 2002, p. 35).

## **Summary**

The goal of the study was to identify and compare the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence of international students enrolled in Minnesota

State University, Mankato, based on the presence of domestic violence laws in the students' countries of origin and to compare these definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the participants' gender, marital status and the length of residency in the United States. An online survey was used to identify students' definitions and perceptions about domestic violence. Chapter Two will include a review of the literature related to the study.

## **Chapter Two: Review of the Literature**

This chapter reviews the literature dealing with international domestic violence and its impact on women's health. For purposes of this investigation, the review of the literature was organized in the following way:

1. defining domestic violence against women,
2. health consequences of domestic violence, and
3. attitudes and perceptions about domestic violence against women.

### **Defining Domestic Violence Against Women**

Violence against women crosses boundaries of age, culture, race, wealth and geography, and it can incorporate physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse. Six out of every ten women worldwide undergo physical and/or sexual violence in their lives (United Nations Development Fund for Women [UNIFEM], 2011). Domestic violence has become a major concern in the public health field because of its harmful impact on women's health (WHO, 2005).

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the following definition of violence against women in 1993 (Article 1): "Violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" (United Nations General Assembly, 1993). For the purpose of this study, however, the definition provided by Saltzman and colleagues (2002) and used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Department of Justice for domestic violence against

women was used:

“Domestic violence against women is the harmful physical, sexual or psychological behavior by a current or a former partner or spouse. Domestic violence occurs on a continuum, that may range from one hit that may or may not affect the victim to severe battering” (Saltzman et al., 2002). According to Saltzman et al. (2002), there are four types of domestic violence against women: physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, and psychological/emotional violence. “Domestic violence”, “domestic abuse”, and “intimate partner violence” are the terms that are often used interchangeably. Violence against women or gender-based violence refers to the violence that girls and women experience throughout their lifetimes (Lockhart & Danis, 2010).

### **Health Consequences of Domestic Violence**

Violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon crossing borders of geography, race, age, culture and wealth (UNIFEM, 2011). WHO initiated the first global study on women’s health and domestic violence in 1997. The goal of the study was to address gaps in international research on domestic violence against women. A research team collaborated with research organizations and women’s organizations in the participating countries to implement the study. Data were collected from 24,000 women in 10 countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Japan, Brazil, Peru, Samoa, Namibia, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Participants responded to questions related to their current physical and mental health, their illnesses and reproductive health history, and their use of health services. The researchers found that the women’s health was associated with domestic violence. In all countries except three (Japan, Samoa and urban United Republic of Tanzania), poor or very poor health was

reported more often by women who had experienced physical and sexual partner violence more than women who had never reported domestic violence. In all of the participating countries, women who experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence had significantly higher levels of emotional distress than women who were not abused (UNIFEM, 2011). Women who experienced abuse by their partners were more likely to report thoughts of suicide as well as attempts of suicide than non-abused women (UNIFEM, 2011). A majority of women who reported physical violence during pregnancy also experienced physical violence before pregnancy (UNIFEM, 2011). A substantial proportion of women, however, reported first experiencing physical violence during pregnancy (13% in Ethiopia and about 50% in urban Brazil, Serbia, and Montenegro) (UNIFEM, 2011). Induced abortions as well as miscarriages were more likely to be reported among women who had experienced partner violence than those who had never been abused by their partners (UNIFEM, 2011).

**Short-term health consequences of domestic violence.** Violence increases women's risks of poor physical and reproductive health (Heise, 1994), as well as poor mental health (Laffaye, Kennedy, & Stein, 2003). According to Guth and Pachter (2000), intimate partner abuse by a current or former partner encompasses 21 percent of traumatic injuries.

Domestic violence is related to the increased use of outpatient services and emergency departments (Roberts, Lawrence, O'Toole, & Raphael, 1997). More than about 35 percent of all emergency department visits by women are due to domestic violence. Domestic violence victims also visit emergency departments with somatic

complaints, such as headache and obstetric complications, as well as mental health issues (Guth & Patcher, 2000).

**Long-term health consequences of domestic violence.** Researchers found long-term negative consequences, even after the abuse ended, for domestic violence victims (The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, 2005). Domestic violence survivors have a lower health status, a lower quality of life, and a high utilization of health services (The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, 2005). Researchers indicate the growing relationship between violence against women and HIV as well as reveal that HIV-infected women are more likely to have been subjected to violence; women, who were subjected to violence have a higher risk for getting HIV (The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, 2005). Women may be more susceptible to disease because of the stress of being in an abusive relationship (Leibschultz, 2000). According to Cohen and Maclean (2004), women who experienced violence have a higher probability to abuse alcohol and drugs as well as to report suicide attempts, post-traumatic stress, sexual dysfunction and central nervous system disorders.

**Domestic violence and mental health.** Psychological damage resulting from violence against women can be as serious as the physical damage (Campbell, 2002). One of the most common consequences of sexual and physical violence against women is depression (Campbell, 2002). Women who experienced domestic violence have a higher risk of stress and anxiety disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder (Campbell, 2002). For example, researchers in the United States found that 59 percent of women who were subjected to severe abuse during the previous year had psychological problems in comparison to 20 percent of women who were not abused (Tolman & Rosen, 2001).

**Domestic violence and homicide.** Domestic violence is a significant cause of female morbidity and mortality (Heise, 1994). Violence against women often leads to death. The fatal consequences of violence against women could be suicide, femicide, maternal mortality, and AIDS related death (United Nations General Assembly, 2006). According to Guth and Patcher (2000), between 30 and 50 percent of women killed in the United States were killed by a current or ex-partner. A few studies conducted in health facilities show a relationship between death during pregnancy and intimate partner violence (Fauveau, Keonig, Chakraborty, & Chowdhury, 1988; Ganatra Coyaji, & Rao, 1998). For example, a study conducted among 400 villages and seven hospitals in the rural western part of India revealed that 16 percent of all the deaths during pregnancy were due to partner violence (Ganatra et al., 1998). Similar data was revealed in Bangladesh (Fauveau et al., 1988).

**Domestic violence and pregnancy.** According to Taft (2001), 18.3 percent of women experienced abuse for the first time during a current or previous pregnancy. Violence that takes place before and during pregnancy leads to serious health consequences for a child as well as for the mother (Valladares, Ellsberg, Pena, Hogberg, & Persson, 2002). Serious consequences caused by violence include high-risk pregnancies and pregnancy-related problems such as miscarriage, preterm labor, fetal distress, and low-birth weight (Valladares et.al., 2002). For example, researchers who conducted a study in Nicaragua found that 16 percent of the infant population low-birth weight could be associated with partner physical abuse during pregnancy (Valladares, et al, 2002).



