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## **SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WORK**

*Nirbhay Singh, prof. dr. Elvyra Acienė*

Klaipeda University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Social Work

Domestic Violence in close environment is a topical issue in society both in Lithuania, India and around the world. Violence is very widespread and highly rooted in social relationships, but even so far, many people believe that domestic violence is a personal problem. Violence in the family was even considered to be something acceptable under certain conditions what a man can do to a woman (Venis & Horton, 2002).

Domestic violence does not depend on social status, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic origin. (National Strategy for the Eradication of Violence against Women, 2013)

**The aim:** to analyse possibilities of social support for victims of domestic violence in the context of social work.

**Methodology:** Social construction of reality, theory of social roles, social cognitive aggression theories. These theories make possibility to evaluate the phenomenon of domestic violence and to construct the social support for victims of domestic violence in the context of social work. Analysis of scientific literature, documents and quantitative research (questionnaire) revealed that methodological approaches were properly selected.

**Results:** After theoretical analyses of scientific literature and documents we are able to state that main reasons of domestic violence are power of control over victims by blocking communications, economic assets, etc. Empirical research shows that the problem of domestic violence is at large-scale and present. As it is an issue in our society as well as it is a public health issue. The research shows what types of aspects like empathy, active listener, professionalism and in what way like friendliness and in order to identify cases of domestic violence anonymity must to be maintained.

**Conclusions.** According to Witt et al. (2018), Domestic violence is one of the most common issues social workers come across. 97% of the respondents think that domestic violence in one of the primary issue in the social work field. But their role is often not fully understood outside the social work sector. Social workers have worked with victims of domestic violence for years - in the courts, social services, accident and emergency, and in refuges. But their role in helping victims and families is still not well understood.

Social workers are skilled at engaging with the whole family and are able to link the experiences of every member of that family - the victim, the perpetrator and the children.

**Key words:** abuse, abuse in close environment, social work, social support.

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