

International Conference
"Gender Mainstreaming in Municipalities:
Sharing of the Nordic Experience"

**Denmark Experience on the Combat Against
Domestic Violence**



October 4-5, 2018
Vytautas Magnus University, V. Putvinskio g. 23, Kaunas

Tiahes Thiaharaja 05-10-2018

Tiaheswery Thiaharaja

- Coming from Denmark
- The birth in Sri Lanka
- Living in Holstebro 30 years
- 54 years old
- Have been married. I now live together with my partner.
- I have 2 girls from my earlier marriage (27 years, 24 years)
- My partner has 2 boys from his earlier marriage (21 years, 20 years)
- All four children have been living with us for 20 years

CV

- Occupational Therapist
- Culture Coordinator
- Teacher (mother language and south Indian dance)
- Adult Educator
- Interpreter
- Consultant (municipalities, hospitals, shelters, kindergartens and schools)
- Chairman for culture and volunteering organization,
- Chairman for Integrations advice group,
- Chairman for neighborhood mothers group, and
- Assistant chairman for neighborhood mothers land organization's group
- Hobbies - dance and music

What is Violence

“Violence is any action directed against another person who is designed to harm, hurt or scare this person to do anything against their will or refrain from doing anything they want. ” (Per Isdal, ATV Norway)

There are several forms of Home violence

Physical violence

The sexual violence

The mental violence

The economic violence

The material violence (destruction)

The honour based violence

Home violence is always about a pattern of violent behavior by one partner against another in an intimate relationship .Often the violence escalates and ends in what is commonly called the violence spiral

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Violence in the family and in close relationships is a serious problem; regardless of who is exposed to violence, for the children who perpetrate violence, for the individual family and for society as a whole. At the same time, violence is a manifestation of lack of equality and respect between the practitioner and the victim.

Violence in the home at Denmark

Violence in the family and in relationships is still a problem in Denmark.

- Every year about 38,000 women are exposed to violence from a former or present partner.
- Every year approximately 19.000 men are exposed to domestic violence. Most of the violent partners of these men however, are also male
- About 33,000 children grow up in a home with violence, and these children have an increased risk of taking a pattern of violence and / or violence in their relationships in adulthood.

Gender equality is a fundamental value in Danish society. Equality is about everyone having equal opportunities and rights in society. It is about women and men, boys and girls having the opportunity to unfold their potential and participate in society.

Violence in close relationships does not match the perception, Denmark have of a society based on respect and equality.

- Whatever the form and expression of violence, and who it affects, everyone has the right to a life without violence. Therefore, the government takes responsibility for combating violence in the family and in close relationships.
- The danish government is determined to fight this violence. The government has set an ambitious social 2020 goal that by 2020 the proportion of women in women's crisis centers needing more than one stay must be reduced by at least 30%.

Violence in the family and in close relationships exists in societies all over the world

- Violence can create insecurity and
- cause health problems as (depression, anxiety, stress and physical pain in the body ect.)
- It can lead to loss of well-being as well
- It can prevent the individual's quality of life
- It can lead to suicide attempts and in general it can affect our desire to live as humans

Combat violence in the family and in intimate relations

National Action Plan in Denmark

The handling of violence in the family and in close relationships can be fundamentally divided into three phases;

- Detection and prevention,
- Treatment/support/care for people exposed to violence and treatment of perpetrators
- Shelter - Aftercare/reintegration

The action plan complements existing efforts in the social, health and justice system, but develops At the same time, new ideas for solutions and prioritize new areas.