**Cost of domestic violence.** Domestic violence has overwhelming consequences, not only for the individual victim, but also for the wider society. For example, Walby (2004) identified the following three major types of costs for domestic violence in England:

1. services, largely funded by government, such as the criminal justice system, healthcare, social services, housing and civil legal services;
2. economic output losses; and
3. human and emotional costs.

The cost of domestic violence for the English government is around £3.1 billion and for employers around £1.3 billion. The estimated cost of the human and emotional suffering is around £17 billion. The total cost is around £23 billion (Walby, 2004).

### **Studies on Attitudes and Perceptions about Domestic Violence Against Women**

Researchers have identified risk factors for domestic violence at the individual, family, community, society, and state levels (Heise, 1998). A community attitude that endures and legitimizes male violence was identified as one of the risk factors at the community level (United Nations General Assembly, 2006). Several studies (El-Zanaty, Hussein, Shawky, Way & Kishor, 1996; Hindin, 2003; Khan & Hussain, 2008; Rao, 2003; WHO, 2005) were conducted on perceptions and attitudes of the community with regard to domestic violence against women.

The WHO (2005) examined women's attitudes towards partner violence. Those women who had experienced abuse had a higher acceptance of wife beating than those who did not experience abuse. This finding may be an indication that when women

become victims, they learn to accept violence or that women who perceive violence as “normal” will likely enter or stay in an abusive relationship (WHO, 2005).

A qualitative study on perceptions of domestic violence was conducted during 2002-03 in two areas of Karachi, Pakistan (Khan & Hussain, 2008). The data were collected from key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews among middle and lower middle class women. Most of the participants of the study experienced domestic violence or knew about it through the stories of their relatives and friends. The authors found that many of the participants accept violence as part of the social and cultural norms relating to gender relations. In addition, the women’s perceptions about domestic violence varied by age, education and sometimes by social class. For example, older participants did not consider minor incidents of physical violence, such as slapping, as domestic violence. Younger participants considered this act not only as physical violence, but also as a factor that contributes to psychological and emotional abuse (Khan & Hussain, 2008).

Hindin (2003) found that gender dynamics were related to women’s attitudes towards wife beating in Zimbabwe. Women from poor families, women of lower educational levels and women of younger ages were more likely to accept that wife beating is justifiable when the wife argues with her husband and when she burns the food than wealthy and elderly women. Women of a higher educational level were significantly less likely to consider wife beating justifiable under any circumstances than women of lower educational levels (Hindin, 2003). El-Zanaty and associates (1996) conducted a study on attitudes about wife beating in Egypt and revealed that about 86% of married women supported wife beating when a woman neglected the children, burnt food, talked

back to her husband, talked to other men, and refused to have sex with her husband. Women from rural areas compared to women from urban areas were more likely to justify wife beating under the aforementioned circumstances (El-Zanaty et al., 1996). Researchers in India (Rao, 1997) found that many people believe that wife beating is justifiable when the wife is disobedient or misbehaves. Other reasons for wife beating that were considered acceptable included mistreatment of her in-laws, not bearing a son, and not cooking food in a way liked by her husband (Rao, 1997).

### **Summary**

An essential part for an effective and coordinated response to violence against women is comprehensive legislation (United Nations General Assembly, 2006). There are no specific legal provisions against domestic violence in 102 countries (United Nations General Assembly, 2006), and it continues to be considered “normal” in many societies (WHO, 2005). An attitude of the community that endures and legitimizes male violence was identified as one of the risk factors for domestic violence against women at the community level (Heise, 1998). The last part of Chapter Two described the studies conducted on attitudes and perceptions of people from different countries with regard to domestic violence against women.

The research methods used to conduct this study are provided in Chapter Three. This includes design, protection of human participants, survey development, data collection, and data analysis.

## **Chapter Three: Research Methodology**

### **Introduction**

The methods used to compare definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence of international students at Minnesota State University, Mankato, are described in this chapter. These definitions and perceptions were compared according to the presence of domestic violence policies in the international students' countries of origin as well as their gender, marital status, and the length of residence in the United States. The policies related to domestic violence in the countries of origin of international students were not researched. The international students were divided into two groups and each student belonged to one of these groups whether there are or there are not laws on domestic violence in their home countries. The following topics are discussed in this chapter: study design, participants, survey development, data collection, and data analysis.

### **Design of Study**

The study was a quantitative cross-sectional online survey. This design was chosen due to the sensitive nature of the research topic and the limited number of international students available as potential participants. The dependent variable in this study was the students' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence against women. The independent variables were the participants' country of origin, gender, marital status, and the length of residence in the United States. This study was conducted in compliance with guidelines for the protection of human participants established by, and with approval of, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

## **Participants**

The proposed participants for this study were 361 international students from selected countries enrolled at Minnesota State University, Mankato, during the spring 2012 semester. The countries with the highest number of students at Minnesota State University, spring semester, 2012 were selected to participate in this study. The countries represented by the students included the following: Nepal, Japan, Bangladesh, South Korea, India, Saudi Arabia, Moldova and Pakistan. The total number of students from each of the countries included 31 students from Bangladesh, 28 students from India, 30 students from Japan, 115 students from Nepal, 28 students from Pakistan, 49 students from South Korea, 21 students from Moldova, and 59 students from Saudi Arabia.

## **Survey**

The 46-item survey (see Appendix A) included questions related to the participants' definition of domestic violence against women, perceptions about domestic violence, and demographic characteristics. Two sets of dichotomous (yes or no) questions were used to measure the international students' definitions of domestic violence against women. These items were based on the definition of domestic violence proposed by Saltzman and colleagues (2002) and used by the Centers for Disease Control (2002) and Prevention and the United States Department of Justice (2011). The survey also included 20 four-point Likert type (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree) items from surveys developed by Klomegah (2008) related to a husband's right to hit or verbally scold his wife under ten different circumstances (e.g., if she argues with him). The survey also included 25 four-point Lykert type (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree) items from a survey developed by McLaren (2010) related to attitudes about domestic violence (e.g., a man should never raise a hand against a woman). The survey

ended with four demographic questions related to the participants' gender, marital status, country of origin, and the length of residence in the United States.

