A Scale on Attitudes of Preservice Teachers Towards Violence against Women: Validity and Reliability Testing[*]

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to develop an attitude scale that will reveal the attitudes of the students of education faculty towards violence against women and to conduct the studies of validity and reliability of this scale. According to this, the data collect from education faculty students. Then analyzed AFA and DFA and reliability. According to AFA results the scale has three dimensions which are Individual Perception, Individual Responsibility and Socio-Cultural and Economic Level. These dimensions are confirmed by DFA. The latter reliability is calculated. This coefficient is for all scale .87, and for subscales .88, .70 and .72. all of the results means that the scale, Violence Against Women, is valid and reliable

Introduction

Violence against women is a global-scale problem arising from asymmetrical power relations between women and men. Passing beyond the geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries, the problem is a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any case (KSGM, 2008). Violence against women turns out to be the reason for violation of many basic human rights from the right to material and moral integrity to personal liberty and security, from freedom of expression to the right to education labour. In other words, in both the family and public life, the phenomenon of violence can cause women's being deprived of their rights in various ways to take their place in social and economic life, going through physical and mental health problems, being disabled or losing their lives. In addition, physical, emotional, economic and social consequences of violence towards women affect children and the society in a negative way as well as it does women.

The issue of violence against women has been remarked in all international documents on women's rights since the 2nd World Conference on Women held in Copenhagen in 1980. For example, the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW, 1992) General Recommendation No 19 described violence based on gender against women as *"the violence directed towards a woman just based on her gender or the violence disproportionately affecting women"*, and stated that such violence is *"gender-based discrimination"*. In preamble of the CEDAW adopted in 1993, violence against women is defined as *"a historical indication of the unequal power relations between men and women"* and "*one of the most important social mechanisms to force women into a subordinate position compared to men*". In the Declaration, violence against women is discussed in domain of both public and private life, and it is stated to be one of the greatest obstacles in front of women's advancement. In the Fourth Conference on Women held in Beijing

(United Nations, 1995) it is stressed that elimination of violence against women, described as the common responsibility of states, is one of the emergency measures to be taken by countries in order to reach their democracy, development and peace targets.

The Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Combat against Them (briefly Istanbul Convention) opened for signature in Istanbul in 2011, also signed by Turkey, is the latest document for definition, scope and types of violence against women. The Istanbul Convention states that the term violence against women encompasses all acts of violence based on gender. Women and girls are more likely than boys to be exposed to violence. Domestic violence disproportionately affects women. Besides children are victims of domestic violence, including being a witness to violence in families. According to the Istanbul Convention, violence against women means "all gender-based acts, whether in public or private areas, which (could) cause women physical, sexual, psychological or economic and suffering, and threatening (women) by such acts, coercion or depriving them of liberty arbitrarily". In the Agreement, domestic violence is defined as "the act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence of any kind in family, household, or between former or current spouses or regardless whether or not the offender and the victim share the same household" (Article-3, paragraph a and b). As it was stated before, the Istanbul Convention has expanded the scope of the definition of domestic violence. Accordingly, by this definition, all physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence regardless whether or not the victim woman and the attacking man are married or they share the same household, have been identified as domestic violence.

According to the data by The World Health Organization (WHO), one out of every three women around the world is exposed to physical or sexual violence (WHO, 2013). One out of every five people in the European Union countries say that they have witnessed domestic violence among friends or in their own family (European Commission, 2010). According to UN data, during the period between the years 1995 and 2006, the proportion of women who have been exposed to violence at least once in their life is 12% in China, 13% in Azerbaijan, 17% in France, 22% in India, 35% in Egypt, 37% in Germany, 40% in Mexico, 48% in Australia, and 59% in Zambia (UN, 2010).

According to the Survey on Violence against Women in Turkey-2014, conducted by Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, nearly 4 out of every 10 women in Turkey have been exposed to physical violence by their husband or partner, 12% have been exposed to sexual violence, 44% to emotional violence/abuse, and 30% to economic violence/abuse. In this study, data have been collected for the first time on sexual abuse in childhood, early marriage, prevention of education and persistent pursuit, which are considered as important issues in the definition of violence provided by the Istanbul Convention. These data reveal that of women around Turkey;

- 26% married under 18,
- 9% were exposed to sexual abuse during childhood (under 15 years of age),
- 32% were prevented to attend school,
- Approximately 3 out of every 10 women have been exposed to persistent pursuit at least once.

