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Validity and reliability study of women's violence perception scale (WVPS)*

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Abstract

The types of behaviour women in Turkey perceive in their marital union as violence was attempted to be determined by "Women's Violence Perception Scale- WVPS" which was developed in this study. According to the data obtained from this scale, which reveals the perception of domestic violence, the perceptions of violence of the study group and their sensitivity to violence were found to be very high. With convenience sampling, 510 participants were reached through social media accounts of various women's organizations. On the other hand, as a result of the reliability calculation of the scale, the alpha value was found to be 0.98. It is seen that WVPS explains a very high rate of 83.91% of total variance. As a result of the factor analysis, it was revealed that the scale consists of 5 dimensions: physical, sexual, psychological, verbal and economic violence. By applying the Confirmatory Factor to the scale, the five-dimensional structure obtained by exploratory factor analysis was tested. In addition to the Confirmatory Factor Analysis results, the fit indices obtained with the Exploratory Factor Analysis results were at the desired levels. With this study, it was revealed that the Women's Violence Perception Scale was reliable and valid.

Keywords: Perception of Violence of Women, WVPS, Perception Scale, Validity, Reliability

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1. INTRODUCTION

Violence now has both an external force that captures and steals freedom, and an internal topology drawn towards the capillaries and nerve endings (Han, 2017: 71). This topology of violence shows that there are different types of violence in both individual and social relations. In this study, which deals with the issue of violence in individual relationships, the issue of domestic violence in marriage was specifically studied. It is thought that the issue of domestic violence is seen as a private issue and gathering information from the women who do not know about the types of violence and about which violence they experience is one of the biggest problems of quantitative research. In particular, gathering information about other forms of violence other than physical violence creates serious doubts about the reliability of these studies. The reason for separating physical violence from other types of violence is that it is visible and easy to prove. On the other hand, demonstrations, meetings, actions, book translations, various magazines published and slogans, which increase awareness of physical violence against women, have a great effect on the high perception of physical violence. For this reason, physical violence is the most perceived type of violence studied.

It is thought that the perception of physical violence is easier to perceive than other types of violence. But the perception about other forms of violence cannot be expected to be as high as in physical violence. This can be said to be related to the time spent in the fight against that type of violence. For example, struggling against sexual assault is not yet as effective as fighting against physical violence. In the early years of fighting against violence against women, sexual harassment is difficult to address even by feminist activists. Because the concept is translation from English, it is foreign to Turkish. Şule Aytaç used the following statement while evaluating the awareness-raising activities at that time: "I remember that we had discussed for months in order to persuade ourselves to accept the concept of sexual harassment in marriage" (Aytaç, 2005: 53). So, the perception of the society about physical violence is much clearer and it is easier to gather information about this type of violence, but it is not possible to say the same thing about other types of violence.

On the other hand, it is not possible for all violent behaviours to be written in legal texts. Because behaviours that are accepted as violence are related to whether people perceive that situation as violence or not. For example, stating that the partner is weak or overweight may be perceived as verbal violence by the other partner. However, some women may not perceive it as violence. This complicates the issue of intimate partner violence.

Perception is a matter of being aware of something. If a person perceives something, it can be said that he has encountered that thing before and started to add meaning to it. One cannot know what he has not encountered before. He has no perception of something he does not know. Therefore, for the perception of violence to occur, it is crucial for the person to be aware of the existence of that situation in any way. Violent behaviour that is encountered in a way in childhood, in the family, at school, at work, on the street, in a friendly environment, etc. is now a phenomenon that is imbedded in the perception of the person. For example, the expression "there are many vitamins in orange" means that the person has an awareness, knowledge, belief, interest and perception towards the orange (Çöllü & Öztürk, 2006: 377-379).

Women do not perceive the violence they are exposed to by their spouses as a serious problem due to social acceptance, they are afraid that their children will be unhappy, they think their spouses will change, they do not know where to apply, and 89% do not apply to institutions to cope with violence because of their negative perceptions about the institution (KYŞ, 2015: 36). Moreover, the fact that one does not specify the behaviours which restrict and spoil-exort their own rights and freedom as "absolutely violence" causes them to form a basis for legitimacy against violent behaviour. This situation turns violence into a cycle that continues for generations.

As stated above, the laws are not explicitly stated in the legal texts which behaviour is violent. The most reasonable reason for this is that violent

behaviours can vary greatly. Therefore, the only condition for an act to be accepted as violence according to the law is that it has been committed on a gender basis. In the Istanbul Convention (2011: Article 3a), which is the international legal regulation, it is seen that all gender-based acts of violence that will result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm and suffering from violence against women are accepted as violence.