### **Data Collection**

The presidents of Recognized Student Associations at Minnesota State University, Mankato, representing students from Nepal, Japan, Bangladesh, South Korea, India, Saudi Arabia, Moldova and Pakistan sent the e-mail messages with the link to the online survey to the students. An e-mail was sent out on April 11, 2012, inviting all students to voluntarily participate in the research by completing the questionnaire. In order to participate in the survey, participants were required to be at least 18 years old. The purpose of the study, potential risks to the participants, and the rights of the participants were stated immediately following the age requirement. The information about confidentiality of the study and the right of the participants to exit the survey at any time was provided to all participants. Following the introduction and description of the study's purpose, a URL address was provided for students to access the online survey. Instructions to access the survey for participation in the study were provided in the e-mail (see Appendix B).

The survey closed on the evening of April 18, 2012. Results obtained from the 117 completed Zoomerang questionnaires were sent to the researcher in anonymous, aggregate form to maintain confidentiality.

### **Data Analyses**

The data findings were analyzed by using descriptive statistics, Principal Axis Factor (PAF) factor analysis with varimax rotation, Cronbach's alpha reliability analysis and 2 x 2 Analysis of Variance. Descriptive statistics were used to compute frequency

counts (n) and percentages of the students' definitions of the types of domestic violence against women. Descriptive statistics were used to compute frequency counts (n), percentages and means as appropriate to describe the participants' gender, marital status, country of origin, and the length of residency in the United States. Descriptive statistics were also used to compute mean scores and percentages related to the students' perceptions about domestic violence against women. A 2x2 Analysis of Variance was used to compare the students' perceptions about domestic violence against women according to country of origin and gender.

### **Summary**

Chapter Three described the research methods used to conduct the study. The results of this study are presented in Chapter Four. The conclusions and recommendations related to the study are provided in Chapter Five.

## **Chapter Four: Results and Discussion**

This study was undertaken to determine and compare international students' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence against women. Their demographic characteristics of the participants and the results related to research questions are described in this chapter.

### **Participants**

A total of 361 international students from Nepal, Japan, Bangladesh, South Korea, India, Moldova, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were enrolled in the spring semester 2012 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. These students were invited electronically to participate in this study. International students from aforementioned countries received electronic surveys as well as links to the survey on the respective Facebook page of their country of origin-based student association. The presidents of each of their student associations posted the information to the relevant Facebook page. Members of the specific student associations were sent two reminders to participate in the survey. A total of 117 students participated in this study. Therefore, the response rate for this study was 32.5%. Seventeen electronic responses were eliminated because the participants only confirmed that they were 18 or older but did not complete the rest of the survey. Therefore, a total of 100 international students participated in this study, and the adjusted response rate was 27.8%. This response rate is not sufficient to meet the minimum number of respondents ( $n = 186$ ) needed from the population of 360 students for the sample to be representative of international students from Nepal, Japan, Bangladesh, South Korea, India, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan at Minnesota State University, Mankato (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). The following number of students from each country took



part in this survey: 17 students from Nepal, 11 students from Japan, eight students from Bangladesh, 14 students from South Korea, nine students from India, seven students from Moldova, nine students from Saudi Arabia, and 10 students from Pakistan (see Table 1). The participants included 34 females and 50 males. The students' residency in the United States included 31 students with the residency of three months to 24 months, 22 students with the residency of 24 to 48 months, and 29 students with the residency of 48 to 276 months.

### **Preliminary Analyses to Create Variables for Conducting Analyses to Answer the Research Questions**

Four scales related to the participants' definitions of domestic violence were created to reflect the four types of domestic violence. The variable Physical reflected physical violence and is arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to seven items related to physical violence (e.g., punching her). The variable Emotional reflected emotional violence and is arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to eleven items related to emotional violence (e.g., isolating her from her family and friends). The variable Sexual reflected sexual violence and is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to five items related to sexual violence (e.g. marital rape). The variable Threat reflected threat of physical violence and is arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to three items related to threats of physical violence (e.g., using words to communicate the intent to cause death, disability, injury or physical harm) (see Table 2).

Table 1

*Frequency Counts (n), Percentages (%), Means (M), and Standard Deviations (SD) for Demographic Characteristics of the International Students*

Characteristic	n	%	M(SD)
Gender			
Female	34	40.5	
Male	50	59.5	
Age	76		23.99(4.10)
Countries	8		
Nepal*	17	20.0	
Japan*	11	12.9	
Bangladesh	8	9.4	
South Korea*	14	16.5	
India*	9	69.5	
Moldova*	7	8.2	
Saudi Arabia	9	10.6	
Pakistan	10	11.8	
Months of Residency in the US	81		44.38(46.6)

*Note.* \*Countries with laws related to domestic violence.

Principle Axis Factor (PAF) factor analyses with varimax rotation were used to construct scales related to the participants' perceptions related to the appropriateness of hitting and yelling with respect to ten different situations. These procedures were also

used to construct scales to the participants' perceptions regarding domestic violence in general.

The factor analyses related to the appropriateness of hitting in ten different situations revealed one significant factor with an Eigenvalue greater than 1.0. This factor accounted for 70.55% of the variance. The variable Hit is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to 10 items related to the appropriateness of hitting (e.g., if she disobeys him) (see Table 2).

Table 2

*Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient (as Appropriate) for the Scales Related to Domestic Violence*

Scale	n of Items	M(SD)	$\alpha$
Physical violence	7	1.11(.20)	
Emotional violence	11	1.19(.24)	
Sexual violence	5	1.05(.18)	
Threat of physical or sexual violence	3	1.06(.21)	
Hit	10	1.46(.60)	.95
Yell One	8	1.64(.66)	.93
Yell Two	2	2.46(1.01)	.77
Healthy Relationship	9	3.52(.55)	.90
Traditional Male Role	9	3.04(.60)	.87
Violence, Not Acceptable	2	3.01(.85)	.77
Approval of Individuality	2	3.02(.70)	.70

The factor analyses related to the appropriateness of yelling in ten different situations revealed two significant factors with an Eigenvalue greater than 1.0. These factors accounted for 72.49% of the variance. The variable Yell One is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to eight items related to the appropriateness of yelling in eight specific situations. These eight circumstances included the following: she does not complete family work to his satisfaction, she disobeys him, she refuses to have sex with him, she asks him if he has other girlfriends, he suspects that she is unfaithful, she argues with him, she goes out without telling him, she burns the food. The variable Yell Two is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to two items related to the appropriateness of yelling in the following two situations: he finds out that she has been unfaithful and if she neglects the children (see Table 2).

