A Predictive Model of Domestic Violence in Multicultural Families Focusing on Perpetrator

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SUMMARY

Purpose: This study was conducted to assess predictor variables of husbands in multicultural families and examine the relationship among variables after setting up a hypothetical model including influencing factors, so as to provide a framework necessary for developing nursing interventions of domestic violence.

Methods: The participants were 260 husbands in multicultural families in four cities in Korea. Data were analyzed using SPSS 22.0 and AMOS 20.0.

Results: Self-control, social support, family of origin violence experience and stress on cultural adaptation directly affected to dysfunctional communication, and the explanatory power of the variables was 64.7%. Family of origin violence experience in domestic stress on cultural adaptation, and dysfunctional communication were directly related to domestic violence in multicultural families, and the explanatory power of the variables was 64.6%. We found out that all variables in the model had mediation effects to dysfunctional communication. In other words, self-control and social support had complete mediation effects, and family of origin violence experience in domestic violence and stress on cultural adaptation had partial mediation effects.

Conclusions: The variables explained in this study should be considered as predictive factors of domestic violence in multicultural families, and used to provide preventive nursing intervention. Our results can be taken into account for developing and implementing programs on alleviating dysfunctional communication in multicultural families in Korea.

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Introduction

A multicultural family refers to a family that consists of a married immigrant and a person who has acquired South Korean nationality. This term denotes a family established by a man and a woman whose nationality, race and culture are all different [1]. In South Korea, multicultural families have mostly been built by rural old bachelors, urban lower class men, and divorced men who had difficulties in finding spouses from among Korean women and have chosen women from underdeveloped countries as their spouses [2]. International marriages are increasingly prevalent due to the fast-changing global market economy and the spread of globalization, and there is a rapid increase in multicultural families in our country as well [3]. The number of multicultural households was approximately 750,000 as of 2013, and this is expected to reach one million in 2020 [4]. The increase in the number of multicultural families is concurrent with various problems such as verbal and cultural differences, difficulties in communication, social prejudice, discrimination, lost economic expectations, problems with delivery and child raising, marital conflicts, domestic violence and a poor understanding of the Korean system and law [5]. Specifically, family violence could be viewed as the biggest problem. Domestic violence refers to bodily harm such as assault or beating that is caused by one of the family members to another member under the same roof, or to repeated physical, psychological or sexual abuse like restricting access to resources available or limiting personal freedom [6]. Thus, physical, psychological and sexual abuse against married immigrants in multicultural families exercise a serious influence on not only the immigrants but their children and families. It is quite important to understand how domestic violence
occurs and to prevent it in advance. The first step to ensuring the successful prevention of such a violence is to understand the characteristics of the perpetrator.

As for the causes of domestic violence, dysfunctional communication might detract from the communicative competency and problem-solving skills of the perpetrator [7] and is consequently highly likely to lead to violence [8]. In particular, it is ascertained that the possibility of family violence caused by dysfunctional communication is stronger in multicultural families than in typical Korean families [2]. It has been found that acculturative stress triggered by cultural gaps and subsequent psychoemotional conflicts exerts a negative influence on the marital relationship of multicultural families and provokes domestic violence [9]. As for the characteristics of the perpetrator, it has been confirmed that domestic violence is affected by self-control, one of the personal characteristics [10], and that social support [11], violence experience from the family of origin and violence observation experience [3,12] also have a strong relationship with family violence. Thus, studies establish that the occurrence of domestic violence is under the influence of the perpetrator's self-control, social support and violence experience from their family of origin, and that dysfunctional communication and acculturative stress are major influential factors for violence in multicultural families. However, existing studies have only examined women's victimization experience and the state of victimization [13], support systems [14], reality [2] and men's victimization [15] in part. Few studies have ever attempted to have a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence in multicultural families. This study aimed to examine the characteristics of the perpetrator of family violence, namely the husband, among influential factors for domestic violence in multicultural families on the basis of findings from earlier studies, to set up a hypothetical model and to verify the validity of the model for the explanation and prediction of domestic violence in multicultural families in an effort to understand domestic violence in multicultural families and determine related influential risk factors.

