

# Insecurity feeling amongst Wives

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**Abstract**— This article answers the question “Is socio-economic insecurity feeling (IF) among self sacrificer groups (SSG) of wives less compared that of normal wives?” The method of study was survey and the population consisted of all the wives in SSG families (including: martyr, veteran, prisoner of war) and in their neighboring families in the main cities of Khorasan Razavi province. The sample included 1176 wives while the proportion of martyr and normal was about half. A range of different strategies including multistage, proportionately stratified, cluster, systematic and random were used for sampling. The data was gathered by a researcher-made standard questionnaire. The theoretical framework included need theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory. The results show that the rate of IF in dimensions of housing, financial independence, threat sense in streets, and job was significantly less and in dimensions of husband illness, children’s problems, and sexual need was significantly more among the SSG than those of normal wives. In other dimensions of IF like financial shortage, health, life, authority on children, role of husband, role of kin, role of legal rights, and total index of IF there was no significant differences between the wives. The results confirm the positive role of formal support programs for SSG families specifically in reduction of economic and physiologic IF but also show some neglect in the part of SSG wives with respect to social IF specifically at home in relationship with husband and children and outdoor in relationship with the public.

**Index Terms**— insecurity feeling- wives- women- self sacrificer groups -veteran-prisoner of war- Iran.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Although researches on women’s insecurity feeling (IF) have been scarce in Iran, some studies on women have found many contexts of women’s IF that may be related to socio-economic status, inside the family and in public relations. Researches reported many types of conflicts, aggression, domestic violence, discrimination, stress, depression, anxiety, uncertainty, worry and oppression contexts for women in Iran [1]. A study on the women who resorted to medical centers showed 36 percent domestic violence against women and 71 percent of women complained from psycho -somatic symptoms [2]. One of the researches conducted in this area focused on the variety of needs and concerns that were more severe among immigrant Muslim women than other groups apart from their nationality in Australia. Muslim women had many difficulties in cultural aspects involving not only English language problem, but also discrimination, food insecurity, maltreat, acrimony, sexual insecurity, family disorder, worry and uncertainty

about children’s beliefs, isolation, loneliness, fear of appearance in public environments because of the problems they had in communication with others [5]. Women’s insecurity is current in US families so that one eighth of couples have experienced domestic violence at least once in the last year and more importantly this violence have resulted in serious injury and physical damage or even death in the part of women [14]. A similar result of domestic violence has been reported among Vietnamese veteran families that included mental disorder as the result of the physical shocks and vulnerabilities that the veteran injured in war zones [12]. Results of studies on American veteran’s interaction with their family members showed 61 percent of violent behavior conducted by the soldiers against their wife [18]. Some studies on Australian veterans showed that veterans’ wives had more psychological problems than other wives and the possibility of stress among them was more than other families; 40 percent of veterans’ wives had stress and 30 percent of them had depression [4]. More than two millions of women were abused by their husbands during the year and 50 percent of them were victims of violence in various ways [16]. Women also feel insecurity outside their home in Iran. According to a research, 74 percent of women in Tehran felt that the rate of crimes is very high, about 66 percent reported that they are cautious when hear or read about criminal events, about 74 percent feel worry when they are walking street at night and 63 percent believed that society is not secure at all [9]. In a survey on social security feeling of people in Tehran 1475 inhabitants above 18 years old were interviewed and the results showed that obtrusiveness to women was among the five highest criminal acts in the city and women felt high insecurity at night when passing empty streets or riding on a taxi [17]. A national survey in Iran indicated that 37.9 percent of women were worried about loosing their job, 40.9 percent were worried about getting suitable job, 72.7 percent felt insecurity in public environments, 75.2 percent felt financial insecurity, and 69.1 percent felt body health insecurity [11]. A similar survey with the same questionnaire in Khorasan razavi indicated that 57.6 percent of women are not satisfied with their financial situation, 47.9 percent in housing, 35.2 percent in neighborhood, 23.4 percent in marriage aspects, and 47.7 percent did not feel lucky in their lives. The results about women trust also revealed that 82.2 percent of women did not highly trusted other people, 73.4 percent did not highly trusted taxi drivers; while 92.4 percent of the women believed prices are very high, 57.3 percent of the women believed rubbery is very common, 55.6 percent believed discrimination is very common, and 45.2 percent believed oppression is very common in society. The most important insecurities that felt significantly more by women than men involve concerns about their future, their children, their housing, and their physical and mental health in the part of themselves or their families. These concerns were higher in

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the center of Khorasan Razavi province compared to their towns [7].