The factor analyses related to the participants' perceptions regarding domestic violence in general revealed four significant factors with an Eigenvalue greater than 1.0. These factors accounted for 63.17% of the variance. The variable Healthy relationship is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses related to the following nine items: the mother and the father should share the responsibility for raising their children, partners in a relationship should treat each other with respect, the man and woman should have equal say in a close relationship, a man should never raise a hand against a woman, adults should control their tempers in a heated argument, everyone should try to help female victims of violence, either partner has the right to say no to sex, everyone should encourage a man who is violent to his partner to change his behavior, the man and woman should share the responsibility for running the household.

The variable traditional Male Role is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to the following nine items: the tradition of the man as a leader in the family should be honored; the man should make the decisions about any money that comes into the household; in an intimate relationship it's OK to hit if you've been hit first; when a man and a woman become a couple, the woman becomes the man's property; it's the woman's duty to meet her man's sexual needs; sometimes hitting is the only way to express your feelings; it's a woman's duty to stay in a relationship to keep the family together, even if it's violent; it is natural for a male to act aggressively, especially if another male might take his woman.

The variable Violent relationship is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to the following two items: everyone should try to do something if they know intimate partners are being violent to each other; a relationship can be called violent even when there is no physical injury (see Table 2).

The variable Individuality is the arithmetic mean of the participants' summed responses to the following two items: each partner should be able to go out separately with her/his own friends; each partner in a relationship should be able to wear what she/he likes (see Table 2).

Cronbach's alpha reliability analyses were conducted to determine the internal consistency of the scales related to the participants' perceptions in regards to the appropriateness of hitting and yelling and their perceptions of domestic violence in general (see Table 2). Two new variables were created to classify the participants according to the existence of legislation related to domestic violence in their countries of origin (laws) and to the length of time they have resided in the United States (length).

Students from the countries of Nepal, India, Japan, South Korea and Moldova were categorized as the participants from countries with laws related to domestic violence whereas students from the countries of Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were categorized as the participants from countries without laws related to domestic violence. Three categories were identified to describe the length of residency of the participants in the United States. These categories include the length of residency from three to 24 months, 27 months to 46 months, and 48 months to 276 months.

### **Descriptive Results Related to the Participants' Definitions of Domestic Violence, the Appropriateness of Hitting and Yelling, and Perceptions of Domestic Violence**

The participants' definitions and perceptions were based on their answers to two dichotomous and four-point Likert type scale questions (see Table 2). The mean of participants' responses with respect to physical violence was 1.11 ( $SD = .20$ ). Therefore, the participant tended to identify acts of physical violence as domestic violence (see Table 2). The mean score of the participants' identification of acts emotional violence was 1.19 ( $SD = .24$ ). Therefore, the participants tended to identify acts of emotional violence as domestic violence. The mean score of the participants' identification of acts of sexual violence was 1.05 ( $SD = .18$ ). The participants tended to identify sexual violence as domestic violence. The mean score of participants' responses with respect to identification of acts of threat of physical violence was 1.06 ( $SD = .21$ ) (see Table 2). The participants tended to identify acts of threat of physical violence as domestic violence.

Mean scores were also calculated for the participants' responses regarding the appropriateness of hitting and yelling in the relationship (see Table 2). The mean score of participants' responses regarding appropriateness of hitting in the relationship was 1.46

(SD = .60). Therefore, the participants tended to disagree that hitting is appropriate in the relationship. The mean score of participants' responses regarding appropriateness of yelling one was 1.64 (SD = .66). Therefore, the participants tended to disagree that yelling is appropriate in the relationship. The mean score of participants' responses regarding appropriateness of yelling two was 2.46 (SD = 1.01). Therefore, the participants tended to agree that yelling under two circumstances was appropriate in the relationship. These circumstances were: if she neglects the children and if he finds out that she has been unfaithful (see Table 2).

Mean scores of the participants' responses on four factors regarding their perceptions about domestic violence are presented in Table 2: The mean score of the participants' perceptions about a healthy couple relationship was 3.52 (SD = .55). Therefore, the participants tended to agree with a healthy relationship. The mean score of the participants' perceptions about the traditional male role was 3.04 (SD = .60). Therefore, the participants tended to disagree with traditional male role. The mean score of the participants' perceptions about violent not acceptable relationship was 3.01 (SD = .85). Therefore, the participants tended to agree that violence is not acceptable in the relationship. The mean score of the participants' perceptions about individuality in the relationship was 3.02 (SD = .70). Therefore, the participants tended to agree with individuality in the relationship.

### **Results Related to Research Question One**

The first research question was, "Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants' countries of origin and their gender?" A two-by-two ANOVA

was used to compare the participants' definitions of physical violence as a form of domestic violence according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 3). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants' definitions of physical violence as a form of domestic violence were not different according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 3

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Physical Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Definition of Physical Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	1.06(.09)	1.06(.08)	1.06(.09)
Male	1.08(.19)	1.20(.24)	1.14(.22)
Total	1.07(.15)	1.18(.22)	1.11(.19)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 2.88$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 1.45$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.39$ ,  $p > .05$ .

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' definitions of emotional violence as a form of domestic violence according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 4). A significant main effect ( $F = 4.53$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence



laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to gender and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to identify acts of emotional violence as domestic violence than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 4

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Emotional Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Definition of Emotional Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	1.16(.20)	1.35(.40)	1.19(.25)
Male	1.17(.18)	1.26(.25)	1.21(.22)
Total	1.17(.19)	1.28(.28)	1.20(.23)

*Note.* Gender  $F = .34$ ,  $p < .05$ ; Law  $F = 4.52$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .546$ ,  $p > .05$ .

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' definitions of sexual violence as a form of domestic violence according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 5). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants' definitions of sexual violence as a form of domestic violence were not

different according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 5

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Sexual Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Definition of Sexual Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	1.01(.04)	1.04(.09)	1.01(.05)
Male	1.02(.06)	1.15(.28)	1.08(.20)
Total	1.01(.05)	1.13(.26)	1.05(.16)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 1.72$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 3.47$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.241$ ,  $p > .05$ .