The purpose of this study was to establish and verify a structural model for the comprehensive explanation and prediction of domestic violence in multicultural families. Specifically, the following efforts were made: (a) The goodness of fit of a hypothetical model for domestic violence in multicultural families was tested. (b) What factors affected domestic violence in multicultural families was analyzed, and the direct and indirect paths of the variables were investigated.

Hypothetical model

The literature concerned was analyzed to set up a conceptual framework, and a hypothetical model was set up. The factors that affected domestic violence in multicultural families were divided into personal and environmental ones, and then the two kinds of factors were analyzed. Self-control was selected as a personal factor which referred to the ability to change or regulate one's own behavior, thinking or emotion [10]. There are environmental factors that tangible and intangible resources provided by others like social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress. Further, self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress, which are exogenous variable found to be important for the explanation of domestic violence in multicultural families, have an impact on relieving or worsening domestic violence by interacting with dysfunctional communication, which is an endogenous variable [2,3,7–12]. Also dysfunctional communication seems to provoke family violence further as a mediating factor in situations where domestic violence may take place.

Accordingly, the hypothetical path model was set up on the assumption that self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin, acculturative stress and dysfunctional communication would exert direct and indirect influence on domestic violence (Figure 1).

Method

Study design

A cross-sectional research study was implemented to determine the factors related to domestic violence of multicultural families on the basis of earlier studies, to set up a hypothetical model for the causal relationship of the selected variables and to verify the goodness of fit of the model.

Setting and samples

Participants in this study were the selected husbands of married immigrant women who resided in the Republic of Korea and who were Vietnamese, Filipino, Chinese, Thai, Cambodian or Mongolian by nationality. As for the sampling method, they were selected by accidental sampling and snowball sampling, which were non-probability sampling methods. Data were gathered from 280 participants, and the answer sheets from 260 of them were analyzed as 20 respondents had inappropriate answers.

In general, the sample size has to be at least 200 or more to reduce sampling errors regardless of the number of the variables covered in a model, since the fit indices make it more possible to test the model accurately in that case. When structural equation modeling is done by maximum likelihood estimation the number of theoretical variables is 11 or less [16]. The sample size of this study met all the required standards.

Ethical considerations

Data were gathered with the approval of the Institutional Review Board of Kangwon National University to protect the participants (KWNJIRB-2014-06-007-002).

Data collection

Data were collected from August 1st through October 2nd, 2014, primarily in the province of K by five researcher E.Y.C, S.J.P, B.S.P, G.Y.G, M.G.B, visiting nurses from public health centers, the heads of the public health centers and social workers from multicultural centers. To ensure consistency, the five research assistants and the people who conducted the survey were educated about the necessity of this study and how to fill out the questionnaires. After the purpose and intent of this study were explained in multicultural family support centers, the municipal branches of the ministry of gender equality and families, general social welfare agencies, church multicultural classrooms and public health centers, surveys were conducted with the permission of these organizations at the dates and locations set by them.

In addition, researcher E.Y.C had opportunities to gather more data while acting as a multicultural education lecturer at a multicultural research center of a university, participating in the self-help gatherings of husbands or married couples from multicultural families and their athletic meetings and assisting their health checkup.

The selected husbands from multicultural families were explained about the purpose of the study, the term of participation, the process, method and expected effects of the study, possible risks and private information exposure, and they were assured that anonymity would be guaranteed and that they could stop
participating in this study anytime. They made it clear that they voluntarily agreed to participate in this study, and then they were surveyed once they had given written consent. When some of them thought there were too many questions in the questionnaire or asked for help to understand it, one-on-one interviews were conducted. It took about 30 or 40 minutes for them to fill out the questionnaires. The answer sheets from 280 respondents were gathered, and data from 260 respondents were analyzed excluding the incomplete ones.