Gender, on the other hand, is the roles, behaviours and actions that are imposed on women and men and socially constructed, unlike biological sex (Istanbul Convention, 2011: article 3c). In the definition of the concept of gender, there are values, expectations, stereotypes and roles about how society sees us, how it perceives, how we think and expect us to act, not biological differences (Akın and Demirel, 2003: 73-74). Borrowed from Simon de Beauvoir and frequently used by feminists, the phrase "woman is not born, woman becomes" emphasizes that gender roles are learned during the socialization process (De Beauvoir, 1993). In this context, it is thought that women's problems should be solved in the context of gender (Berktay, 2016: 16).

As a result, with the national and international legal regulations the definition of violence and types of violence are broadly approached. Even, criminal proceedings are applied. In this case, it can be thought that the level of violence increases. However, actually the base of violence is expanding. Whether certain types of behaviours which are accepted as violence according to regulations are perceived as violence in the eyes of individuals constitutes the research question of this study.

2. WOMEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LITERATURE

The violence against women literature has grown rapidly in the last 30 years in the field of social sciences unlike any other subject (Özkazanç & Yetiş, 2016: 13). Domestic violence against women is seen as a psychological and poverty problem until the late 1960s. For this reason, in the "Journal of Marriage and Family",

which started to be published in 1939, no articles were published on domestic violence for the first thirty years (Altınay and Arat: 2008: 50). The first study in the literature to detect conflicts in the family is the Conflict Tactics Scale developed in 1979 (Straus, 1979). The study Behind Closed Doors: Violence in American Families carried out with CTS reached the judgment that the American family is an institution full of violence. Straus et al. (1980). According to the results of the study, it was determined that the minor violence experienced by women at any stage of marriage life was 28% and the major violence was 8%.

At the end of the 1980s, there was a difference in method in women's studies. Considering the sensitivity of the subject, more women-oriented working methods have been used. For this reason, CTS-based studies have been criticized for not considering the context of violence, not measuring the consequences of violence, and not containing questions about the types of sexual and economic violence, and ignoring the power relations between men and women. Later, the CTS scale was restructured in the 1990s. This scale is CTS developed in 1996. This scale is currently being used by researchers in Turkey and analyse the validity and reliability on different samples (Dönmez et al., 2012; Gülmez, 2014, Aba and Kulakaç, 2016). Thompson et al. (2006) have turned the scales used to measure domestic violence against women into a book. The book mentioned consists of about twenty scales published in refereed journals or books, evaluated for psychometric properties, reliability, validity measurements were made, not adapted from other scales and developed by the author himself. CTS2 is one of the scales that takes place in this book.

It is observed that using scale or non-scaled studies are generally aimed at determining which behaviour and how often women are exposed to that behaviour. Therefore, the data obtained gives us information about the change of behaviour exposed to by years. In addition to studies that measure the frequency of violence against women, there are also studies that measure the level of violence. However, these studies are rare studies when compared

to studies that determine the frequency of violence. Generally, while determining the level of violence, the types of violence are considered minor (moderate) or major (severe). For example, the study of the Domestic Violence (AİŞE, 1998) takes place within administrative-based studies carried out Turkey in general are evaluated in this way. However, these studies are not at scale level. They are expressed in this way to show the degree of physical violence.

Domestic violence studies mostly focus on the situations of women's exposure to violence and the prevalence of violence. These studies investigate the conditions under which women accept violence, whether this acceptance status differs according to socio-demographic findings such as education level, employment status and residential area (Vázquez et al. 2019; Carlson et al. 2015; Görgün-Baran et al. , 2016). It is seen that studies on the prevalence of violence are also subject to qualitative research (Ausbrooks, 2010; Nilan et al., 2014). On the other hand, studies to determine the rate of domestic violence are also quite high (AİŞ, 1995; AİŞ, 1998; KYŞ, 2009; KYŞ ÖZET RAPOR, 2014). However, there is no regular statistical information about the level and rate of violence types.

Another study measuring the level of violence within a validity-based scale was conducted by Kılıç (1999). In the study conducted with 1100 women who applied to the Public Health Center in Beşiktaş, District of Istanbul Province in 1999, (min-max: 10-30), it was found that women were mostly exposed to emotional (15.07) and respectively verbal (14.32), economic (14.11), sexual (12.91) and the physical violence (10.77). Apart from the scale Kılıç (1999) developed, İSKEBE Violence against Women Scale developed by Kanbay et al. (2017) and The Violence Against Women Rating Scale, developed by Tuz et al. (2015), was determined.

As a result, there are many studies to determine the prevalence of violence against women in our country. The most important deficiency of violence against women is the reliability of the data in the studies conducted to determine the prevalence. The fact that their studies are frequently carried out with individual efforts

and the lack of a systematic database leaves this situation unresolved. In the bibliography study of Boyacıoğlu (2016: 128), he emphasizes that not only prevalence rates but also forms and levels of violence regarding violence against women should be examined. This study measuring whether different forms of violence are perceived as violence by women or not on a scale contributes to the literature.

