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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE USA: LEGAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL MEASURES IN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE

Domestic violence is a serious social issue that affects millions of people worldwide, including in the United States. While domestic violence occurs across all demographic groups, certain factors can increase the likelihood of its occurrence. Socioeconomic status, alcohol and substance abuse, and cultural and societal influences are some of the factors that create an environment conducive to family violence. This paper aims to examine the key causes of domestic violence, the socio-psychological impact on individuals, and the role of legal and technological measures in addressing this issue.

1. The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence is significantly more prevalent in families with low socioeconomic status. Research suggests that poverty and economic instability contribute to heightened stress levels, which can lead to an increased risk of intimate partner violence. Families facing financial hardship often experience additional pressures, such as housing instability and food insecurity, that exacerbate conflicts within the household [1, c. 2].

2. Alcohol and Substance Abuse as Risk Factors.

Studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between alcohol abuse and the occurrence of domestic violence. Individuals who consume alcohol excessively are more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior toward their partners. Similarly, drug abuse has been linked to domestic violence, as substance misuse impairs judgment and heightens irritability, often leading to violent outbursts [1, c. 3].

3. Cultural and Societal Influences.

Cultural norms and societal attitudes play a critical role in the prevalence of domestic violence. In certain cultures, traditional gender roles and values may tacitly accept or even condone acts of domestic violence. These ingrained beliefs make it challenging for victims to seek help or speak out against abuse, thus perpetuating cycles of violence across generations [1, c. 6].

4. Women as the Predominant Victims.

In the United States, women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence. Statistics reveal that women aged 18 to 34 are at the highest risk of being victims of intimate partner violence. Domestic violence is also a leading cause of injury and death for women in this age

group, underlining the urgent need for targeted prevention and intervention programs [2, c. 1].

5. Psychological Impact on Children.

Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to develop psychological disorders, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These children are also at a higher risk of exhibiting aggressive behavior themselves, as they may normalize violence as a conflict resolution method. The long-term effects can persist well into adulthood, affecting their future relationships and overall well-being [2, c. 4].

6. Legal Protections and Their Limitations.

Despite advancements in legislation aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence, many challenges remain. Victims often face barriers when seeking legal protection, including fear of retaliation and systemic inadequacies in the enforcement of restraining orders. Efforts to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence continue to be a key focus for policymakers and advocacy groups [3, c. 7].

7. The Role of Technology in Addressing Domestic Violence.

Advances in technology have created both challenges and opportunities in the fight against domestic violence. On one hand, abusers may use technology to stalk or control their victims. On the other hand, new digital tools, such as safety apps and encrypted communication platforms, have been developed to help victims seek assistance discreetly and securely [3, c. 9].

Domestic violence in the USA remains a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach. Despite advancements in legislation and legal protections, many victims still face significant challenges in accessing the support and assistance they need. It is essential to continue efforts to reduce barriers to justice and to equip victims with access to modern safety technologies. By understanding the role of social, economic, and cultural factors in fostering violence, we can develop effective prevention programs and support systems aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic violence in society.

Список використаних джерел

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2. Substance Use & Misuse Journal. Johnson & Parker, 2016. P. 1-4
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