**Instrumentation**

**Self-control**

Self-control refers to individual ability to control domestic violence [17]. Gottfredson and Hirschi developed the instrument for self control and Kim revised and complemented it. It covered impulsivity, simple task, adventure seeking, physical activity, self-centeredness and anger and consisted of 24 items. Four items each were allocated to the variables, and a five-point scale was used. Five points and one point were respectively given to the answer choices “very much” and “never”. A higher score indicated lower self-control.

According to Kaiser’s rule, there were five subfactors whose initial eigenvalue was above 1 when an exploratory factor analysis was made; impulsivity was found not to be fit and was subsequently excluded. Therefore, only the five subfactors were covered when an exploratory factor analysis was made. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value of self-control was .91 and was found to be significant at the $p < .001$ level of significance when Bartlett’s test of sphericity was conducted. Thus, it is appropriate to use factor analysis. When conducting factor analysis, varimax method was used by setting factor loading of 0.4 as the criterion. In total, 21 items were selected, which were classified into five subfactors: simple task, adventure seeking, physical activity, self-centeredness and anger. Their percentage of variance stood at 68.1%. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the inventory of subfactors were the following: simple task .62, adventure seeking .76, physical activity .69, self-centeredness .75, and anger .76 in Kim’s study [17]. In this study, Cronbach $\alpha$ of the total items was .93; for the subfactors, it was simple task .84, adventure seeking .85, physical activity .73, self-centeredness .89, and anger .79.

**Social support**

Park’s Social Support Instrument [18] measures the subjective perception of the husband in a multicultural family on social support provided. It consists of 22 items, which includes 7 items on emotional support, 6 items on informative support, 4 items on material support and 5 items on evaluative support. A 5-point scale is used, and a higher score indicates more social support. When an exploratory factor analysis was made, there were three subfactors whose initial eigenvalue was above 1. Among the subfactors, material support was not found to be properly analyzed by this instrument. Thus, only three subfactors were used when an exploratory factor analysis was made. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value of social support was .93, and was significant at $p < .001$ on Bartlett’s test of sphericity. Therefore, it was appropriate for factor analysis. When a factor analysis was made, 11 items of the three subfactors, which were informative support (5 items), evaluative support (3 items) and emotional support (3 items) explained 71.5% of the total variance. A 5-point Likert scale was used, and a higher score meant stronger social support. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the instrument was .95 in Park’s study [18]. In this study, Cronbach $\alpha$ of the total items was .85, the reliability of subfactors was the following: emotional support .91, informative support .91, and evaluative support .85.

**Family of origin violence experience**

Violence experience from the family of origin refers to experience of being abused by parents and experience of being exposed to the marital violence of parents [19,20]. Experience of Being Abused by Parents, the instrument developed by Straus et al [19] and used by Kim [20], consisted of 20 items on verbal violence and physical violence; 10 items are about violence by the father and 10 items are about violence by the mother.

As for experience of being exposed to the marital violence of parents, Abusive Behavior Inventory developed by Shepard and
Cronbach scale was .91 in Kang and Lee’s study [24]. In this study, the scale is utilized. A higher score meant greater acculturative stress. About delivery of one’s own culture (6 items) and stress about of 21 items. Stress about multiculture acceptance (6 items), stress of the inventory was .86 in Kim’s study [20]. In this study, the Cronbach $\alpha$ was .96; the reliability of subfactors were as follows: violence experience (father) .95, violence experience (mother) .94, and witnessed violence experience .88.

Acculturative stress

The instrument used to measure acculturative stress was a modified version of Acculturative Stress Scale for International Student developed by Snadhu and Asrabadi [22], which was suitable for Korean husbands and used by Lee [23]. This scale consisted of 21 items. Stress about multicultural acceptance (6 items), stress about delivery of one’s own culture (6 items) and stress about perceived discrimination (9 items) are covered, and a 5-point Likert scale is utilized. A higher score meant greater acculturative stress. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the entire scale was .81 in Lee’s study [23]. In this study, the Cronbach $\alpha$ was .85; the reliability of the subfactors was as follows: accommodative stress .91, transmission stress .91, and discriminate stress .85.

