



# DV in International Households in Japan: Interview and Questionary Survey Results on Cases of Sexual Violence

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## Abstract

This study investigates instances of sexual violence within international households in Japan consisting of one Japanese and one non-Japanese citizen. By applying two classifications such as relationship violence (i.e., intimate partner mistreatment) and type of maltreatment (in the case of this study, it is sexual violence), the research explores intimate partner violence and sexual coercion and abuse. The reliable data was collected from 83 survey participants and 18 interviewees, revealing that most respondents either did not experience or were unwilling to disclose incidents of sexual mistreatment. According to the OEQ, three participants reported instances of sexual abuse. With the consent of two female respondents, their experiences were analyzed using inductive coding and case study methods and illustrated in this manuscript. The findings highlight significant obstacles, including the lack of research and statistical data on domestic violence in international households in Japan. Despite these challenges, the study elucidates the nature of sexual domestic violence and abuse faced by migrants. It underscores how environments of fear and male dominance affect women's control over their fertility and sexual freedom. The case studies illustrate different forms of reproductive control and forced sex, suggesting a need for further research on sexual abuse as a risk factor for sexual coercion, fertility control issues, and the potential spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in international households.

**Keywords:** Japan, abuse, DV, women, sexual abuse

## 1. Introduction

Violence against women and girls is one of the most severe crimes worldwide. In order to effectively prevent and address DV in Japan, it is essential to acknowledge and include every victim of abuse. Thus, the objectives of this manuscript reside in, first, illuminating the issue of sexual DV and abuse within international households in Japan. Second, examining cases of intimate partner mistreatment, focusing on relationship abuse and various forms of maltreatment, including sexual, physical, and psychological violence within international households in Japan. Third, identifying and analyzing links between physical abuse and sexual

abuse and investigating the relationship between psychological and/or economic violence and sexual violence. Finally, emphasizing the necessity for further research on sexual domestic violence in international households.

It is essential to underline that this study explicitly focuses on Russian-speaking migrants. Through the analysis of questionnaire data and interviews, the study endeavors to offer insights and authentic data on DV and abuse within these households.

Undoubtedly, thematic studies and data collection have been conducted several times in Japan and Russia (Mahovskaya, 2018; Golovina, 2017; Ryazantsev and Sivoplyasova, 2020; Komai, 2001; Kim, 2019, 2023; Mukhina, 2012, 2013). However, DV and abuse were not comprehensively investigated and discussed. Scholars focused on migration policies, reasons for migration, language proficiency, work opportunities, cultural peculiarities, and assimilation mechanisms. Violence or abuse as a main topic never appeared in their works.

To be more precise, for instance, Japanese scholar Komai (2001) offered a comprehensive portrait of the life of migrants in Japan and the motivations behind their migration over several centuries. He classified migration into different categories based on gender and outlined the objectives behind each type of migration. This study once more highlighted the prevalence of marriage migration in Japan. It illustrated the complex relationship between Russian-speaking female migrants and their processes of adaptation and assimilation in Japanese society.

Gender roles, femininity, and core values of Russian migrants showed that the economic reasons for marriage migration could be highlighted as the most common. Furthermore, among the most frequently discussed obstacles, economic, cultural, and ethnographical problems were underlined (Golovina, 2017; Ryazantsev and Sivoplyasova, 2020; Ryazantseva, 2018).

On the contrary, in comparison to the other studies conducted on women from developing countries, the scholars rejected the significant influence of economic reasons (Constable, 2005; Heikkila and Yeoh, 2011; Nakamatsu, 2003, 2005; Williams, 2010). Meanwhile, Russian scholars centered their studies on this topic (Ryazantsev and Sivoplyasova, 2020; Ryazantseva, 2018).

On the contrary, Kim (2023) investigated the experiences of Russian-speaking female migrants in Japan and South Korea, trying to identify and explore the issues that appeared through the integration process. She indicated the problem of financial independence/dependence among these migrants. Kim (2023) also underlined that women married to Japanese men and/or living together were primarily financially supported by their husbands (p.13). Golovina and Mukhina (2017) investigated the same topic as well. They studied the connection between migrants' employment status and Japanese language skills and specified that the most vulnerable group of migrants was a non-university or low-income group (p.32).

Finally, Kim (2019) studied marriage between Japanese men and women from the Soviet Union. She indicated that the most significant issue these international couples faced was the difference in spouses' expectations of marriage and family. Lukyantseva (2023) also highlighted the same findings. She indicated the link between cultural expectations and emotional abuse and/or coercive behavior.

On the other hand, it would be incorrect to say that violence or abuse has yet to be illuminated. Every year, the *Gender Equality Bureau* in Japan publishes a report on DV, which includes statistics on various types of DV and abuse in homogenous households. Furthermore, sociological surveys on types of violence in Russian families can also be found online. However, there is still a lack of research showing data and the occurrence of DV in international families, especially among the Russian-speaking population in Japan.