Regarding the broadness of women's IF dimensions indoor and outdoor, one can not expect special supportive organization to be able to consider all aspects of the insecurity issues; hence this article includes many aspects of concerns or IF so as to distinguish IF as an universal phenomenon of the wives in Iran compared with the special groups of wives whom we name self sacrificer<sup>2</sup> groups (SSG) who are supported by Foundation of Martyr and Veteran Affairs (FMVA) in order to clarify shortages of supportive services to the SSG in one hand and the importance of attention to the total wives in the other hand. Since investigation of IF among SSG wives can not show the improvement of their situations, a comparison between the SSG and normal wives is necessary for two reasons: first, FMVA can better understand its performance and this in turn would help this organization to improve the situation and to get involved in other necessary activities.; and second, this comparison will distinguish the roles of public in creation of and increment of IF and the necessity of common participation to reduce IF of SSG as well as all the other wives in ordinary families. There are few studies to reveal the situation of SSG, however, none of them included IF especially with a comparative view. The purpose of this article is to answer the question: "Is socio-economic IF among SSG wives less compared that of normal wives?" The answer to this question will determine overall circumstances of society which are responsible for the creation of IF among the wives. This aim can open the way to achieve a peaceful and mature model of society for the wives with least amount of worry, discrimination, anxiety, dissatisfaction and IF.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sources and the conditions of IF and the differences between the wives can be explained by tow approaches namely Need Theory and Feminist Conflict Theory. According to Need Theory, IF sources and its differences between the wives can be related to different needs and satisfaction levels. People, whose needs are satisfied, have less IF. Harry Stack Solivan argues that the main part of human activities is made to lessen or decrease tensions which stem from two sources: physical needs and anxiety of social insecurity [3]. This theory holds that IF is created and learned through social living; the wives' needs have different levels and therefore IF is dependent on unsatisfied needs. According to Maslow [10], IF can be viewed as the result of activity to fulfill security need in which the wives are seeking security, stability, dependency, support, escape from fear, worry and anxiety, seeking order, organization, legal support, powerful protector and so on. When an individual tries to fulfill his/her needs, all of the perceptions, competent, wisdom and attitudes are oriented to that activity. Lindgern [8] maintained that unsatisfied lower level needs create fear and

aggression and unsatisfied upper level needs create anxiety and worry. In accord with Lee Chronbachs' [6] idea, IF is developed when one's needs are not met successfully. In the view of Murray, need is a hypothetical concept which helps explain different behaviour of the individuals. Need is a latent intermediate between motive and action. On the other hand, internal and external stimuli's influence on behavior and individuals learn from interaction with environment how to improve their actions. They calculate the consequences of their action and their perception of the future affects the present action [15]. Thus, it is assumed that the rate of IF is related to the individual perceptions and characteristics and to the extent their needs are fulfilled.

From the feminist conflict view, one can believe IF is related to the division of labor across genders. This feeling originates from gender differences, gender inequalities and gender oppression. According to the gender differences view, females' positions and experiences are different from those of males. Since internal mental living of females is different from that of males, they differ in basic values and benefits, way of value judgment, achievement motives, gender roles, identity sensation, process of consciousness and perception and thus differ in their imagination of social reality from men. Females' relationship with their children is different from that of males. Adult females do relate with themselves and other females in different and particular ways than males do. Gender inequalities imply that the females' positions not only are different but are unequally lower than males. In this view, females enjoy less material sources, social status, power, and opportunities of self actualization than males. This position can be based on class, job, ethnicity, religion, education or any other factor. Gender oppression is viewed in terms of the direct power relation of females and males. In this view, females are under superiority, subordination, abuse, oppression and maltreat of males [13]. Females' position is the outcome of this relationship through which males seek their objectives and fundamental benefits in oppressing, abusing and subordinating females. This is the pattern that is named "patriarchy". In the present study, wives' IF is analyzed based on the mentioned theories.

