**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Domestic abuse occurs in homes and with the lockdown, it shows that victims are more likely to have increased risk of the abusers. “Stay-at-home measures including school closures have limited the usual sources of support for families and individuals such as friends, extended family or professionals.” (World Health Organization, 2020). Not all the lockdowns are great for the victims of domestic abuse, since this constrains their movements physically from the help they need that is available outside.

With the ongoing pandemic, it creates a surge of depressive occurrences that is currently happening to people. “The social isolation required by the measures taken in the different countries, the impact on jobs, the economic instability, high levels of tension and fear of the virus, and new forms of relationships have all increased levels of stress in the most vulnerable families and, therefore, the risk of violence.” (Pereda & Díaz-Faes, 2020). Moreover, the risk of being infected with the COVID-19 is still ever-present, leading to a potential high case of being infected.

Right now, there are ways to continue the learning through the online internet, however children are one of the most vulnerable to abuse even in cyberspaces. “Additionally, more time online may expose children to an increased risk of online sexual exploitation or bullying.” (Kuehn, 2020). This shows that the internet can still be one of the ways to exploit and abuse children.

There also exists cases where abusers in the pre-pandemic do continually violate their companions in their relationships. According to Campbell, J. (2020), “If domestic abuse is already a problem in a relationship, the coronavirus pandemic might be making it worse.” Meaning that pre-existing conditions and circumstances in the affair can greatly affect it.

Abusers and victims of abuse have been around more than the pandemic. “No less than the battle against the COVID pandemic, the battle against the abuse pandemic is certain to be an ongoing one.” (Klugger, 2021). The ongoing pandemic brought more implications to society, concluding that the viral infection is not only just the worst-case scenario.

Along with the one after another losses of individuals due to the pandemic, their anxiety heightens. “Stress has also been a big factor during the pandemic and is often brought about by the loss of a job and health fears.” (Calleja, 2020). The assurance of every individual's prosperity plummets as the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Mental wellbeing is also one of the major health aspects to look out for. “For survivors of gender-based violence locked down in their homes with an abuser, the COVID-19 pandemic is only one of the compounding crises that threaten their physical and mental.” (Gonzalez, 2020). These impacts of abuse can inflict psychological trauma, influencing the victims’ mental health.

With protocols and mandated rules to follow, more and more people are staying at home. However, this also restrains activities and authoritative actions that may be helpful to the potential abused victims. “Due to restrictions on movement, it’s more difficult for people to escape and easier for loved ones to miss the signs that something is wrong.” (Wallace, 2020). Along with the victim’s continual deterioration of their health, they cannot seek help themselves alone.

According to the post on the website of Makati Medical Center (2020), “The limited movement allowed during quarantine makes it difficult for them to call for help.” This implies that in the lockdown periods, abusers can maltreat more of their victims than the pre-pandemic times. Having active social help that is promoted by certain individuals and authorities is also one way to combat domestic violence.

Even without the lockdown or the pandemic, help was not readily accessible to them. “And when the pandemic is over, victims of domestic violence and their children will continue to need help.” (Richards & Nix, 2021). With the rising cases, this cannot go unnoticed to the public as time goes by.

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