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' definitions of threats of physical violence as a form of domestic violence according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 6). A significant main effect ( $F = 8.84$ ,  $p < .01$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to gender and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to identify threats of physical violence as domestic violence than

participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 6

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Threat of Physical Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Definition of Threat of Physical Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	1.02(.13)	1.20(.30)	1.05(.17)
Male	1.00(00)	1.14(.30)	1.06(.21)
Total	1.01(.09)	1.15(.30)	1.06(.19)

*Note.* Gender  $F = .692$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 8.84$ ,  $p < .01$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.44$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of hitting according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 7). A significant main effect ( $F = 7.51$ ,  $p < .01$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to gender and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were less likely to approve of hitting in relationships than participants from countries that did not have

domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 7

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Appropriateness of Hitting According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Appropriateness Of Hitting	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	1.18(.30)	1.62(.62)	1.24(.38)
Male	1.41(.53)	1.82(.78)	1.59(.67)
Total	1.29(.44)	1.78(.74)	1.45(.59)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 2.00$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 7.51$ ,  $p < .01$ , Interaction,  $F = .898$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling under eight circumstances according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 8). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling under eight circumstances were not different according to their gender and existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 8

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Appropriateness of Yelling One According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Appropriateness Of Yelling One	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	1.33(.40)	1.73(.56)	1.40(.44)
Male	1.68(.70)	1.99 (.79)	1.82(.75)
Total	1.50(.58)	1.94(.75)	1.65(.67)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 2.87$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 3.84$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .051$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling under two circumstances according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 9). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling were not different according to their gender and existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin.

Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 9

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Appropriateness of Yelling Two According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Appropriateness Of Yelling Two	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	2.17(.87)	3.00(1.27)	2.29(.96)
Male	2.48(1.07)	2.64(1.07)	2.55(1.06)
Total	2.32(.98)	2.71(1.10)	2.45(1.02)

*Note.* Gender  $F = .007$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 2.98$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.36$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of healthy couple relationships according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 10). A significant main effect ( $F = 4.97$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to gender and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to support statements related to healthy couple relationships than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 10

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Healthy Couple Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Healthy Couple Relationship	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	3.72(.25)	3.24(.91)	3.65(.43)
Male	3.53(.61)	3.33(.61)	3.43(.61)
Total	3.63(.46)	3.31(.65)	3.53(.55)

*Note.* Gender  $F = .115$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 4.97$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .792$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the traditional male role according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 11). A significant main effect ( $F = 6.84$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. Additionally, a significant main effect ( $F = 4.76$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to gender was found as a result of this analysis. The interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws was not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to disapprove of statements related to traditional male roles in relationships than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Additionally, females were more likely to disapprove of

statements related to traditional male roles in relationships than males. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 11

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Traditional Male Role According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Unacceptability of the Male Role	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	3.32(.46)	3.09(.74)	3.28(.51)
Male	3.15(.48)	2.59(.60)	2.88(.61)
Total	3.24(.47)	2.68(.65)	3.05(.60)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 4.76$ ,  $p < .05$ ; Law  $F = 6.84$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.25$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the unacceptability of violence in relationships according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 12). A significant main effect ( $F = 4.10$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to gender was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Females were more likely to disapprove of violence in relationships than males. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.



Table 12

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Unacceptability of Violence in Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Unacceptability of Violence in Relationship	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	3.32(.66)	3.20(.76)	3.30(.66)
Male	3.02(.97)	2.57(.81)	2.81(.92)
Total	3.17(.83)	2.69(.82)	3.01(.85)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 4.10$ ,  $p < .05$ ; Law  $F = 1.55$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .514$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of individuality in relationships according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 13). Although a significant main effect ( $F = 6.26$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence in the participants' countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis, a significant interaction effect ( $F = 5.10$ ,  $p < .05$ ) was also found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, the main effect according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin will not be discussed. Females from countries which had domestic violence laws were more likely to agree that it is appropriate for people to act individually in relationships than males from countries which had domestic violence laws whereas females from countries that did not have domestic violence laws were less likely

to agree that is appropriate for people to act individually in relationships than males from countries without domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 13

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions of Acceptability of Individuality in Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Gender*

Acceptability of Individuality in Relationships	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Gender			
Female	3.23(.67)	2.30(.67)	3.09(.74)
Male	3.00(.73)	2.95(.67)	2.98(.70)
Total	3.12(.71)	2.83(.71)	3.02(.72)

*Note.* Gender  $F = 1.15$ ,  $p > .05$ , Law  $F = 6.26$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 5.10$ ,  $p < .05$

### **Results Related to Research Question Two**

The second research question was, “Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants’ countries of origin and their marital status?” The research question related to variations in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence laws in the participants’ countries of origin and their marital status was not analyzed due to an insufficient number of married participants.

### **Results Related to Research Question Three**

The third research question was, “Are there differences in the definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence laws in the participants’ countries of origin and their length of residency in the USA?”

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants’ definitions of physical violence as a form of domestic violence according to the length of their residency in the USA and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 14). A significant main effect ( $F = 4.17, p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the participants’ length of residency and the interaction effect of the length of their residency in the United States by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to identify acts of physical violence as domestic violence than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants’ definitions of emotional violence as a form of domestic violence according to the length of their residency and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 15). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants’ definitions of emotional violence as a form of domestic violence were not different according to the length of their residency in the United States and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 14

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Physical Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Definitions of Physical Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
<b>Length of Residency</b>			
1 year or less	1.08(.21)	1.29(.33)	1.15(.27)
2 - 4 years	1.10(.14)	1.13(.09)	1.11(.12)
4 years or more	1.05(.10)	1.09(.13)	1.06(.11)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.07(.15)</b>	<b>1.18(.23)</b>	<b>1.11(.19)</b>

*Note.* Length  $F = 2.46$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 4.17$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.73$ ,  $p > .05$ .

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' definitions of sexual violence as a form of domestic violence according to the length of their residency in the United States and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 16). A significant main effect ( $F = 7.86$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the participants' length of residency and the interaction effect of the length of their residency in the United States by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic violence legislation were more likely to identify acts of sexual violence as domestic

violence than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws.

Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 15

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Emotional Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Definitions of Emotional Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
<b>Length of Residency</b>			
1 year or less	1.24(.27)	1.27(.33)	1.25(.28)
2 - 4 years	1.14(.13)	1.27(.15)	1.19(.15)
4 years or more	1.12(.13)	1.26(.37)	1.16(.23)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.17(.19)</b>	<b>1.27(.28)</b>	<b>1.20(.23)</b>

*Note.* Length  $F = .509$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 3.46$ ,  $p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .395$ ,  $p > .05$ .

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' definitions of threat of physical and sexual violence as a form of domestic violence according to the length of their residency in the United States and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 17). A significant main effect ( $F = 8.59$ ,  $p < .01$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the participants' length of residency and the interaction effect of the length of their residency in the United States by the

Table 16

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Sexual Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Definitions of Sexual Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	1.01(.05)	1.20(.36)	1.07(.22)
2 - 4 years	1.02(.06)	1.00(.00)	1.01(.04)
4 years or more	1.01(.05)	1.13(.18)	1.05(.12)
Total	1.01(.05)	1.11(.24)	1.04(.15)

*Note.* Length  $F = 2.76, p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 7.86, p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 3.05, p > .05$ .

existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to identify acts of threat of violence as domestic violence than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws.

Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 17

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Definitions of Threats of Violence According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Definitions of Threats of Violence	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	1.03(.15)	1.26(.43)	1.10(.28)
2 - 4 years	1.00(.00)	1.04(.11)	1.02(.07)
4 years or more	1.00(.00)	1.13(.25)	1.04(.14)
Total	1.01(.09)	1.14(.30)	1.05(.20)

*Note.* Length  $F = 2.90$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 8.59$ ,  $p < .01$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.57$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of hitting according to the length of their residency in the United States and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 18). A significant main effect ( $F = 14.44$ ,  $p < .01$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the length of their residency in the United States and the interaction effect of the length of residency by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were less likely to approve of hitting in relationships than participants from countries that did not have

domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 18

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Appropriateness of Hitting According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Appropriateness Of Hitting	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	1.30(.40)	1.56(.79)	1.38(.54)
2 - 4 years	1.53(.61)	1.06(.66)	1.75(.67)
4 years or more	1.12(.26)	1.83(.77)	1.30(.53)
Total	1.29(.44)	1.81(.74)	1.45(.60)

*Note.* Length  $F = 3.07$ ,  $p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 14.44$ ,  $p < .01$ , Interaction,  $F = 1.07$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling under eight circumstances according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 19). A significant main effect ( $F = 5.68$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. Additionally, a significant main effect ( $F = 3.66$ ,  $p < .05$ ) according to length of their residency in the United States was found as a result of this analysis. However, when post hoc analysis was done, there was not any significant difference between the variables within length of



residency in the United States. The interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws was not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to disapprove of yelling under eight circumstances than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 19

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Appropriateness of Yelling One According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Appropriateness Of Yelling One	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	1.63(.66)	1.55(.49)	1.60(.61)
2 - 4 years	1.70(.66)	2.28(.74)	1.96(.74)
4 years or more	1.24(.28)	1.81(.79)	1.42(.55)
Total	1.51(.58)	1.90(.73)	1.64(.65)

*Note.* Length  $F = 3.66$ ,  $p < .05$ ; Law  $F = 5.68$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 2.19$ ,  $p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of yelling under two circumstances according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 20). These two circumstances included the following: he finds out that she has been unfaithful and she

neglects the children. A significant main effect ( $F = 3.16, p < .05$ ) according to the length of their residency in the United States was found as a result of this analysis. However, when post hoc analysis was done, there was not any significant difference between the variables within length of residency in the United States. The main effect according to the existence of laws in participants' countries of origin and the interaction effect of the length of their residency in the USA by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 20

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Appropriateness of Yelling Two According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Appropriateness Of Yelling Two	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	2.50(1.08)	2.56(1.35)	2.52(1.14)
2 - 4 years	2.65(1.01)	3.17(.56)	2.86(.88)
4 years or more	2.00(.76)	2.31(1.28)	2.09(.92)
Total	2.35(.98)	2.70(1.12)	2.46(1.03)

*Note.* Length  $F = 3.16, p < .05$ ; Law  $F = 1.48, p > .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .284, p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of healthy couple relationships according to the length of their residency in the USA and the

existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 21). A significant main effect ( $F = 4.98, p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to length of residency in the USA and the interaction effect of gender by the existence of domestic violence laws were not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were less likely to support statements related to healthy couple relationships than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 21

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Healthy Couple Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Healthy Couple Relationship	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
<b>Length of Residency</b>			
1 year or less	3.61(.25)	3.43(.91)	3.56(.52)
2 - 4 years	3.64(.27)	3.32(.34)	3.49(.34)
4 years or more	3.65(.69)	3.22(.73)	3.52(.71)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.63(.46)</b>	<b>3.32(.66)</b>	<b>3.53(.55)</b>

*Note.* Length  $F = .129, p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 4.98, p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .288, p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of traditional male role according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 22). A significant main effect ( $F = 14.58, p < .01$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the length of residency in the United States and interaction effect of length of residency by the existence of domestic violence laws was not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to disapprove of statements related to traditional male roles in relationships than participants from countries that did not have domestic violence laws. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 22

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Unacceptability of Male Role According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Unacceptability Of Male Role	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	3.21(.40)	2.73(.73)	3.06(.56)
2 - 4 years	3.17(.39)	2.58(.56)	2.90(.55)
4 years or more	3.33(.60)	2.79(.72)	3.17(.67)
Total	3.25(.48)	2.70(.66)	3.06(.60)

*Note.* Length  $F = .532, p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 14.58, p < .01$ , Interaction,  $F = .048, p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the unacceptability of violence in relationships according to the length of their residency in the United States and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 23). A significant main effect ( $F = 6.14, p < .05$ ) according to the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin was found as a result of this analysis. The main effect according to the length of residency in the United States and interaction effect of length of residency by the existence of domestic violence laws was not significant. Participants from countries with domestic legislation were more likely to disapprove of violence in relationships than participants from the countries without domestic violence laws. There is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 23

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Unacceptability of Violence in Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States.*

Unacceptability of Violence in Relationships	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
Length of Residency			
1 year or less	3.05(.71)	2.44(.77)	2.87(.76)
2 - 4 years	3.23(.82)	2.72(.83)	3.00(.84)
4 years or more	3.30(.98)	2.88(.95)	3.18(.97)
Total	3.18(.83)	2.67(.84)	3.01(.86)

*Note.* Length  $F = 1.02, p > .05$ ; Law  $F = 6.14, p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = .067, p > .05$

A two-by-two ANOVA was used to compare the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of individuality in relationships according to their gender and the existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin (see Table 24). No significant main or interaction effects were found as a result of this analysis. Therefore, participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of acting individually in the relationship were not different according to their length of residency in the United States and existence of domestic violence laws in their countries of origin. Unfortunately, there is no literature to which this finding can be compared.