The survey results indicate that violence against women in Turkey is widely experienced with all its aspects. The Istanbul Convention, which addresses the precautions regarding combating violence against women and protection of victims in a broader framework and is legally binding, clearly states that violence against women shall be understood as "a human rights violation and a form of discrimination against women" (Article 3/a). The Agreement defines as offense the psychological violence (Art. 33), persistent pursuit (Art. 34), physical violence acts (Art. 35), sexual violence, including rape (Art. 36), forced marriage (Art. 37), female genital mutilation (Art. 38), forced abortion and forced sterilization (Art. 39), verbal, non-verbal or physical sexual harassment (Art. 40) acts and aiding and abetting such acts. Within this framework, the states that are parties to the Agreement are obliged to take the necessary legal or other measures in order to ensure subjecting of such acts to criminal and other law enforcement and denial of the culture, tradition, religion, customs or so-called 'honour' as a justification of these actions in the criminal process (Article 42). In this regard, the signing states are required to create a comprehensive legal framework to combat violence against women and "*prevention, protection, prosecution and victim support mechanisms*" for this purpose. For the prevention of violence by the Agreement; the issues such as awareness raising, training of specialists,

preventive interventions, treatment programs, taking the support of the private sector and the media, psychological and legal support services, establishment of shelters, opening the emergency aid lines, protection for child witnesses, compensation for the bodily harmed, and judicial support services are regulated in detail.

After signing of the Istanbul Convention by Turkey, another important step was the Law No. 6284 on Family Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women adopted in 2012. Recognizing the violence against women as a human rights issue requires addressing this issue with a holistic approach and by cooperation of all sectors (public and private). Within this framework, the Project on Combatting Violence against Women National Action Plan 2007-2010 and 2012-2015 implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies as the main institution that ensures coordination and cooperation between stakeholders impose responsibilities also on universities for Turkey to reach the targets set in the framework of international commitments. One of the main objectives of both action plans is determined as "create public awareness about gender equality and domestic violence against women and to ensure the mentality transformation for elimination of negative attitudes and behaviours that give rise to and reinforce violence against women". In this regard, sub goals of cooperating institutions and organizations of universities include the following (2007-2010):

- Including the issues of gender equality and prevention of domestic violence against women in formal and informal training programs in the training plan,
- Placing the issues of gender equality and domestic violence against women in undergraduate programs in faculties such as education, law, medicine, communication and other related faculties.

Again according to 2012-2015 Action Plan, emphasis is placed on "giving place to gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence in both undergraduate and postgraduate training programs at universities, primarily all faculties and colleges in Health and Social Sciences". In this context, teacher training institutions are also supposed to undertake serious responsibilities. The teachers with awareness and sensitivity on violence against women, may be active actors that can provide social transformation. But in our country there has been little study to determine the perception of university students' violence against women. In one of these studies, Şahin and Dişsiz (2009) developed the Domestic Violence Attitude Scale for Health Care Staff.

Apart from that, Kanbay, Işık, Yavuzaslan and Keleş (2012) carried out a study titled "Determination of Nursing Students' Opinions and Attitudes regarding Domestic Violence against Women", during which a questionnaire form consisting of 34 items were developed. In the study conducted by Çetinkaya Kodan (2013) titled "Investigation of University Students' Tendency to Violence and Their Attitudes regarding Gender Roles", a significant inverse relationship was found between the tendency to violence and attitudes towards gender roles.

In a study by Gökkulu, Uluocak and Bilir (2014) titled "Prevalence of Violence against Women and Risk Factors: A Field Survey in Çanakkale, Turkey", it was found out that the highest risk of violence exposure was among women who are secondary school graduates; gain monthly household income under 1,500 TL; were exposed to violence in childhood; and who are interfered with the style of clothing. Not many studies are available in the international literature which measure violence against women. One of the studies on this issue was carried out by Price and Byers (1999) with the title "Attitudes towards Dating Violence Scale: Development and Validity Study". The study intended to develop scales on boys' and girls' attitudes to psychological, physical and sexual dating violence and determine the reliability of the scales. The study showed that male students are more apt to confirm violence compared to their female peers.