3. SCALE DEVELOPMENT AND DATA ACQUISITION METHOD

This study was approved by the [Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Affairs] Ethics Committee [letter dated 23.01.2019 and numbered 94952863-605.01-E.205171]. Voluntary consent was obtained from the participants in the study, and it is declared that the research was conducted in accordance with ethical principles.

In the study, in order to determine women's perception of violence, "Women's Violence Perception Scale" (WVPS) was used. Steps suggested by Crocker and Algina (1986), De Vaus (2002) and Cronbach (1951) were taken into consideration during the development of WVPS. The stages followed during the development of the scale are as follows.

1. Needs Determination: In a scale development study, it is necessary to determine why the scale is needed and which needs it will meet (Seçer, 2015: 45). In this study, it was needed to develop a scale in order to determine the perception levels of women about domestic violence behaviours.

2. Expression of the Behaviours that Meet the Structure to be Measured and the Establishment of the Item Pool: It is expected that the researcher dominates the subjects to be measured in order to develop the data collection tool. Therefore, firstly, training programs for awareness raising about violence against women, literature studies such as articles, books and magazines on violence and support organizations' studies were examined. Similar scales made in the literature were examined. While developing WVPS preliminary interviews were made with 15 women who experienced violence within the scope of the pilot study, and the types of violent behaviours that women were exposed to were

investigated. As a result of the findings obtained from the interviews, it has been observed that the types of violence that women are exposed to include a structure covering the scales of physical violence, economic violence, psychological violence, verbal violence and sexual violence. Types of violent behaviours obtained from qualitative data were taken into account when writing WVPS items. While creating the item pool, five items were written for each dimension, and a total of 40 items were created.

3. Submission of the Item Pool to the Expert Opinion: The items in the item pool were examined by one linguistic expert and two assessment and evaluation experts and asked to evaluate the items in terms of content validity, appearance validity, grammar and semantic clarity. The items in the scale were classified under 5 dimensions that make up the scale and presented to the examination of experts. Experts were asked to comment on whether each item in the item pool meets the dimension to which it belongs. In line with the opinions of the experts, writing some of the articles were changed in. In addition, 7 items were excluded from the item pool "on the grounds that they contain similar statements" in line with expert opinions.

4. Performing Pilot Application Before the Actual Application: Apart from the study group, pilot study were applied to 30 people. In pilot application, a very reliable value such as Cronbach alpha value of .96 was obtained. In addition, after the pilot study, 3 items with low reliability values were excluded from the scale. At the last stage, the scale was determined as 30 items.

5. Collection of Data by Real Implementation on the Study Group: In cases where it is not possible to reach the entire target audience, sampling method is used. Sampling is important for gathering information in a short time by using few human resources and material resources (Büyüköztürk, 2019: 81). The target group of this study is women who are married or have marital experience. In this study, easily accessible sampling method was used. The easy sampling method aims to collect data from the participants quickly and easily until the sample

size it needs is reached. A questionnaire was applied to 510 women who are married or have marital experience (divorced, widowed or live separately). The participants who left any part of the questionnaire blank were excluded from the evaluation. As a result, the analyzes were done on 475 questionnaires.

By giving the necessary information in the scale form before the scale is applied, it was emphasized that there are no right or wrong answers in the scale and each answer reflects completely personal opinions and beliefs. The participants were asked to fill the scale on a voluntary basis. Data were collected online from Turkiye between January and March 2019.

6. Interpretation of Score from Scale: Answers to 30 items in the perception of violence scale were subjected to a 5-point Likert rating. A minimum of 30 and a maximum of 150 points can be obtained from the perception scale. In order to evaluate the violence perception score, the score calculation of the scale was standardized. Accordingly, the total score obtained from 30 questions asked to determine the perception of violence was divided by the number of questions, and the average score given for each question was found, which indicates the person's level of perception of violence. In this scaling system ranging from 1 to 5, 1 shows that the perception of violence of women is very low and 5 shows that it is quite high.

Answers to the items in the scale; absolutely disagree 1, disagree 2, neither agree nor disagree 3, agree 4 and strongly agree 5. In the comments on what the item ranges mean, the score ranges in Table 1 are based on. As it can be seen in Table 1, the perception of violence of women increases as the scores obtained from WVPS increase.

7. Validity and Reliability Practices: Validity means that the scores obtained from the participants are significant indicators of the measured structure. Three validity criteria are used in quantitative research (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2018: 224). The first one is "scope validity". That is, how the experts evaluate test items or whether questions represent possible items is valid. In this study, it has been decided

by the people who are experts in various branches that it is appropriate to create item pool and remove necessary items after the analyzes. Thus, scope validity is provided. Other validity criteria are "criterion validity" and "structural validity". Criterion validity looks for evidence whether scores are related to some external standards, such as scores from a similar tool, and construct validity seeks evidence of whether items measure what is intended to be measured (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018: 224).

- Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA): Factor analysis is carried out to obtain evidence of the validity of the structure established in the scale development studies. Factor analysis is a statistical technique used to turn a large number of variables that are thought to be related to each other into few, meaningful and independent factors (Çokluk et al., 2014: 177). The purpose of the analysis is to decrease the number of variables and to reveal the related structure between the variables. The important point here is to ensure that there is no correlation between the factors obtained from the analysis (Kalaycı, 2010: 321; Punch, 2011: 125).

- Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA): CFA is performed to evaluate the factors and scale structure resulting from EFA. In other words, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was applied to ensure the validity of the data obtained from the scale. AMOS program was used in this study. For the compliance of the CFA model, the chi-square divided by the degree of freedom ($\chi2$ / sd), the general fit index (GFI), the adjusted goodness fit index (AGFI), the mean square root of errors (RMSEA), the incremental fit index (IFI) and the comparative fit index (CFI) values were

taken as criteria (Kline, 2011).

4. FINDINGS AND COMMENTS

4.1. Socio Demographic Findings

A poll conducted online, participation all over Turkey has been observed. The regional distribution graph of the participants, whose geographic region can be determined, is shown in Chart 1. According to Chart 1, the highest participation was in the Marmara Region with 31%. This is followed by the Black Sea (26%), Central Anatolia (14%), Aegean (11%), Mediterranean (8%), Eastern Anatolia (7%) and Southeast Anatolia (3%) regions.

If the reliability and validity of the scale are investigated, if there are significant differences between the sample and the sample to which the scale will be used later, reliability and validity may need to be recalculated (Çetinbaş et al., 2014). Therefore, information about the socio-demographic information of the participants should be shared. For this reason, detailed socio-demographic data of the participants are given in Table 2. According to Table 2, 26.1% of the participants in the study are in the 20-29 age group, 57.3% in the 30-44 age group and 16.6% in the 45 and older age group. Accordingly, it can be said that a significant proportion of the participants in the research are young and middle-aged women.

Most of the participants (57.3%) are over the age of 30. When the marriage age range of women is analyzed, it is seen that 7.6% of them are under the age of 18, 29.7% of them are 19-24 years old, 62.7% of them are 25 years old and above. Accordingly, it can be said that a significant

Table 1. The Intervals and Their Meaning Based on the Interpretation of the Scores Received from the Scale

	Expressions	Score Range	Violence Perception Level
Women's Perception of Violence Expressions	Absolutely disagree	1,00-1,80	Very little perception of violence
	I disagree	1,81-2,60	Low perception of violence
	Neither agree nor disagree	2,61-3,40	Moderate perception of violence
	I agree	3,41-4,20	High level of perception of violence
	Strongly agree	4,21-5,00	Very high level of violence perception

proportion of the participants in the research are married at 25 and over. It is seen that 5.9% of the participants in the study are primary school / middle school graduates, 25.7% are high school and equivalent graduates, 68.4% are university and post graduates. Accordingly, it is noteworthy that the group, which constitutes 68.4% of the participants, consists of individuals who have higher education. It can be said that this education level elevation originated from the member profile of the women's non-governmental organizations that our questionnaire reached. Likewise, in order to respond to an online survey, it is necessary to be at a certain educational level. For this reason, there are no people in our study who are illiterate and have not completed primary school. According to the findings, 30.9% of women do not work, while the remaining 69.1% work. On the other hand, 68% of the participants defined themselves as narrow and / or middle income, 32% defined as upper-middle and / or upper-

income. Here, the income of the participants is considered as the total amount of money entering the household. In this case, if the person works while answering this question, he is expected to answer by considering his own income. There is no discrimination between family income and one's own income. It is understood that 79% of the participants live in the city and 20.4% in the countryside. Finally, 90.9% of women made consent-based marriage, while 9.1% made non-consensus marriage.