Table 24

*Two-way Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) with Means (m), Standard Deviations (SD), and F-statistics (F) to Comparing the Participants' Perceptions about Acceptability of Individuality in Relationships According to the Existence of Legislation in Their Home Country and Length of Their Residency in the United States*

Acceptability of Individuality in Relationships	Law		Total
	Yes M(SD)	No M(SD)	
<b>Length of Residency</b>			
1 year or less	3.10(.60)	3.19(.75)	3.12(.64)
2 - 4 years	3.25(.72)	2.44(.46)	2.90(.74)
4 years or more	3.07(.83)	2.88(.79)	3.02(.81)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.12(.71)</b>	<b>2.82(.72)</b>	<b>3.03(.72)</b>

*Note.* Length  $F = .949$ ,  $p > .05$ , Law  $F = 3.05$ ,  $p < .05$ , Interaction,  $F = 2.25$ ,  $p < .05$

## **Summary**

This study was undertaken to determine and compare the definitions of, and the perceptions about, domestic violence among international students who were enrolled in the spring semester, 2012 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Significant differences were noted between participants' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence. Significant differences were found on definitions of domestic violence according to the existence of domestic violence legislation in participants' countries of origin. Significant difference on the appropriateness of hitting in the relationship was also revealed according to the existence of domestic violence legislation in participants' countries of origin. Significant differences on perceptions about domestic violence on four factors of healthy relationships, the traditional male role, violent relationships and individuality in the relationship were found according to the existence of domestic violence legislation in participants' countries of origin as well as according to their gender. Participants from countries with domestic violence laws were more likely to identify acts of domestic violence and have more appropriate perceptions related to domestic violence in comparison to participants from countries without domestic violence legislation. The conclusions and recommendations of the study will be discussed in Chapter Five.

## **Chapter Five: Conclusions and Recommendations**

This study was undertaken to determine and compare the definitions of, and the perceptions about, domestic violence among international students who were enrolled in the spring semester, 2012 at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

### **Conclusions**

Significant differences were noted between participants' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence. According to the study results, all four types of violence – physical, emotional, sexual and threat of physical and sexual violence – were more likely to be considered as domestic violence by the participants from the countries with domestic violence laws than by participants from the countries that do not have domestic violence laws.

The existence of domestic violence legislation in the participants' home countries was an important factor related to the perceptions regarding defining emotional abuse and threats of violence as a type of domestic violence. The presence of this legislation is also related to the participants' perceptions of the appropriateness of hitting in relationships as well as supportive perceptions about healthy couple relationships, the traditional male role, unacceptability of violence in relationships and individuality in relationships. Emotional violence as well as the threat of violence was not defined as a type of domestic violence by participants from countries without domestic violence legislation. Participants from the countries without domestic violence legislation were more likely to support the appropriateness of hitting and yelling in the couple relationship whereas the participants from the countries with domestic violence laws were less likely to approve the appropriateness of hitting but supported the appropriateness of yelling in couple



relationships. Participants from countries with domestic violence laws were more likely to support healthy couple relationships whereas the participants from countries without domestic violence laws were less likely to support healthy couple relationships. The traditional male role was more likely to be approved by the participants from the countries without domestic violence laws whereas it is less likely to be approved by the participants from the countries with domestic violence laws. Individuality in relationships was more likely to be approved by participants from the countries with domestic violence laws whereas it was less likely to be approved by the participants from the countries without domestic violence laws.

The gender of the participants was an important factor related to the perceptions about the traditional male role and violence in the couple relationships. The traditional male role was more likely to be disapproved by females whereas it was less likely to be disapproved by male participants. Violence in the relationship was more likely to be disapproved by females in comparison to males.

One important factor related to domestic violence legislation and gender was found through interaction effect as a result of this study. Individuality in relationships was more likely to be approved by female than male participants from the countries with domestic violence laws whereas it was less likely to be approved by female than male participants from the countries without domestic violence laws.

The length of residency was not found as a significant factor in regards to the differences in definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence among participants from different countries.

## **Recommendations for Health Educators**

In consideration of the findings of this investigation, the following recommendations for health educators are made.

1. Health educators need to advocate for establishing legislations specific to domestic violence in the countries where laws do not exist. Comprehensive legislation is an important step for an effective and coordinated response to domestic violence against women (United Nations General Assembly, 2006).
2. Health educators also need to advocate for domestic violence legislations that include all types of domestic violence in the countries where domestic violence laws exist and do not exist.
3. Health educators need to educate the general population about domestic violence legislation in order to strengthen the implementation of laws in the country. Awareness of domestic violence legislation will lead victims of domestic violence to seek and receive legal protection, and perpetrators of domestic violence will be punished legally. Eventually, this process will likely lead to the change in the general population's attitude about domestic violence. An attitude of the community that endures male violence was identified as one of the risk factors for domestic violence against women at the community level.
4. Health educators need to develop gender-based health education programs regarding domestic violence. These health education programs should educate the female population about domestic violence, its harm to women's health, what the abusive relationship is, what the signs of a violent and abusive partner are and what to do in abusive relationship.

Health educators need to educate the male population too, particularly targeting facilities and institutions where males are taught to become aggressive and dominant, such as the military.

5. Health educators also need to develop health education programs for adolescent populations about healthy couple relationships. It is important because adolescence is a stage before adulthood when young individuals start thinking about couple relationships.
6. Health educators also need to educate the general population about domestic violence and its harm to women's health and overall well-being, the cost to individuals, families, societies and states, etc. It is essential because oftentimes people ignore domestic violence when it is addressed as a human rights issue, especially in strong male-dominated countries. If it is addressed as a health problem, it will draw more attention of government officials as well as communities and, hence, might lead to an attitude change in the societies.

### **Recommendations for Further Studies**

In consideration of the findings of this investigation, the following recommendations are made for future studies.

1. Replicate this quantitative study with a larger sample, including an equal number of participants from both countries with domestic violence laws and those without domestic violence laws;
2. Repeat a similar study as a qualitative study to further investigate definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence against women;

3. Investigate understudied aspects of domestic violence, such as emotional and threat to physical and sexual violence;
4. Translate the survey instrument into native languages of participants to make sure that they understand all questions.

Studies similar to this would be very challenging and costly to conduct in different countries. Therefore, conducting similar studies among international students with a larger sample size would be beneficial.

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## Appendices

## APPENDIX A

### Survey of Definitions and Perceptions of Domestic Violence

## Survey of Definitions and Perceptions of Domestic Violence

Directions: Read each practice and determine whether or not it is a type of domestic violence against women. To indicate your answer, check YES or NO.