Rafi et al. (2003) carried out the study called "Evaluation of Men's Attitudes Regarding Violence Against to Women". The study aimed at finding out the psychological causes underlying men's violence-related attitudes towards women. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used in that study. In this scope; attitude scale, interviews, case studies and focus group discussion techniques were used for data collection. The study revealed that men do not consider violence against women as an important issue, they think economic gain and self-righteousness are reasons for violence, and they perceive marriage as possessing the woman. In Centre for Social Research and Evaluation report (2010) "Attitudes, Values and Beliefs about Domestic Violence", the data for 2008 were evaluated. It was noted in the study that most of

New Zealanders are aware of the effects of violence, but they do not approve of violence against women, still some individuals cling to their beliefs regarding traditional domestic gender roles. In addition, some participants pointed out that domestic violence should include confidentiality.

Denney and Ibrahim (2012) in their publication "Violence Against Women in Sierra Leone" noted that violence in Sierra Leone is shaped by cultural attitudes, conflict-based history, political environment and the donor institutions and violence also includes domestic violence (physical, economic, emotional/psychological) as well as cultural, sexual and structural violence.

We can see the lack of a valid and reliable tool for determining attitudes regarding violence against women in both national and international literature. Therefore, our study aims to develop a measurement instrument and perform the validity and reliability study on university students. The study is considered important as it is expected to lay the groundwork for future research to determine the attitudes of university students about violence against women and to close the gap in the literature. The aim of this research is to develop an attitude scale that will reveal the attitudes of the students of education faculty towards violence against women and to conduct the studies of validity and reliability of this scale.

Method

This is an applied research because it is a scale development study aimed at revealing attitudes of the education faculty students towards violence against women. In the first step of the scale development study, a pre-test for violence attitude scale was applied to 210 students with similar characteristics to the sample. It is stressed that not only the number of participants should be higher than the number of items (Cohen, Monion and Morrison, 2007) but also at least five times the number of items (Tabachnick, 1996; Tavşancıl, 2002). In this study, there were 28 items for preliminary application. For this reason, it was deemed appropriate to apply the scale based on the data obtained from the 210 students. In the second stage of the research, 450 students were given the scale for the main implementation. An exploratory factor analysis was performed in the direction of the obtained data and re-applied to perform 455 student-based factor analysis according to the results of the explanatory factor analysis.

Developing the Data Collection Instrument

Writing of items and creating the trial form. In order to develop a measurement tool for the scale of violence against women, primarily a form consisting of 42 items was arranged following the related literature review. Necessary changes were made on the items by taking the expert opinion on the suitability, clarity and representability of these items. For the 42 items in the pool, a Counselling and Guidance Specialist and two Assessment Specialists will be referred for their views. As a result of this study, a draft scale was obtained. Five-point Likert type was used for rating. Options and points corresponding to the items were arranged as following: 5= Totally Agree, 4= Agree, 3= Undecided, 2= Disagree, 1= Totally Disagree.

Analysis of Data

Once the data entry process was complete, a frequency table was created to check whether there is an incorrect data entry. Attention was paid to ensure there was no missing data since it could yield misleading results (Erkuş, 2012, p.63). In addition, extreme values were checked by converting them to Z-scores for each item, and then the items with negative meaning placed on the scale were reverse encoded.

Analysis of the Preliminary Application Data

The trial form was implemented in the university environment by explaining the purpose of the research and the purpose of the research during 2014-2015 spring semester. The application lasted approximately 25 minutes. Scale factors were determined by performing Indicative Factor Analysis on the data obtained by the preliminary application and the items with smaller variance than factor load factor value 10, which is considered as a factor in the scale, were extracted from the scale. The resulting scale was made ready for the main implementation.

Validity and Reliability Analysis

By checking the assumptions for *the construct validity* of the scale, exploratory factor analysis was performed. In order to test the validity of the sub-dimensions obtained from the exploratory factor analysis,

confirmatory factor analysis was performed and the compliance indices were interpreted. For the reliability of all scales and each sub-dimension, Cronbach's Alpha and two semi-test reliability coefficients were calculated as internal consistency coefficients to check whether it was above .70.

