

DV and Abuse in International Households in Japan: Interview and Questionnaire Survey Results

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The issue of domestic violence (DV) and gender inequality has been recognized and discussed for many decades. Through the efforts of feminists and suffragettes, many countries now recognize the importance of equal rights between men and women, such as voting rights, the right to participate in political life, reproductive rights, access to jobs and education, and equal representation in leadership positions. They are also highlighting the importance of preventing and solving gender-based violence (GBV), DV, abuse, harassment, gender bias, or any other gender-based discriminations in society.

On the other hand, when it comes to the issue of GBV, DV, or abuse, it can be assumed that some of these problems are addressed in the world and in Japan. For instance, Japan has been making progress in preventing and controlling DV and GBV. The country is taking legal measures, providing support services, and holding education or/and awareness campaigns. However, yet there are significant obstacles to overcome. One is the inadequate attention paid to DV in international households. Specifically, there is a lack of research on DV, GBV, or/and abuse between Japanese and Russian-speaking migrant. There is also limited data and lack of national statistics on abuse in these households. Therefore, the author primarily focused on the following topics:

- An issue of DV in Japan
- The problem abuse, its perception and coping strategies among Russian-speaking migrants in Japan

In order to provide a detailed explanation of this issue the author applied either qualitative or quantitative analysis in this study. The sample size of 83 participants was calculated from a pool of 9118 Russian individuals in Japan. According to *Statistical table of foreign resident statistics (formerly registered foreign national statistics)*, the number of Russia migrants in 2021 (December) was equal to 9118 people. The author started this research in 2022. Hence, to calculate her sample size she cited the information dated 2021. The most up-to-date statistics shows that in 2023 (December) the number of Russian migrants raised to 11378 people. However, the author assumed that this significant raise was caused by the Russo-Ukrainian war and this number includes “relocants” who are the war-migrants or refugees and should not be included into survey and questionnaire because of their purpose of coming to Japan.

A 90% of a confidence level was used to calculate the sample size. Both the quantitative and qualitative questionnaires were applied to measure the responses of the 83 male and female participants. Additionally, 18 respondents participated in in-depth interviews. Finally, the qualitative approach included inductive coding and case study methods. Both methods were conducted in order to provide a comparative analysis and illustrate various manifestations of abuse, coping strategies, and risk factors. Coding was applied for in-depth interviews and open-ended questionnaires (OEQ), providing meaningful insights into this issue. The interview and OEQ

were transcribed using a manual method. All transcribed interviews and OEQ were kept in separate files, all data was anonymous, and only the researcher could link responses and participants. Various codes and significant number of themes were identified, illustrated, and examined during the coding process.

Data collection for this study combined social surveys ("About the Peculiarities of International Marriages") and in-depth interviews (same title). The survey, comprising 81 questions, was developed based on existing research and literature. To ensure diversity in samples and data, participants included university students, company workers, interpreters, part-time workers, and housewives. Key indicators such as age groups, educational background, visa type, purposes of coming to Japan, socioeconomic status, and the prevalence of various forms of violence/abuse in these households were considered. Participants ranged in age from 20 to 60 years old, representing diverse social classes, races, genders, and residences. The interviews were conducted solely in the Russian language. They were conducted online using Zoom with the camera turned off to ensure participant confidentiality. Data collection involved transcripts from digitally recorded individual interviews and information obtained from the questionnaire. Participants were assured of confidentiality and could withdraw their consent at any time. The dominant approach was applied to protect interview confidentiality.

Finally, this study faced a challenge hindering a direct comparative analysis between Russian-speaking migrants and Japanese citizens. This can be explained by the lack of prior research and the focus of researchers solely on Japanese families. Notably, comparative research among Filipinos and others coming from Asian migrants was previously published. However, due to the cultural differences, the author was reluctant to compare these households with Russo-Japanese.

Furthermore, this study investigated various manifestations of DV and abuse, encompassing physical abuse, rude behavior, economic abuse, coercive behavior, partially emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. Different forms of economic violence and sexual abuse were illustrated applying cases. The prevalence of economic abuse among other forms of abuse underlined the unique nature of these families and illustrates the dominance of the masculine power and men-centered construct of the family. The connection between of sexual and emotional abuse was illustrated as well. In contrary to previously published studies, tis research did not show the connection between physical abuse and sexual abuse. In the end, emotional abuse as well as coercive behavior was measured by various questions and codes and investigated using quantitative approach as well. The cases and codes illustrated unique and mixed (multiple participants put together different forms of abuse) nature of this abuse as well.

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