

## Comparing Maternal-Fetus Attachment and Fertility Motivation in pregnant women to have Children in those Affected by Domestic Violence and those who have not

**Ms. Mina Abbasi**

M.Sc. in Midwifery, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, Zanjan, Iran,

**Dr. Roghieh Kharaghani**

Associated Professor, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, Zanjan, Iran.

**Dr. Arezoo Haseli**

Assistant Professor, Family Health and Population Growth Research Center, Health Institute, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran.

### Abstract

**Background:** Pregnant women who experience domestic violence may harm the connection between mother and fetus and heighten discord between partners, impacting the drive and family planning choices of mothers. Therefore, this study compares maternal attachment to the fetus and motivations for childbearing in pregnant women who have and have not experienced violence.

**Methods:** In 2024, a study was carried out in Iran with 292 pregnant women. The study used a descriptive-analytical method to categorize the pregnant women into two groups: non-violent (147) and violent (146). The study employed the demographic-obstetrical questionnaire, the outcomes of the conflict tactics scale (CTS2), the mother's attachment to Cranley's fetus, and Miller's fertility products. For our SPSS 19 data analysis, we used various tests such as Chi-square, Pearson's test, t-test, correlation coefficient, and logistic regression, with a significance level set at  $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ .

**Results:** The group exposed to violence showed lower mother-fetus attachment ( $83.52 \pm 15.63$ ) compared to the non-violent group ( $94.59 \pm 13.71$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was also a significant difference in the motives for having children between the violence-exposed group ( $6.48 \pm 3.11$ ) and the non-exposed group ( $2.62 \pm 8.18$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Domestic violence during pregnancy is linked to mother-fetus attachment and fertility preferences. Decreasing domestic violence may lead to increased mother-fetus attachment during pregnancy and fertility rates.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, Maternal Fetus Attachment, fertility motivations, pregnancy