## III. METHOD

The method of this study was survey which included four groups of wives namely: martyr (husband died in the war and the wife may have gotten remarried or not), veteran (husband wounded or handicapped in the war), POW (husband was a prisoner of war), and normal (was living with her husband who does not have the above conditions) who were living in the neighborhoods of the former three groups. The total number of families of the population of three groups (entitled as self sacrificers) is 29,796 with the proportion of %36 martyr, %55 veteran, and %9 POW in the province of Khorasan Razavi in the year 2008. The sample includes 1177 from which 587 were self sacrificer and the rest of sample was consisted of 171 martyrs, 344 veterans, 72 POW. The number of normal wives who used as the control group was 590. This was calculated with respect to the probability (t) of 0.95 and the decision (d) of 0.82 out of 68 insecurity points and 210.35 as the variance of dependent variable. Sampling

<sup>2</sup> The Self Sacrificers Group (equivalent for Isargaran in Farsi) subsumes three groups of Shahid, Janbaz and Azadeh which are the Farsi equivalents for Martyr (A woman who has lost her husband in the war), Veteran (A woman whose husband has been injured or handicapped in the war), and Prisoner of war (A woman whose husband has been imprisoned during the war).

strategy was the combination of two stages (firstly city and secondly wives), stratified (wives and city size groups), random, cluster (city name), and systematic (list of the wives). To describe more, at the first stage, all cities were classified into three groups of population size (except Mashhad as the capital that was a single population group). Then the sample size was proportionately determined for the four city groups. One city in each groups of degree 1 and degree 2 and two cities in the degree 3 (because of the higher frequency of cities) besides Mashhad was selected randomly. Then at the second stage, the sample wives were selected in the sample cities using the lists of the self sacrificer wives' addresses by systematic sampling strategy. The normal wives were selected randomly from the neighbors of self sacrificer wives in the four directions.

*A. Insecurity feeling measure*

This concept was defined as “involving feelings of threatening and worrying situations, socio-economic disasters, intolerable living conditions, family conflicts, domestic violence and aggression, negative attitudes to wives, denial of legal rights, lack of authority and independence”. This measure includes fearful or stressful situations at present as well as worrisome situations at future. To measure these feelings 68 items were used following the question: “some wives in our society feel insecurities which are described for you. Some of them may be more or less important for some wives; how much do you feel these to be important for you? Please report what you feel now not what you felt in the past”. Factor analysis of the IF items extracted 15 dimensions for IF. The number of IF items and reliability coefficients using Chronbachs' alpha for each dimension are as follows: housing (6 items, alpha=0.95), job (5 items, alpha=0.78), financial shortage(6 items, alpha=0.80), financial independence(3 items, alpha=0.85), sexual need(1 items, alpha=no), life(2 items, inter-item correlation=0.28), health(2 items, inter-item correlation=0.28), threat sense in streets(4 items, alpha=0.72), husband illness(2 items, alpha=0.62), role of husband(7 items, alpha=0.85), children's problems(6 items, alpha=0.86), authority over children(3 items, alpha=0.86), role of kin(7 items, alpha=0.94), role of people(9 items, alpha=0.84), and wives' legal rights(5 items, alpha=0.70). Every item could have yes (1) or no (0) as the

answer so that the total score adds up to 68. The total mean ratio of IF measurement for the respondent was calculated by dividing the total number of yes scores for IF items by 68. Also, mean ratio for each IF dimension was calculated by dividing the total number of yes scores for each IF dimension over the total number of items in each dimension.

*B. Validity*

Four methods of validation of the measurements were used as follows: (1 using existing studies and theoretical documents and explorative interviews with wives (2 coworker judgments (3 concurrent criterion validity using parallel open questions and a correlation matrix (4 construct validity using factor analysis.

*C. Reliability*

Cronbachs' alpha for the IF measurement with 68 items was 0.94.

IV. RESULTS

Table 1 shows the rate of IF for wives in each of the SSG and normal groups. The numbers in the table are mean ratio of IF which correspond to the ratio of yes responses for the items in each dimension of IF. Then, the ratios are sorted by the column of total wives.

*A. Intensity of IF and its dimensions across the sample*

Table 1 shows that 44 percent of the total 68 IF items is felt by the wives. This value of IF does not show any significant difference between the two groups of wives, although martyr wives felt the least IF and veteran felt the most. Another important result in the table is that the rate of IF in 6 out of 15 dimensions is significantly above the total IF rate which can be interpreted as a highly intense IF dimensions. For the other 9 dimensions, the rate is significantly below the total IF rate which can be interpreted as less intense IF dimensions. The more intense dimensions are health, children's problems, financial shortage, threat sense in streets, financial independence, authority over children and the less intense IF dimensions are legal rights, role of people, housing, husband illness, role of kin, role of husband, life, job, and sexual need.