4.2. Statistical Analysis Findings Concerning the Validity and Reliability of Items

Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) should be performed to determine the construct validity of the scale. However, in order to understand whether the data set obtained from the research is suitable for factor analysis, and to indicate whether the sample size is sufficient Barlett Sphericity test and Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test should be performed. If the KMO value is

Table 2. Socio-Demographic Findings of the Participants in the Research

Age	N	%	Working Status	N	%
16-19	0	---	Not working	147	30.9
20-29	124	26.1	Working	328	69.1
30-44	272	57.3	Total	475	100.0
45 +	79	16.6	**Income**	**N**	**%**
Total	475	100.0	Low and middle income	323	68.0
Marriage Age Range	**N**	**%**	High income	152	32.0
under 18 years old	36	7.6	Total	475	100.0
19-24	141	29.7	**Settled area**	**N**	**%**
25 +	298	62.7	Rural district	97	20.4
Total	475	100.0	City	378	79.6
Education Level	**N**	**%**	Total	475	100.0
primary and secondary schoollise	28	5.9	**Marriage type**	**N**	**%**
High school	122	25.7	With consent	432	90.9
Higher education	325	68.4	Without consent	43	9.1
Total	475	100.0	Total	475	100.0

greater than .50, it means that each variable in the scale can predict other variables. If the KMO value is below 0.50, the data set is not suitable for factor analysis. 0.50 is weak, 0.60 is moderate, 0.70 is good, 0.80 is very good and 0.90 is perfect for factor analysis (Kalaycı, 2010: 322; Field, 2009). As a result of the analysis made in this study, the KMO sample adequacy coefficient was calculated as (0.972) and it was found to be significant as a result of the Barlett Sphericity test ($\chi 2$ = 22374,685, df = 435; p <.01). Therefore, the data obtained from the scale were found to be suitable for factor analysis. Variables that have low variance in factor analysis (for example below 0.50) can be removed from the analysis and factor analysis can be conducted again. In this case, both KMO and explained variance value statistics will reach higher value (Kalaycı, 2010: 321). According to the results of the EFA, the analysis was repeated by removing the items 8 and 12 from the scale in the first stage. Factors obtained as a result of repetitive analysis are shown in Table 3. Factors with eigenvalue greater than 1 are considered significant (Kalaycı, 2010: 321).

Eigenvalues and variances of the factors reached as a result of EFA are given in Table 3. When Table 3 is analyzed, it can be seen that WPVS consisting of 5 dimensions explained a very high rate of 83.91% of total variance. According to Kline (2011), it is sufficient that the total variance explained in scales consisting of more than one dimension is above 41%. 29,74% of the total explained variance is the first dimension, 18,15% is the second dimension, 16,04% is the third

dimension, 13,66% is the fourth dimension and 6,31% is the fifth dimension. As a result of these findings, the factor loads and the distribution of the items according to the factors are shown in Table 4.

As can be seen in Table 4, the factor loads of the items that make up the physical violence dimension vary between .67 and .81. The items that make up the verbal violence dimension are between .64 and .72; the items that make up the economic dimension vary between .56 and .80. The items that make up the psychological violence dimension vary between .64 and .71 and the items that make up the sexual violence dimension vary between .53 and .86. The alpha value of the scale was found to be .98 as a result of the reliability calculation. This value shows that the scale is highly reliable. Findings regarding the reliability of the sub-dimensions are given in Table 5.

As it can be seen in Table 5, the sub-dimensions that constitute WVPS emerged at a highly reliable level. The alpha coefficient of the sexual violence dimension consisting of only 2 items was moderately reliable. The fact that the sexual violence dimension consists of two items is not an obstacle for factor formation. According to Yong and Pearce (2013: 80), one factor can consist of two items. However, the correlation between the two items should be above .70 and not related to other factors. On the other hand, according to Field (2009), if the number of items is 10 and below, the alpha value above .60 can be seen as a sufficient condition for reliability. Considering

Table 3. Demonstration of the Factorial Structure of WVPS

Factors	Eigenvalue	Percentage of Variance (%)	Percentage of total variance (%)
Physical violence	8,328	29,743	29,743
Verbal violence	5,082	18,152	47,894
Economic violence	4,493	16,048	63,942
Psychological violence	3,825	13,662	77,605
Sexual violence	1,768	6,313	83,917

that the total alpha coefficient of the scale is .98, it can be said that it is a highly reliable scale.

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was applied to ensure the validity of the data obtained from

Table 4. Scale Items According to Dimensions and Factor Loads of Items

Dimensions	Item no	1st Dimension	2nd Dimension	3rd Dimension	4th Dimension	5th Dimension
Physical violence	29	,816				
	27	,810				
	24	,778				
	26	,774				
	25	,768				
	10	,759				
	9	,757				
	7	,728				
	6	,721				
	15	,669				
Verbal violence	18		,722			
	20		,715			
	21		,686			
	22		,677			
	23		,671			
	17		,647			
	19		,642			
Economic violence	3			,801		
	2			,727		
	1			,713		
	4			,700		
	5			,560		
Psychological violence	11				,712	
	14				,707	
	16				,672	
	13				,642	
Sexual violence	28					,868
	30					,532