Results

Findings related to the validity and reliability of the attitude scale related to violence against women (KYŞTÖ) are presented under two main headings as the validity of the measurement tool and the reliability of the measurement tool.

Validity of the Measurement Tool

For validity of the Scale on attitude towards violence against women (KYŞTÖ); Concurrent validity was checked among content validity, construct validity and criterion validity. Content validity. In order to reveal the validity of the content of the KYŞTÖ, expert opinion was obtained regarding the 48-item form drawn up according to the relevant literature review and student opinions. As a result, 28 out of 48 items were found compliant with the content. Construct validity. In order to prove the construct validity of the measurement tool, an Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was first applied, and then the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was applied to the form formulated accordingly.

Exploratory factor analysis (AFA). Before the exploratory factor analysis, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkun (KMO) and Barlett tests were applied to test the suitability of the sample for factoring. For suitability of the data for factor analysis, the KMO value must be higher than .60 and the Barlett test must be significant (Büyüköztürk, 2007; Kalaycı, 2010; Şencan, 2005). As a result of the analysis, the KMO value was found as .94, and Barlett sphericity test ($X^2_{(171)}$ = 5425.036; $p < .01$) was significant. These results show that model data compatibility is achieved, that is, data are suitable for factor analysis model.

The resulting 28-point and three-factor scale was administered to 450 students and the obtained data were subjected to the analyses obtained from exploratory factor analysis. In the analyses, maximum variability (varimax) technique was used as the factorization method. As a result of the analysis, the three-dimensional commonalities of the items were found to be between .37 and .67. It is assumed common factor variance close to 1.00 would increase the total variance of the model. According to the common factor variances, items 6 and 8 were excluded from the analysis. Item factor load values were calculated as a result of this analysis. According to Büyüköztürk (2007), if there is a cluster of items that have a high level of relationship with a factor, this means that those items measure a concept-construct together. For this reason, the factor load value of 0.30 or higher is considered a good measure. Besides, it is suggested that the difference between the highest value of an item on factors and the highest value after this value is at least .10. Taking all these facts into consideration, as a result of the scale factor exploratory factor analysis, items 11, 16, 21, 23, 24 and 25 items were excluded from the analysis, respectively, resulting in final 20 items. According to the results of the preliminary application for 20 items, the scree plot structure under three factors was examined.
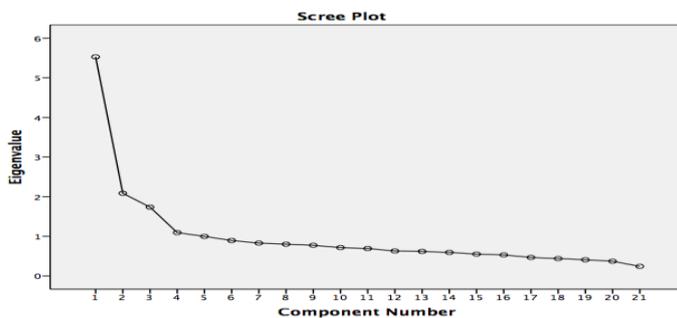

Figure 1. Factor analysis line graph.

As can be seen from the fracture points in the graph shown in Fig. 1, it is suitable to define the scale in a three-factor structure. The total variance explained by the three-dimensional structure is 44.53 %. In the analysis made for three factors; the first factor was found to contribute to covariance at 24.08%, the second

factor 10.47%, and the third factor at 9.97%. Factor loadings of the first factor ranged from .76 to .54; the second factor was between .72 and .48; and the third factor between .74 and .62. In multi-factorial designs, it is important to calculate the common factor variance. Accordingly, the lowest value of the common factor variances (h^2) is .54. The common factor variance less than .20 indicates heterogeneity between variables.