National Action Plan in Denmark

4 Efforts to combat violence in the family and near relations

1. Building knowledge and strengthened handling of the various forms of violence in the family and in close relationships
2. Strengthened efforts and more knowledge about violence's exposed men
3. Early action in relation to young people who are subject to charity violence (Dating violence)
4. Increased information and debate on the consequences of violence in close relationships

1. Building knowledge and strengthened handling of the various forms of violence in the family and in close relationships

- National hotline for all vulnerable persons who experience violence in relationships
- Knowledge and information material for professionals about mutual violence in the family, etc
- Relevant advice and support for different target groups
- Concrete offerings for counseling, information and support to vulnerable to various forms of violence.
- Family counseling that puts in mind the problems in the overall family, while individual family members individual problems handled.
- Attempts with temporary housing for men who experience violence in relationships (Men center)
- Development and implementation of a risk assessment tool as well as the development of guidance materials and education in the policy circles on stalking
- Enhanced preventive and informative action against women of ethnic minority backgrounds, including women who have been in a shelter.

2. Strengthened efforts and more knowledge about the men who practices violence in relationships and the men who suffer from violence in relationships

- Knowledge of men's needs and situations develops so that their efforts can be strengthened
- Development of social, legal and psychological support for victims of violence
- Knowledge to professionals about violent men
- Developing ideas for solutions regarding counseling, information and concrete support for victims of violence.
- Relevant advice and support
- Men Centers

3. Early action in relation to young people who are subject to charity violence(dating violence)

- Specific information efforts are being implemented for young people about the consequences of child welfare violence.
- Information and education about Violence in schools.
- Awareness campaigns.
- Counseling, support and treatment are developed and tested targeted young people exposed to charity violence

4. Increased information and debate on the consequences of violence in close relationships

- Knowledge and information is collected on the extent and nature of various forms of violence in the family.
- Communicates knowledge about violence to the population to contribute to increased respect and gender equality.
- Information is communicated to the perpetrators and professionals in order to increase their knowledge about the consequences of violence and violence signals, as well as what options are available for support and assistance.
- Evaluation of the action plan

1. Detection and prevention

The municipalities have a duty to offer citizens advice and guidance. If during this process it appears that a citizen needs services in accordance with the legislation, the municipalities must refer the citizen to the correct instance. Through early advice and guidance, municipal prosecutors can help prevent conflicts escalating into violence and minimize the harmful effects of violence.

Doctors and health professionals have gained insight into family violence and close relationships, with the help of the National Board of Health, and thus identify the signs of violence and ask patients relevant questions about suspected violence. In case of violence, doctors and healthcare professionals can advise the people where they can seek support and assistance.

Through education doctors and health professionals are receiving the right tools to deal with these issues.

The Police Commissioner, which has overall responsibility for the police efforts to prevent and combat violence in the family and in close relationships, has established a National Prevention Center, which aims to orient, coordinate and support police forces' crime prevention efforts, including the prevention of violence in close relationships.

Police students at the new basic education at the Political School are taught in the topic of "violence against women" as an independent theme of the education's prevention module.

However, the fight against violence in close relationships is mainly rooted in the police districts.

The political circles focus on the area being handled purposefully and professionally, also with regard to timely prevention, and several police forces are active in the prevention of violence, including the prevention of violence. in relation to preventing violence between lovers with presentations on this topic at schools.

Several police forces have drawn up operational plans in this area, and the circles also cooperate with relevant external actors, including The National Organization of Women's Crisis Centers (LOKK) and Dialogue Against Violence.

2) Treatment and support for the victims of violence and treatment of the victim

- Both the municipalities and the volunteer actors play an important role in the treatment and supportive efforts. Section 109 of the Service Act obliges municipalities to ensure that there is the required number of temporary housing for women exposed to violence or threats of violence in close relationships. On the housing offer support and care, protection and counseling, and measures for accompanying children.

Men who are subjected to violence from a partner who are in need of leaving the home will be able to stay in a nursing home or other residence, according to section 110 of the Service Act.

Health professionals at the country's emergency services provide emergency treatment and care. The staff in general practice and midwives meet the victims of violence at the hospital and in consultations and can also play an important role in detecting the victims of violence. Health professionals have the opportunity to help communicate with relevant social authorities or shelters in connection with the treatment of victims.