Dysfunctional communication

A modified version [9] of Stair’s Dysfunctional Communication Inventory [7] was utilized. Dysfunctional communication is a common way to handle tension as a coping method to defend oneself or herself in a tense situation [7]. This modified version is appropriate for husbands from multicultural families. It consists of 20 items, including 5 items on the placating, 5 items on the blaming, 4 items on the computing and 6 items on the distracting. A 5-point Likert scale is used, and a higher score means more problems with communication. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the entire scale was .84 in Stair’s study [7]. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the inventory was .84 [9]. In this study, the Cronbach $\alpha$ of the total items was .85; the reliability of the subfactors was as follows: placating .80, blaming .84, computing .77, and distractive .85.

Domestic violence

The Conflict Tactics Scale II [24] was used, which was a modified version of Straus’s scale [25]. It consists of 28 items, including 12 items on physical violence (5 for mild violence and 4 for severe violence), 8 items on mental violence (4 for mild violence and 4 for severe violence), 2 items on sexual violence (1 for mild violence and 1 for severe violence) and 6 items on negotiation. Zero was given to the answer choice “never”, and from 1 to 6 where 1 was given to “once a year” and 6 was given to “six times or more a year”. A higher score indicated more violent behavior. The Cronbach $\alpha$ of the entire scale was .91 in Kang and Lee’s study [24]. In this study, the Cronbach $\alpha$ was .89; the reliability of the subfactors was as follows: physical violence .95, psychological violence .94, and negotiation .93.

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS 22.0 (IBM Corp, Armonk, NY, USA) and IBM AMOS 20.0 were employed to analyze the collected data. Descriptive statistics was used to grasp the characteristics of the participants, and Cronbach $\alpha$ of the instruments were calculated to test their reliability. Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to determine the correlation of the variables, and exploratory factor analysis and confirmatory factor analysis were made to measure construct validity. Statistical data on standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis were obtained to check the normality of the sample; $\chi^2/df$, goodness of fit index (GFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI), normed fit index (NFI), comparative fit index (CFI), standard root mean square residual (SRMR), and root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) were utilized to check the goodness of fit of the model. To test the hypothetical model, regression weight, standardized estimates, standardized regression weight, critical ratio and squared multiple correlation were utilized. Finally, the bootstrap of AMOS program was used to check the statistical significance of the direct effects, indirect effects and total effects of the model.

Results

General characteristics and domestic violence-related characteristics of participants

The most dominant age gaps between the husbands and their wives were 11–20 years (50.4%), and some of the husbands were 21 years older or more than their wives (10.8%). The most common length of marriage was between 1 year and 3 years (30.0%), and the average length of marriage was about 5 years. In total, 88.8% of the husbands were employed. As to the channel of marriage, the majority got married through matchmaking agencies (65.0%), and the majority received no education on how to adapt themselves to international marriage either before or after their marriage (67.6%).

As to domestic violence factors related to general characteristics, family violence was more prevalent when the husbands had no occupation ($U = 2,472.00, p = .021$), when they got married with the help of matchmaking agencies ($U = 6,077.50, p = .005$), and when the age gaps between the husbands and their wives were about 11 to 20 years ($F = 3.04, p = .05$) (Table 1).