Table 1. KYŞTÖ exploratory factor analysis

Item	Covariance	Post Rotational Load Ratings			Item Total Correlation
		B1	B2	B3	
M27	,578	,759			,713
M22	,553	,733			,580
M5	,526	,725			,657
M26	,518	,712			,704
M17	,521	,684			,667
M4	,468	,665			,655
M15	,404	,633			,594
M7	,391	,623			,582
M28	,351	,585			,569
M19	,332	,554			,580
M13	,349	,536			,630
M9	,526		,724		,289
M10	,454		,669		,335
M14	,458		,645		,368
M20	,303		,499		,322
M18	,301		,483		,298
M1	,556			,741	,332
M3	,550			,710	,235
M2	,501			,698	,149
M12	,459			,624	,357
Variance Source	B1	B2	B3	Total	
Explained Variance	%24,082	%10,472	%9,974	%44.53	

The validity coefficients of the items are calculated by the item-test correlation values. The results of these values are shown in Table 1. Correlation coefficients of the items in the scale vary between .15 and .71. It is assumed that the values between .30 and .70 are moderate; the values between .70 and 1.00 are high (Büyüköztürk, 2007 s.32). It is seen that all of the items in the scale according to these value ranges showed a significant relation with the total test scores at medium and high level (p= .001). In other words, all of the items show a high and medium relationship with the whole test. This shows that the measured properties of the items are similar to those measured by the test, and that the items are valid. Discovery of factor correlation. The correlation between the sub-dimensions identified in the exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis is displayed in Table 2.

Table 2. Correlations between factor points

Factor	Individual Perception	Individual Responsibility	Socio-Cultural and Economic Level
Individual Perception	1		
Individual Responsibility	.71**	1	
Socio-Cultural and Economic Level	.67**	.61**	1
Total	.87**	.76**	.78**

**p< .01

According to the results in Table 2, there was a high correlation between individual perception, individual responsibility, and socio-cultural-economic dimensions of the scale and the total scores (> .70). Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). In order to test the validity of the factor structure yielded by exploratory factor analysis, a second level confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was applied to the data whose assumptions are met. During evaluation of the model, first of all, significance of *t-values* of each item at the bottom of these factors was examined. As a result, all items were found to be significant under the relevant

factors. Secondly, when the standard factor load values of each item were examined, it was seen that the standard factor load values must be .30 and above. Finally, model fit indices were examined and displayed in Table 3.

Table 3. KYŞTÖ Confirmation factor analysis results

Fit index	Acceptable limit	CFA results
X^2		510.86
Sd		149
X^2/sd	must be smaller than 4	3.43
RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation)	between = .050 and = .080	0.06
SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square Residual)	between = .050 and = .080	0.046
CFI (Comparative Fit Index)	= .95 and above	.98
NFI (Normed Fit Index)	= .90 and above	.97
RFI (Relative Fit Index)	= .90 and above	.96
IFI (Incremental Fit Index)	= .90 and above	.98
AGFI (Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index)	= .85 and above	.91

As values of fit indices are compared with acceptable intervals (Seçer, 2013; Çokluk, Şekercioğlu and Büyüköztürk; 2010), fit values of CFA results of the DTÖ were within acceptable limits. It was seen that the X^2 value in the model was 510.86, df=149 p= 0.00, X^2/df=3.43. Besides the significant X^2 value, of the other variables examined, RMSEA was found to be .06. These results suggest that the related items represent the determined factors. Standard load value of each item is shown in Figure 2.
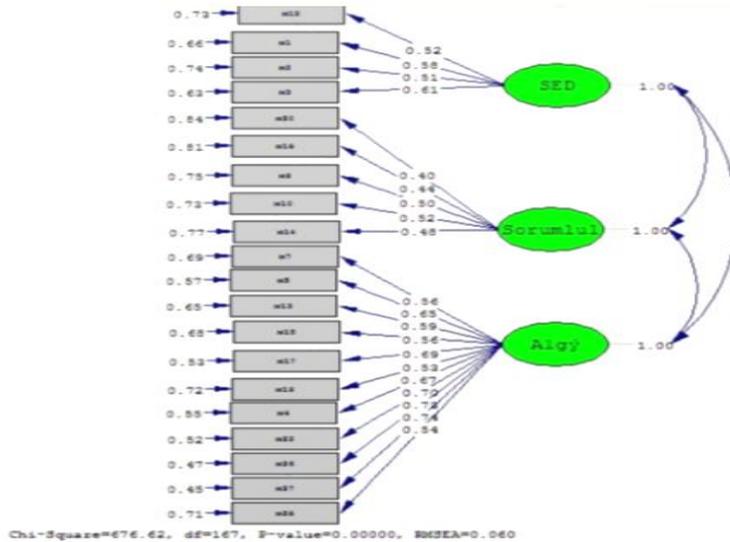

Figure 2. KYŞTÖ confirmatory factor analysis.