TABLE -1 Mean Ratio of IF Dimensions for SSG and Normal Wives

IF Dimensions	Normal	SSG Wives			Number of items	Total wives	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	Group higher	with IF Mean Ratio
		POW	Veteran	Martyr					
Health	0.86	0.83	0.86	0.84	2	+0.85	0.162	-	
Children's problems	0.71	0.79	0.79	0.71	6	+0.74	0.001*	SSG	
Financial shortage	0.63	0.6	0.63	0.53	6	+0.61	0.148	-	
Threat sense in streets	0.62	0.56	0.57	0.5	4	+0.58	0.002*	Normal	
Financial independence	0.62	0.5	0.57	0.36	3	+0.56	0.000**	Normal	
Authority over children	0.54	0.55	0.52	0.42	3	+0.52	0.089	-	
<b>Total IF Mean ratio</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.171</b>	<b>-</b>	

<b>Legal rights</b>	0.41	0.42	0.44	0.38	5	-0.41	0.667	-
<b>Role of people</b>	0.38	0.36	0.44	0.41	9	-0.40	0.050*	SSG
<b>Housing</b>	0.49	0.37	0.3	0.26	6	-0.39	0.000**	Normal
<b>Husband illness</b>	0.25	0.54	0.63	0.11	2	-0.36	0.000**	SSG
<b>Role of kin</b>	0.36	0.34	0.39	0.31	7	-0.36	0.981	-
<b>Role of husband</b>	0.28	0.34	0.38	0.11	7	-0.29	0.912	-
<b>Life</b>	0.19	0.1	0.2	0.18	2	-0.18	0.636	-
<b>Job</b>	0.12	0.18	0.08	0.08	5	-0.11	0.023*	Normal
<b>Sexual need</b>	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.13	1	-0.04	0.000**	SSG
<b>Notes:</b> 1- U Mann-Whitney Test is calculated for Mean Ratio Differences between two groups of wives which significant by * sign at 0.95 (*p<0.05) and 0.99 (**p <0.000).								Differences is shown
2-one sample test is calculated for the difference between the mean ratio of every dimension and total mean ratio (test significant difference at 0.99 level (p<0.000) is shown by + sign for the higher ratios and by – sign for lower ratios.								value=0.44) and the

### B. Comparison of intensity of IF dimensions between SSG and normal wives

Table 1 shows that in one out of three highly intense IF dimensions SSG felt higher IF which relates to children's problems, while in the two another intense dimensions normal wives felt higher IF which relate to threat sense in streets and financial independence. On the other hand, in three out of five less intense IF dimensions SSG felt higher IF which relate to role of people, sexual need and husband illness while in the two another less intense dimensions normal wives felt higher IF which relate to housing and job. Results suggest that the numbers of intense IF are more in normal than that of SSG wives.

### C. Classification and Differences of IF dimensions between SSG and normal wives

IF dimensions in table 1 can be classified into three categories: 1- dimensions in which SSG wives have significantly higher IF, 2- dimensions in which normal wives have significantly higher IF, 3- dimensions in which there are no significant difference between the SSG and normal wives. To gain a better idea about the meanings of IF dimensions and to summarize the contents of all 68 items, we refer to the content of the exponent item in each dimension which has the highest coefficient factor loading in factor analysis, because the this item is more closely correlated to the common idea of items in the factor (i.e. dimension).

#### D. SSG wives' higher IF dimensions:

##### 1) Children's problems

Veteran and POW wives felt equally the most of insecurity in about %79 of 6 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried about their children related situations like marriage and job.

##### 2) Role of people

Veteran and Martyr wives felt the most of insecurity in about %44 and %41 respectively of 9 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried of owing people so much.

##### 3) Husband's illness

Veteran wives felt the most of insecurity in about %63 of 2 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried about

their husband's illness.

##### 4) Sexual need

Martyr wives felt the most of insecurity in about %13 of 1 item in this dimension meaning that they are worried about having to suppress their sexual needs.