Table 5. Alpha Reliability Values of Sub-Dimensions of WVPS

Dimensions	Items	Alpha Value
Physical violence	6. Slap 7. Physical suffering (eg pushing, squeezing, pulling your hair) 9. Hitting with an object (For example; stick, stone…) 10. Throwing away from the street 15. Imprisoning Home 24. Forcing to watch violent images (For example, watching pornographic images, beating, torture images) 25. Forcing sexual intercourse 26. Forcing sexual intercourse in an uncomfortable environment (For example, in a guest house, a mother's home, in an inappropriate environment) 27. To disturb sex in a disturbing position 29. Taking action that damages the body and the genitals (For example, quenching cigarettes	.98
Verbal violence	17. Forcing a behavior, appearance, or belief 18. Teasing, nickname (For example, weight, height, body shape, body measurements) 19. Preventing contact with family, relatives and friends 20. Describe and envy the relationships he had experienced before. 21. Using children 22. Swearing (For example, to himself, family, friends) 23. Using guilty and derogatory expressions (For example, you are incompetent, you do not know, you cannot do, you do not understand)	.96
Economic violence	1. Confiscating a person's money, earnings, credit card or assets 2. Forcing to work in a job 3. Tightly control financial expenses 4. Here is to prevent working or to leave work 5. Not meeting the needs of the house	.90
Psychological violence	11. Disliking the housework done (For example, the food made, the laundry washed) 13. Constantly forced to account (where did you go, what did you do, who did you talk to) 14. Don't be ignored, pretending not to care 16. Tracking (For example, when going somewhere, on the phone, on the computer)	.92
Sexual violence	28. Failure to meet sexual needs (For example, turning around, escaping from sexual intercourse with excuses such as a headache, I'm tired) 30. Making you feel / say that you are sexually missing / inadequate	.73
Scale-wide	All items	.98

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the scale. For the compliance of the CFA model, the chi-square divided by the degree of freedom (χ2 / sd), the general fit index (GFI), the adjusted goodness fit index (AGFI), the mean square root of errors (RMSEA), the incremental fit index (IFI) and the comparative fit index (CFI) values were taken as criteria (Çelik & Yılmaz, 2013; Kline, 2011).

In CFA analysis, theoretically supported error bindings (modifications) were made between the variables in order to improve the fit index values for the relevant model. The five-dimensional structure obtained by Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was tested by applying DFA to WVPS. The achieved CFA results gave consistent results with the results obtained with EFA and the fit indices were at the desired levels (χ2 = 1341,565, df = 323, p <0.01, χ2 / df = 4.153, RMSEA = 0.08, AGFI = 0 , 85, GFI = .85, IFI = .95, CFI = .95). The values of the fit indices applied to determine the adequacy of the theoretical model in accordance with the data obtained with the CFA analysis and the fit values of the CFA model are given in Table 6.

As can be seen in Table 6, the theoretical model tested has a structure compatible with the data set and the model fit indexes are at an acceptable level. Since the χ2 statistic is affected by the sample size very quickly, χ2 / sd ratio which is less affected by the sample is a criterion that can be used instead (Waltz, Strcikland and Lenz 2010). The fact that the value of χ2/sd is between

2 and 3 shows that the model is admissibly compatible with the data is the first parameter (Kline, 2011). However, another view regarding this value obtained by dividing χ2 value by degree of freedom is that this value should be two or less. On the other hand, five or less is an acceptable value (Munro, 2005; Hooper and Mullen 2008). For this reason, the χ2 / sd value, which was found to be 4.153 in this study, was acknowledged as acceptable. The RMSEA value, which is another compliance criterion, is below .08, which shows the acceptable compatibility of the model with the data set. The fact that the other fit criteria were also acceptable showed that the tested model generally fit well with the data. CFA applied to WPVS is visualized in Figure 1.

Trial versions of SPSS and AMOS programs were used to analyze the data. For descriptive analysis, frequency (f), arithmetic mean ( ), percentage (%) and standard deviation (s) values were used.

4.3. Levels of Violence Perceptions of the Study Group

Descriptive statistics regarding the level of perception of violence of the working group are shown in Table 7.

As seen in Table 7, the average of perception of violence of the study group is at the level of "very high level of perception of violence". Based on these findings, it can be interpreted that the study group's perceptions of violence and their sensitivity to violence are very high. According

Table 6. Fit Values of the Fit Indexes Applied for * and Fit Values of the Model

Fit Indices	Perfect Fit Criteria	Acceptable Compliance Criteria	Fit Indices of the Model	Decision
χ2/sd	0 ≤ χ2/sd ≤ 2	2 ≤ χ2/sd ≤ 3	4,153	Acceptable Compliance
RMSEA	.00 ≤ RMSEA ≤ .05	.05 ≤ RMSEA ≤ .08	.08	Acceptable Compliance
CFI	.95 ≤ CFI ≤ 1.00	.90 ≤ CFI ≤ .95	.95	Acceptable Compliance
GFI	.95 ≤ GFI ≤ 1.00	.90 ≤ GFI ≤ .95	.85	Acceptable Compliance
AGFI	.95 ≤ AGFI ≤ 1.00	.85 ≤ AGFI ≤ .90	.85	Acceptable Compliance
IFI	.95 ≤ IFI ≤ 1.00	.90 ≤ IFI ≤ .95	.95	Acceptable Compliance

*(Çelik & Yılmaz, 2013; Çokluk, Şekercioğlu & Büyüköztürk, 2014)

to Table 7, it is seen that the perception of sexual violence among the violence types is relatively lower (4.13).