Correlation of domestic violence-related factors

The correlation of the variables was measured before the hypotheses were tested. As a result, there was the strongest negative correlation between dysfunctional communication and self-control (--.58). The absolute values of the correlation coefficients of the variables were all below .70 which implied that there was no possibility of multicollinearity. The construct reliability was above .70 and average variance expected was above .50. Both were higher than the standards which were above .70 and .50 respectively, and the convergent validity was proven (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>Mean ± SD</th>
<th>F or U</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age differences (yr)</td>
<td>0–10</td>
<td>101 (38.8)</td>
<td>1.59 ± 0.59</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Husband – wife)</td>
<td>11–20</td>
<td>131 (50.4)</td>
<td>1.82 ± 0.80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 21</td>
<td>28 (10.8)</td>
<td>1.66 ± 0.72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage duration (yr)</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>11 (4.2)</td>
<td>1.63 ± 0.76</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>.335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Husband – wife)</td>
<td>1–3</td>
<td>78 (30.0)</td>
<td>1.74 ± 0.79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>62 (23.8)</td>
<td>1.85 ± 0.79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 10</td>
<td>38 (14.6)</td>
<td>1.54 ± 0.44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s job</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>231 (88.8)</td>
<td>1.57 ± 0.67</td>
<td>2.472.00</td>
<td>.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>29 (11.2)</td>
<td>1.97 ± 0.82</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage type</td>
<td>By love</td>
<td>91 (35.0)</td>
<td>1.42 ± 0.51</td>
<td>6.077.50</td>
<td>.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By matching</td>
<td>169 (65.0)</td>
<td>1.72 ± 0.76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International marriage</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>84 (32.3)</td>
<td>1.56 ± 0.70</td>
<td>-.88</td>
<td>.377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>life adaptation</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>176 (67.7)</td>
<td>1.64 ± 0.70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>education experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Therefore, the goodness of fit of the revised model stood at 64.7%, and that of the domestic violence model stood at 64.6% (Table 3).

As a result of measuring the effects of the predictors on the endogenous variable in the revised model, all the self-control ($\beta = -0.65, p < 0.05$), social support ($\beta = 0.28, p < 0.05$), violence experience from the family of origin ($\beta = 0.22, p < 0.01$) and acculturative stress ($\beta = 0.23, p < 0.05$) had direct effects on the endogenous variable of dysfunctional communication as the predictors. Also, self-control produced indirect effects and total effects ($\beta = -0.15, p < 0.05$) when domestic violence was regarded as the endogenous variable, and social support produced indirect effects and total effects ($\beta = 0.07, p < 0.01$) as well. Violence experience from the family of origin produced all the direct effects ($\beta = 0.54, p < 0.05$), indirect effects ($\beta = 0.05, p < 0.01$) and total effects ($\beta = 0.58, p < 0.01$). Acculturative stress also produced all the direct effects ($\beta = 0.22, p < 0.05$), indirect effects ($\beta = 0.05, p < 0.05$) and total effects ($\beta = 0.27, p < 0.05$), and dysfunctional communication had direct effects and total effects ($\beta = 0.23, p < 0.05$) on domestic violence (Table 3, Figure 2).

**Discussions**

In this study, the causal relationships of self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin, acculturative stress and dysfunctional communication to domestic violence in the multicultural families were analyzed to explain the domestic violence of these families in detail.

Among the related factors, violence experience from the family of origin was most influential. More violence experience from the family of origin had a more direct impact on dysfunctional communication and domestic violence, and exercised an indirect influence on domestic violence through dysfunctional communication as well. Studies that found child abuse experience had both direct and indirect impacts on domestic violence also established that violence experience from the family of origin and experience of witnessing domestic violence were the causes that explain wife-assault the most [3,12], and the findings of these studies lend credibility to the findings of this study. As domestic violence exerts

### Table 2 Correlations Among Measured Variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family-of-origin violence experience</td>
<td>.71*</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.64b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysfunctional communication</td>
<td>.87</td>
<td>(&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.455</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social support</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>-.41</td>
<td>.78a</td>
<td>.66a</td>
<td>.66a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self control</td>
<td>-.30</td>
<td>-.58</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>-.45</td>
<td>.80a</td>
<td>.80a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>.39</td>
<td>-.26</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>-.33</td>
<td>.78a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. *construct reliability; aaverage variance extracted.

### Test of hypothetical model

The goodness of fit of the initial hypothetical model into which every variable was inputted did not reach the recommended levels, where $\chi^2/df$ was 2.90; GFI was .84; TLI was .83; NFI was .81; CFI was .90; SRMR was .045 and RMSEA was .08. As a consequence, the paths of the model were modified in consideration of the modification indices, which were one of the AMOS diagnostic indices of the results of the reliability analysis, factor analysis and correlation analysis, and of the theoretical background. As the fact that self-control and social support was not significant on the path toward domestic violence might affect the two variables not to have a significant influence on the variable. Therefore, path that self-control and social support led to family violence was excluded to modify the model.