1. Which of the following practices do you consider to be acts of domestic violence against women?
  - a) Punching her a) Yes b) No
  - b) Withholding her access to money a) Yes b) No
  - c) Undermining her sense of self-worth and self-esteem a) Yes b) No
  - d) Isolating her from friends and family a) Yes b) No
  - e) Using physical force to make her engage in a sexual act against her will a) Yes b) No
  - f) Shaking her a) Yes b) No
  - g) Using words to communicate the intent to cause death, disability, injury,  
or physical harm a) Yes b) No
  - h) Denying her medical care a) Yes b) No
  - i) Withholding information from her a) Yes b) No
  - j) Burning her a) Yes b) No
  - k) Marital rape a) Yes b) No
  - l) Calling her names a) Yes b) No
  - m) Humiliating her a) Yes b) No
  - n) Controlling what she can and cannot do a) Yes b) No
  - o) Forbidding her attendance at school or employment a) Yes b) No
  - p) Deliberately doing something to make her feel diminished or embarrassed a) Yes b) No
  - q) Intimidating or pressuring her to engage in a sexual act against her will a) Yes b) No
  - r) Pushing her a) Yes b) No
  - s) Choking her a) Yes b) No

- t) Using weapons to communicate the intent to cause death, disability, injury, or physical harm a) Yes b) No
- u) Abusive sexual contact a) Yes b) No
- v) Forcing sex after physical violence a) Yes b) No
- w) Slapping her a) Yes b) No
- x) Damaging her relationship with her children a) Yes b) No
- y) Using gestures to communicate the intent to cause death, disability, injury, or physical harm a) Yes b) No
- z) Constantly criticizing her a) Yes b) No

Directions: Read each situation faced by a husband and a wife. For each situation indicate whether you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree by checking the appropriate circle.

A husband has a good reason to hit his wife if:

2. She doesn't complete family work to his satisfaction.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
3. She disobeys him.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
4. She refuses to have sex with him.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
5. She asks him if he has other girlfriends.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
6. He suspects that she's unfaithful.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
7. He finds out that she has been unfaithful.
  - a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
8. She argues with him.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

9. She goes out without telling him.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

10. She neglects the children.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

11. She burns the food.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

Directions: Read each situation faced by a husband and a wife. For each situation, indicate whether you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree by checking the appropriate circle.

A husband has a good reason to yell at his wife if:

12. She doesn't complete family work to his satisfaction.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

13. She disobeys him.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

14. She refuses to have sex with him.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

15. She asks him if he has other girlfriends.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

16. He suspects that she's unfaithful.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

17. He finds out that she has been unfaithful.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

18. She argues with him.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

19. She goes out without telling him.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

20. She neglects the children.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

21. She burns the food.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

Directions: Read each statement about adult couple relationships. For each statement, please indicate whether you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree.

22. The mother and the father should share the responsibility for raising their children.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

23. Partners in a relationship should treat each other with respect.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

24. How a man treats his partner in the privacy of his own home is his own business.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

25. The man and woman should have equal say in a close relationship.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

26. A man should never raise a hand against a woman.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

27. The tradition of the man as a leader in the family should be honored.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

28. The man should make the decisions about any money that comes into the household.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

29. Adults should control their temper in a heated argument.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

30. Each partner should be able to go out separately with their own friends.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree



31. In an intimate relationship it's OK to hit, if you've been hit first.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
32. Everyone should try to help female victims of violence.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
33. Each partner in a relationship should be able to wear what they like.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
34. Either partner has the right to say no to sex.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
35. Everyone should encourage a man who is violent to his partner to change his behavior.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
36. When a man and a woman become couple, the woman becomes the man's property.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
37. It's the woman's duty to meet her man's sexual needs.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
38. A man who does not fight when he pushed around will lose respect as a man.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
39. The man and woman should share the responsibility for running the household.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
40. Sometimes hitting is the only way to express your feelings.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
41. Everyone should try to do something if they know a couple is being violent to each other.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
42. It's a women's duty to stay in a relationship to keep the family together even if it's violent.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree
43. A relationship can be called violent even when there is no physical injury.
- a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

44. It is natural for a male to act aggressively, especially if another male might take his woman.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

45. A woman who is beaten by her partner just needs to leave the relationship to be safe.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

46. A woman can feel scared of a violent partner, long after the last violent incident.

a) Strongly disagree b) disagree c) agree d) strongly agree

Directions: Please, provide the information below:

47. Gender (Please, check one):        A) Female    B) Male

48. Age (Please fill in the blank): \_\_\_\_\_

49. Marital status (Please, check one): A) Single    B) Married:

50. Country of Origin: Please check one of the following countries:

A) Nepal

B) Japan

C) Bangladesh

D) South Korea

E) India

F) Moldova

G) Saudi Arabia

H) Pakistan

51. How many months have you lived in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_ months

Thank you for completing this survey!

If you have questions or concerns related to Domestic Violence please contact the Violence

Awareness and Response Program in the Women's Center at Minnesota State University,

Mankato at [www.mnsu.edu/wcenter/](http://www.mnsu.edu/wcenter/) or 507-389-6146.

APPENDIX B

Online Survey Consent Form

**Please carefully read the following online consent form:**

**Online Survey Consent Form**

You are requested to participate in research that will be supervised by Principal Investigator, Dr. Marlene K. Tappe, on international students' definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence against women. This online survey should take about 12 to 15 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and responses will be kept anonymous. However, whenever one works with e-mail/the internet there is always the risk of compromising privacy, confidentiality, and/or anonymity. Despite this possibility, the risks to your physical, emotional, social, professional, or financial well-being are considered to be minimal. Although there are no direct benefits to you as a result of your participation in this research, there are benefits of this research to society. The results of this study will provide insight for the development of materials and programming for international students related to the prevention of domestic violence. Although you will not be compensated for participating in this study, your completion of this online survey will be greatly appreciated.

You have the option to not respond to any questions that you choose. If you agree to participate you can withdraw from participation at any time. Participation or nonparticipation will not impact your relationship with Minnesota State University, Mankato. Submission of the completed survey will be interpreted as your informed consent to participate and that you affirm that you are at least 18 years of age. Individual responses to the survey will not be reported and access to the data will be limited to Dr. Marlene K. Tappe and Sarbinaz Bekmuratova.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact Dr. Marlene K. Tappe via email at [marlene.tappe@mnsu.edu](mailto:marlene.tappe@mnsu.edu). If you have questions about the treatment of human subjects, contact the IRB Administrator at 507-389-2321. If you would like more information about the specific privacy and anonymity risks posed to online surveys, please contact the Minnesota State University, Mankato Information and Technology Services Help Desk (507-389-6654) and ask to speak to the Information Security Manager.

Run a copy for your files

**MSU IRB LOG #326059-2**

**Date of MSU IRB approval: April 11, 2012**