5. RESULTS

In this study, women with a high level of education is very high in number (68% are higher education graduates). The majority of women have working experience (69%). For

these reasons, it is thought that the perception of violence of women is at a very high level.

Violence against women is a violation of human rights all over the world and as well as one of the major problems encountered in Turkey. It is seen that the studies focused on the prevalence and frequency of violence throughout life. Since there is no standard measurement in such studies, the
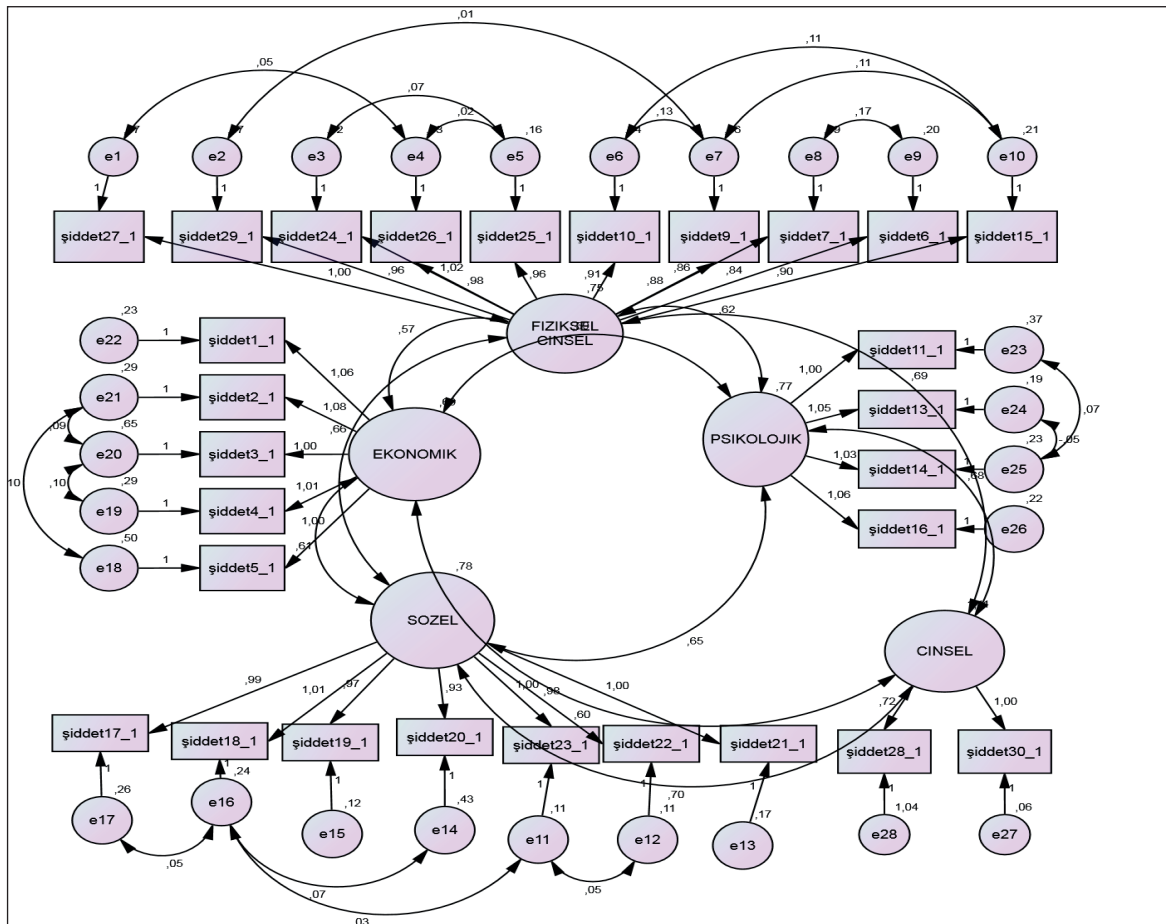