The goodness of fit of the finalized hypothetical model reached the recommended levels where $\chi^2/df$ was 3.0; GFI was .90; TLI was .92; NFI was .90; CFI was .94; SRMR was .045 and RMSEA was .08. Therefore, the goodness of fit of the revised model seemed to be appropriate.

**Direct, indirect, and total effects of variables on domestic violence**

The path coefficient of the final model was evaluated by estimates of the magnitude of the parameter and its significance. In the final model, the effects between the endogenous variable and the other variables were all significant at the 1.96 ($p < 0.05$) level of fixed index. The explainability of the dysfunctional communication model stood at 64.7%, and that of the domestic violence model stood at 64.6% (Table 3).

### Table 3 Standardized Estimations of Modified Model and Effects of Predictor Variables Modified Model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endogenous variables</th>
<th>Exogenous variables</th>
<th>RW</th>
<th>SRW (β)</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>CR (p)</th>
<th>SMC</th>
<th>Direct effects (SE)</th>
<th>Indirect effects (SE)</th>
<th>Total effects (SE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysfunctional</td>
<td>Self control</td>
<td>-.62</td>
<td>-.65</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>-.62</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>-.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social support</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family-of-origin</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acculturative stress</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.26</td>
<td>(.008)</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>(.008)</td>
<td>.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>Self control</td>
<td>-.14</td>
<td>(.-.15)</td>
<td>(.07)</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>(.07)</td>
<td>(.07)</td>
<td>(.07)</td>
<td>(.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social support</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>(.&lt;.001)</td>
<td>.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family-of-origin</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>.32</td>
<td>(.001)</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>(.001)</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acculturative stress</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>(.001)</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>(.001)</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. CR – critical ratio; RW – regression weights; SE – standardized estimates; SMC – squared multiple correlations; SRW – standardized regression weights.

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. 
a heavy influence on the psychological and behavioral characteristics of the youth in the family [3], the prevention of domestic violence and discreet guidance are both required.

Parent-child relationship should be improved, and an open family climate should be created. In order to cut off the vicious cycle of domestic violence, educational programs that aim at teaching individuals how to get rid of one’s own conflicts from childhood and at improving self-awareness and self-understanding should be provided. In addition, parents should try to strengthen their emotional bond with their children and should be concerned about the matter of domestic violence.

In husbands from multicultural families, heavier acculturative stress exercised a bigger direct influence on dysfunctional communication and domestic violence, and acculturative stress also had an indirect impact on domestic violence through dysfunctional communication. Our findings correspond to the finding of an earlier study which found that the acculturative stress of the husbands of multicultural families was negatively correlated with their marriage adjustment [26]. It confirmed that the acculturative stress of Korean men is one of the major variables. According to the findings of earlier studies and this study, acculturative stress is ultimately followed by domestic violence. This study found that acculturative stress led to domestic violence when dysfunctional communication was added to that, and it was one of the very integral concepts which affected domestic violence. As such, more research efforts should be made by selecting more individuals to ascertain the findings of this study.

Among the types of dysfunctional communication, the husband’s whose communication style was more destructive demonstrated more physical violence towards their wives [27]. This corresponded to the perception that violence toward wives was mostly triggered by dysfunctional marital communication [7]. Therefore the relationship between dysfunctional communication and domestic violence should be analyzed in more detail. In addition, marital communication style, conflict-coping pattern, the relationship of personal characteristics to marital communication and the relationship of communication style and marital violence should closely be studied, and the development of educational programs that deal with these matters is required.

Although poor self-control did not directly lead to domestic violence, it exerted a negative influence on domestic violence through dysfunctional communication. In fact, however, few earlier studies established that self-control affected dysfunctional communication in a direct way, and few studies found that it impacted domestic violence through dysfunctional communication, either. Thus, whether there were any studies that found self-control affected domestic violence in a direct manner was investigated. One study established that lower self-control was followed by more domestic violence [28], which lent credibility to the finding of this study. Therefore it can be said that those whose self-control is lower are less able to keep their own impulse in control, make more efforts to satisfy their own needs and eventually commit more domestic violence. Accordingly, it is necessary to offer the kind of education and intervention programs that aim to teach children to keep themselves in control and regulate themselves when they are likely to show any problem behavior such as violent behavior or when they are carried away by impulse.