#### E. Normal wives higher IF dimensions:

##### 1) Threat sense in streets

Normal wives felt the most of insecurity in about %62 of 4 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried of being victims of robbery in the streets.

##### 2) Financial independence

Normal wives felt the most of insecurity in about %62 of 3 items in this dimension meaning that they have no financial independence.

##### 3) Housing

Normal wives felt the most of insecurity in about %49 of 6 items in this dimension meaning that they fear expensive housing rates that may not be affordable for them.

##### 4) Job

Normal wives felt the most of insecurity in about %12 of 11 items in this dimension meaning that they have not a suitable job or fear losing their job.

#### F. Dimensions with no significant difference between the SSG and normal wives

##### 1) Health

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally in about %85 of 2 items in this dimension meaning that they worry about their family health.

##### 2) Financial shortage

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally in about %61 of 6 items in this dimension meaning that they worry about inability to pay back debts.

##### 3) Authority on children

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally in about %52 of 3 items in this dimension meaning that they receive less respect from their children.

##### 4) Total IF Mean ratio

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally total IF measure in about %44 of 68 items in this measure meaning that they are highly worried about several situations.

#### 5) *Legal rights*

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally in about %41 of 5 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried of the manner of personnel interaction when they resort to them in organizations.

#### 6) *Role of kin*

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally in about %36 of 7 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried of being maltreated by kin.

#### 7) *Role of husband*

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally this dimension in about %29 of 7 items in this dimension meaning that they are worried of their foulmouthed husbands.

#### 8) *Life*

SSG and normal wives felt almost equally this dimension in about %18 of 2 items in this dimension meaning that they do not feel life security at their home.

In brief, each group of the SSG and normal wives feel significantly more IF in four dimensions but in seven other dimensions besides the total IF no significant differences are observed meaning that the two groups are more similar rather than different in IF. Results of IF ratios shows that in twelve out of sixteen cases the ratios of IF are more than %36 of items that may be interpreted as many frequent items of IF by the wives in their situations.

### V. DISCUSSION

In response to the question "Is socio-economic IF among SSG wives less than that among normal wives?" the results indicated that, in sum, SSG wives felt almost equally total insecurity. The noticeable intensity of IF amongst all wives is consistent with the literature concerning the insecure situations of wives indoors such as domestic violence [2], [1],; [14] and nervousness of husband and being worried about children [12], [16], [5] and outdoors such as problems of communication and interactions with people [5], [9]. According to theoretical view points, intensity of IF and the differences between the wives can be related to fact that they could not fulfill their needs or they had different difficulties or living conditions. These differences originate from conflicts inside of their home in relationships with family members or from conflicts outside in having been subjugated, discriminated, or biased in relationships with other people. Since these situations and relationships are different for the SSG and normal wives in Iran, then they differ in IF dimensions. Some SSG wives such as veteran were more worried about husband illness and the injuries resulted of war than normal or other wives of the same group; martyr wives have less problems such as role of husband financial independence due to lack of husband and being supported financially by government but have more sexual need. Less IF in housing, job and financial independence dimensions by SSG compared with normal wives can be viewed as the results of FMVA support programs but lack of differences in other dimensions such as life, health, financial shortage, authority over children, role of husband, role of kin and legal rights between the two groups can be analyzed with need theory as the result of ineffective support programs or with feminist conflict theory as the result of female popular positions. The results confirm the positive role of formal

support programs for SSG families in reduction of specifically economic and physiologic IF but also show some neglect with respect to social IF specifically at home in relationship with husband and children and outdoor in relationship with the public. Thus, some IF dimensions are related to social structure and division of gender because IF rates are equally high amongst the two groups of wives like the role of husband, children, public attitudes and treats at streets that exceeds %50 of items. These IF dimensions are beyond a special organization domain and do not only occur in Iran but are common in many parts of the world [4], [12], [14], [5].

### VI. CONCLUSION

The results of this study suggest that the total IF is noticeable amongst the wives with no significant difference between the SSG and normal groups. But, there were observed differences in some IF dimensions between the two groups that were analyzed as the results of differences in their positions. These results were consistent with need theory and feminist conflict theory and thus extended the domain of generalization of these theories and also highlighted the areas of neglect by related organizations within their support programs. Furthermore, the results shows that further research is needed to investigate the reasons of differences and to provide more explanation from sociological points of view.

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