Reliability of the Measurement Tool

Table 4. Reliability values of total KYŞTÖ scale and subscales

Scale	Internal Consistency	Split Half reliability	
	Application-2	Application-2	
		Spearman Brown	Guttman
KYŞÖ	.87	.81	.87
B1	.88		
B2	.70		
B3	.72		

It was observed that the results of the reliability of the KYŞTÖ were above .70 for both the EFA sample and the CFA. This implies that the scale and its sub-dimensions have a high degree of reliability.

Discussion and Conclusions

It seems important to describe the attitudes of the students of the education faculty towards violence against women as they are supposed to bring up the future generations. Since teachers are the backbone of educational practices and the main actor of a positive social transformation, the attitudes of our teachers to raise new generations towards women seem very crucial. Thus, it is thought to be a necessity for developing a scale to find out the attitudes of these students towards violence against women for raising a society far from gender inequalities.

For this purpose, it is considered useful to develop a scale aiming to reveal the attitudes of the education faculty students towards violence against women. Therefore, a pool of items was created to demonstrate the attitudes of students towards this behaviour. In accordance with expert opinions, necessary amendments were made on the items in the pool and preliminary application of the attitude scale was realized. As a result of the preliminary application, lower- factor loadings and composite items were omitted from the scale and exploratory factor analysis was performed to determine the factor structure of the scale. Confirmatory factor analysis was then conducted to test what was revealed by the exploratory factor analysis.

Factor structure of KYŞTÖ was defined as three dimensional. These dimensions were named taking into account the common qualities of the meanings expressed by the items. The sub-scales of the Attitude Scale related to Violence against Women were named as Individual Perception, Individual Responsibility, and Socio-Cultural and Economic dimensions. The total variance explained by the three-dimensional structure was 44.53 %. In the analysis made for three factors; it was seen that 24.08% contribution was provided by the first factor, 10.47% by the second factor, and 9.97% by the third factor. Factor loadings of the first factor ranged from .76 to .44; second factor between .72 and .48; and the third factor varied from .74 to .62. Also the correlation coefficients of the items ranged from .14 to .71. This implies that the related items have a high level of relationship with the attitude of absenteeism to be observed with the scale. Moreover, all of the items on the scale indicate the mean and high level of significance with the total test scores.

The Confirmatory Factor Analysis conducted in the last stage regarding the attitude scale revealed that acceptable ranges of CFA indices are within limits. Besides the significant X^2 value in the model, RMSEA as the other fit value was found to be .06. At the same time, correlations between scale total scores and sub-dimensions were found to be 0.87, 0.76, 0.78 for Individual Perception, Individual Responsibility and Socio-Cultural and Economic sub-dimensions, respectively. These evaluations resulting from the CFA analysis confirmed that model-data compatibility is acceptable and "Individual Perception, Individual Responsibility and Socio-Cultural and Economic Dimensions" described by the explanatory factor analysis are explained by the relevant items. Consequently, the Attitude Scale related to Violence against Women is composed of *"individual perception, individual responsibility and socio-cultural and economic"* dimensions, and the related items provide this structure. The reliability analysis of the scale also showed a high overall score and subscale above .70. The reliability analysis of the scale was also shown to get an overall score and subscale score above .70.

The Istanbul Convention clearly states that an effective response to violence against women requires concerted action not only by single agency or institution, but also by many different actors in a society. The Convention underlines that;

 "Every man, every woman, every boy and girl, every parent, every boy/girl-friend must learn that violence - any kind of violence - is not the right way to solve difficulties and to live a peaceful life. Everybody must understand that violence against women and domestic is no longer tolerated now and in the future." (Council of Europe, 2011).

However, violence against women is seen as one of the most important issues in the world today, the scientific researches on this subject are unfortunately very limited. Given that attitudes towards violence against women can be transformed in the positive direction, it can also be considered that educational activities in this area can make a meaningful difference to individuals and groups. As a result of the study, by applying this scale to different groups, it will be important to determine the effects of different variables on violence against women. It is thus possible to plan on transformative trainings of violence against women and measure the effects of these trainings.

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