Healthcare professionals are subject to the extended notification requirement if healthcare professionals during treatment and care of children and adolescents under 18 are acquainted with circumstances that presuppose that the child or young person needs special support.

3) Aftercare/reintegration.

The Danish Act on Social Services does not contain specific provisions on aftercare.

According to the Service Act or other legislation, including the Act on Active Employment, etc. Violent women can also be offered a trade plan to support their return to a life outside of the shelter. The municipalities have a special obligation to violent women with children to provide so-called family counseling in connection with the dissolution of a shelter. Family counseling should help the woman be helped to establish herself in a new and independent existence in terms of employment, housing, children's schooling, etc. Children included in a shelter must be offered psychological assistance. Part of family counseling can take place after the woman has left the shelter.

Legal action

The Director of Public Prosecutions holds the overall responsibility for the prosecution's handling of criminal cases, including cases of violence in intimate relations.

the police districts are based on the general principles of investigation, formal charging and punishment, and both the police and the prosecution focus significantly on ensuring efficient investigation and legal action as regards criminal offences in respect of violence in intimate relations.

Holstebro municipality following governments action plan and they take care of children from infant age.

"Any concern, suspicion or knowledge that a child / young is mistaken or subjected to abuse should always be taken seriously. This has to be treated!"

Purpose of preparedness Early detection and professionally qualified handling of cases where children and young people are exposed to violence and sexual abuse or suspected of this.

- That employees and managers get knowledge of violence and sexual abuse
- Manuals for employees and
- The right help for children, young people and parents.
- Prevention and follow-up.

Responding to suspicion or knowledge of physical, mental or sexual assault, the family section must be informed”

Activities aimed at professional groups

- Development of professional manuals
- More education, information and knowledge to many professionals to handle. cases of violence in family.
- Legal advice for professionals
- Upgrading the shelters' knowledge of ethnic minority women and children
- Further training of staff in the municipalities

“It is important for an early detection of violence and sexual assault. The earlier abuse is detected, the better you can treat the child's trauma and prevent serious sequences. Therefore, it is important to know what signs and signals the child can display when subjected to abuse”

In the municipality of Holstebro, interdisciplinary advisory forums (schools, Health service, police and municipality (SSP)) have been set up, where the daycare area and schools can anonymously discuss or, in agreement with the parents, questions about the well-being of children and young people, the parents and the child or the young person may attend the meeting. There should be children and young people and their families who do not already have a case in the family section.

Signs and signals depend on the age and maturity of the children.

Examples:

- Severe sexual or violent behavior.
- Suddenly changed behavior (as mentioned earlier
- Unmotivated crying, anxiety symptoms and insecurity.
- Physical signs, such as bruises, scratches, sores, burns, and bleeding.
- Sleep disorders.
- Eating disorders
- Involuntary urination and / or stools.
- Psychosomatic symptoms.
- Whether outreaching behavior with aggression
- Concentration difficulties.
- Make self-esteem, helplessness and passivity.
- Anxiety, abandonment and depression.

If employees at schools, day care, health care, dental care, PPR, etc. observes or gets knowledge of a child or a young person n has been subjected to violence or sexual assault n has visible signs of violence or sexual assault Contact the family section's emergency department immediately.

The emergency guard will request the notified to send a written notice and advise on how it is prepared. The notification is obtained as soon as possible. The emergency guard decides how to protect the child from further abuse, etc. The case will be discussed with the police and a possible consideration will be given.

Helping spots:

- ❖ Alcohol treatment
- ❖ Drug abuse treatment
- ❖ Crisis center.
- ❖ Man center.
- ❖ Hotline for violence affected
- ❖ Advice and guidance ect...

Reference:

Holstebro municipality website

Forigen ministry Home page

Lokk Home page

Askov Funds (Dialog against violence) Home page

Thankyou