



***A METHOD TO DEVELOP A MEDICAL PROTOCOL: PROTOCOL FOR
MEDICO LEGAL EXAMINATION, REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT
OF FEMALE SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN SRI
LANKA***

Nanayakkara R.T.1*, Marasinghe R.B.2 and Ariyaratne D.1

1Department of Forensic Medicine, USJP

2Department of Medical Education and Health Sciences, USJP

ravi.nanayakkara@sjp.ac.lk

Although, Asian women play a major role within their family life, they have been victimized for physical, sexual and psychological violence mainly by their partner. However, there is no specific protocol or national guideline to medico legal management of female survivors of intimate partner violence in Sri Lanka. The main objective of this study was to develop a protocol for medico legal reporting and management of female survivors of intimate partner violence (FSIPV). Firstly, we drafted a protocol based on available literature and past experiences. Then, volunteered experts among the field of Forensic Medicine (Fifteen Consultants Forensic Pathologists) were communicated; Delphi rounds were carried out to gather expert opinion to design the components of the protocol. Subsequently, experts were given a draft protocol and requested them to provide their opinion on each component of the protocol. Finally, individual opinions were analyzed in a sequential manner. The threshold criterion was taken as 75% for reaching consensus level of agreement on the items in the drafted protocol. During the first round, only 8.1% were less than the threshold criteria. In second round, all conflicts of the first round were rectified; all points in the questionnaire 100% were within the threshold criteria of in or exclusion. This developed protocol was tested at the Judicial Medical Office, Colombo South Teaching Hospital by the Judicial Medical Officers. The inclusion criteria were FSIPV reported to Judicial Medical Office, Colombo South Teaching Hospital. The Judicial Medical Officers attached to the centre were given the protocol to during the medico legal management cases of female survivors of intimate partner violence. Out of fifty women 37(74%) were between 21-40years. The reporting of violence is diminishing with their level of professionalism; highest (19, 38%) being unemployed whereas lowest (1, 2%) being a professional. Forty two, (84%) were physically abused while 11(22%) were sexually abused and 14(28%) were psychologically abused by their partner. Out of physically assaulted forty two, 39(92.9%) were assaulted with hand by their partner and 10(23.8%) were assaulted with feet. Eleven (26.2%) were assaulted with house hold blunt weapons such as broom stick/club. The highest number of injuries were clustered within head and face 44(88%), and about 15 (30%) all the other

areas and least number was around pelvic area (1, 2%). In conclusion, above method was found to be an effective way in developing a medial protocol.

Keywords: *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Protocol for medico legal examination, Female Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (FSIPV)*