Figure 1. Women's Violence Perception Scale CFA Results

Table 7. Violence Perception Levels of the Working Group

Dimensions	$\overline{X}$	S	Violence Perception Level
Physical violence	4,67	.82	Very high level of perception of violence
Verbal violence	4,49	.88	Very high level of perception of violence
Economic violence	4,23	.90	Very high level of perception of violence
Psychological violence	4,37	.94	Very high level of perception of violence
Sexual violence	4,13	.98	High level of perception of violence
Scale-wide	4,38	.81	Very high level of perception of violence

prevalence of violence constitutes a wide range according to the selected sample. Therefore, determining the perception of violence as well as the prevalence rate is crucial for the plans and policies to be made. As a result, it is important whether or not a behaviour that is encountered is accepted as violence in the law, but it is also important for people to perceive these behaviours as violence so as to claim legal rights. In determining the perception of violence, researchers should be attentive about using a valid and reliable scale because measurement is one of the sine qua non of scientific knowledge. For this reason, Women's Perception of Violence Scale is a reliable method that can be used not only in clinical research, but also in social studies. In addition, it is thought that statistical knowledge will be gained regarding whether the perception of violence against women increases by measuring the perception of domestic violence in marriage regularly by using the Women's Perception of Violence Scale. This scale is also an example of guiding future studies to determine the violent behaviour levels of partners against each other.

As a result of the reliability calculation of the scale, alpha value. 98 was found. This value shows that the scale is highly reliable. It is observed that the Perception of Violence of Women Scale, which consists of 5 dimensions, explains a very high rate of 83.91% of the total variance. By applying CFA to the scale, the five-dimensional structure obtained by exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was tested. The CFA results achieved yielded consistent results with the results obtained with EFA, and fit indices were at desired levels. As a result, it has been revealed that Women's Perception of Violence Scale is reliable and valid. In conclusion, the purpose of this article was to determine the level of perception of violence types. In accordance with this purpose obtaining a five-factor structure indicates that the phenomenon of violence against women is more complex than thought.

Future research could focus on the cross-cultural validity of the Women's Perception of Violence Scale (WPVS) and its application in different socio-cultural contexts. By testing the scale in different regions and cultural settings, researchers could examine how cultural norms, societal values, and legal frameworks influence women's perceptions of violence. Such studies would provide comparative insights into how perceptions of violence vary globally and how these differences affect efforts to address violence against women. In addition, longitudinal studies using the WPVS could examine how interventions, legal reforms or awareness campaigns affect changes in
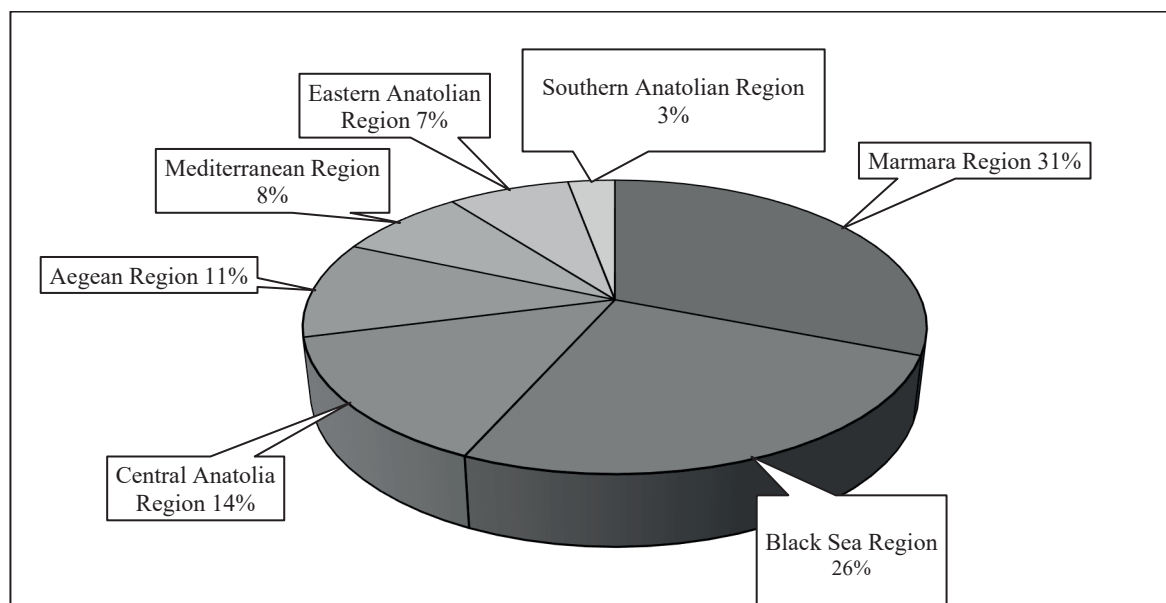

Chart 1. Participation in the Survey According to Geographical Regions (N: 413)

perceptions over time. This approach could also assess whether higher perceptions of violence are associated with increased rates of reporting and legal action.

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