Thus, earlier studies found that low self-control had a direct impact on domestic violence, but this study found that self-control provoked domestic violence by the medium of dysfunctional communication. It is difficult to find any earlier study that could lend credibility to the finding of this study. Thus, more research should be implemented to confirm our findings.

Social support could be said to affect domestic violence in an indirect way by the medium of dysfunctional communication, but this study found that stronger social support had a more positive correlation with dysfunctional communication and domestic violence. One study [29] found that individuals to whom social support was provided viewed the support as what they had to rely on or as a sign of their own inferiority or incompetency, and that it resulted in threatening themselves and eventually producing negative consequences. In another study [30], it is assumed that social support or help is a combination of self-threat and self-support, and the reaction of the beneficiaries towards help depends on the relative level of self-threat and self-support. The kind of help that is considered as self-threat evokes negative reactions from the beneficiaries [30]. The finding that excessive social support from others is rather likely to bring negative consequences...
lends credibility to the findings of this study. Accordingly, the degree of social support that is to be provided should be determined in consideration of the characteristics of those who need it instead of merely offering unconditional social support. Of course, social support may promote positive effects, but how the negative consequences of it affect other variables must be discretely studied as well.

Self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress had direct effects on dysfunctional communication. In the case of domestic violence, every variable affected by the medium of dysfunctional communication. No studies have ever established that every related variable impacts domestic violence through dysfunctional communication, but this finding corresponds with the finding of a study [11] which reported that the dysfunctional communication of husbands from multicultural families had partial mediating effects on marital conflicts. In addition, one study [12] found the path that neglect from wives, low self-esteem of husbands, lack of equality awareness and heavy stress stimulate the aggressiveness of the husbands by the medium of inefficient communication and thereby provoke violence. This also lends credibility to the findings of our study as well. In order to reduce domestic violence caused by dysfunctional communication, the government should take proper measures to help multicultural families to understand the relationships of self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress to create appropriate family environments.

The domestic violence prediction model for multicultural families was set up by integrating all the related variables that were found in earlier studies, and the goodness of fit of the model was tested. As a result, the causal, influential relationships of the diverse variables were proven. To reduce domestic violence in multicultural families, the kind of preventive education and intervention program that are comprehensive on accounting for dysfunctional communication, self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress should be prepared, while what effects the education programs might have on domestic violence in multicultural families should carefully be studied.

Conclusion

This study attempted to determine explanatory and predictive factors for domestic violence in multicultural families and the influence of the factors, to set up and test a structural model and ultimately to pave the way for the development of effective nursing intervention strategies geared towards preventing domestic violence in multicultural families. As a result, we found that domestic violence was under the direct influence of dysfunctional communication, and that self-control, social support, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress exerted an indirect influence on domestic violence through the medium of dysfunctional communication. Also, violence experience from the family of origin and acculturative stress were found to have had the direct, indirect and total effects on domestic violence. In order to reduce domestic violence, educational programs that aim at prevention and offering successful intervention should be prepared after the violence experience of the husband from his family of origin and his acculturative stress are accurately measured. In addition, an extensive service system should be established. For instance, multicultural families that are especially vulnerable to domestic violence should be screened, and they should receive help from their local multicultural family support centers to ensure the sustained management of these families. Finally, assistance from the government is mandatory. Given the findings of the study, we give the following suggestions:

The development of successful intervention methods that focus on domestic violence in multicultural families is required, that is, a variety of programs that aim to improve dysfunctional communication should be developed, since the improvement of dysfunctional communication may act as a buffer against domestic violence.

In this study, demographic characteristics were found to be integral variables for domestic violence. In the future, the relationships of more diverse factors that may affect domestic violence in multicultural families should be explored in more detail. For instance, the causal relationships of additional subfactors that may be inserted into the domestic violence prediction model for multicultural families should be precisely investigated.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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References