Finally, it is significant to underline that the most up-to-date Japanese statistics indicate that “one in four women in Japan” experiences violence or abuse from an intimate partner. On the other hand, when it comes to the discussion of sexual violence or abuse, victims are way more reluctant to talk about this issue (Lukyantseva, 2023, p.8; Ando, 2020). According to the report submitted by the *Gender Equality Bureau* (2023), among 363 women who have experienced DV or abuse, about 40% of them did not report or consult about it. On the other hand, in 2023, the general number of consultations with the *One-Stop Support Center* increased by 11.2% compared to the previous year. This indicates a significant gap in support and intervention for victims of DV. However, it can be assumed that there is progress, as evidenced by the general increase in consultations with the *One-Stop Support Center*. On the other hand, the data above suggests increasing awareness, highlighting the importance of accessible support services, and providing comprehensive information regarding this issue.

On the other hand, when it comes to the data discussion, it is essential to underline that the *Gender Equality Bureau* (2023) only illustrates the following data. Among the five types of violence, such as physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and social DV, the most common form is psychological (64.8%), followed by physical (28.6%) and economic (17.9%). Sexual violence is the rarest. It is reported by 8.3% of respondents (N=19,156).

Furthermore, the Russian statistics show a slightly different tendency. The report, *Which of the following, in your opinion, counts as examples of domestic violence* (Statista, 2019) (n=1,608), illustrates that manhandling<sup>i</sup> with severe physical harm was chosen by 77% of female and 72% of male participants. Sexual acts against a partner's will/spouse's will were chosen by 56% of female and 43% of male participants. Prohibition to communicate with friends and/or relatives was chosen by 41% of female and 31% of male participants—money restrictions/ blackmail: 29% of female and 21% of male respondents.

Data for Japan and Russia showed that unlike in Japan, where sexual violence was less prevalent, in Russia, it is second most common after physical abuse. On the other hand, statistics on international families from the author's study showed the same trend as in Japan: sexual violence was less common (Tab.1).

Furthermore, it should be emphasized that contrary to what earlier studies have suggested regarding the connection between physical violence and sexual violence or between economic and sexual violence, this study did not validate this link (Manitul, 2018, p. 4). On the other hand, it showed that women are vulnerable to violence and often find different ways to endure it rather than leaving the abuser, as was also shown in earlier studies.

Lastly, there is a significant need to underline studies that illustrate and analyze the consequences and outcomes of DV and abuse. Islam (2018) specified that mental disorders are prevalent consequences of violence and abuse (p.7). Emotional trauma could come in different ways as a consequence as well. It is usually unpredictable (p.8). However, due to the limitations of this study, the author was not able to analyze the consequences (mental disorders, emotional trauma, and so on) listed above in her research this time.

Finally, the author of this study attempted to analyze the types of sexual violence in international marriages using two methods (case study and inductive coding methods). Out of 83 questionnaire participants, 18 were invited for an in-depth interview. Of 18 respondents, three participated in interviews on the topic of sexual violence. Two agreed to provide their data for this study. They are illustrated below and analyzed using case studies and inductive coding methods.

During the inductive coding analysis of sexual DV, this method identified, illustrated, and examined 59 codes and 15 themes during the coding process. On the other hand, the case study

highlighted such topics as sexual coercion and reproductive abuse. These two cases are illustrated and examined in this manuscript.

## 2. Methods

The author aimed to explore the current state of DV and abuse in Japan, focusing on cases of sexual violence among Russian-speaking migrants. She also underscored the ongoing challenges and the need for further investigation of DV and abuse in these households.

The number of 9118 people was applied from the *Statistical table of foreign resident statistics*. According to the Statistical Table of Foreign Resident Statistics (formerly registered Foreign National Statistics), the number of Russian migrants in 2021 (December) amounted to 9118 people. The author started this research in 2022. Hence, to calculate her sample size, she cited information dated back to the year 2021. The most up-to-date statistics show that in 2023 (December), the number of Russian migrants increased to 11378 people. However, the author assumed that this significant rise was caused by the Russo-Ukrainian war, and this number includes “relocants” who are the war-migrants or refugees and should not be included in the survey and questionnaire because of their purpose and year of coming to Japan.

Both the quantitative and qualitative questionnaires were conducted with 83 participants<sup>ii</sup>. The qualitative questionnaire comprised open-ended questions. Additionally, an in-depth interview was conducted with 18 participants selected from the initial pool of 83 respondents. The case study was applied for a qualitative analysis<sup>iii</sup>. It examined cases of 83 participants and provided trustworthy illustrations of various social situations involving DV.

A total sample of 83 male and female participants was selected based on a confidence level of 90% and a margin of error of 10%. The study meticulously adhered to specific criteria when choosing survey methods. 83 respondents were invited to partake in an online survey and further interview via Google Form titled “*About the Peculiarities of International Marriages*.” It was distributed in communities such as “Russians in Japan (Rus. Русские в Японии)” (2990 participants) on Facebook, “Japanmama (Rus. Япономاما)” (3700 participants) on Facebook, and “Japanchat (Rus. Япончат)” (2700 participants) in Telegram.

Two distinct methods guided the selection of these 83 participants. There are both quota and snowball samplings. Both approaches were used simultaneously to increase the recruitment of participants. The quota sampling method was applied to select respondents with predeterminate criteria (Russian migrants who are/were sharing a household with Japanese citizens. E.g., Russian woman/man married to Japanese man/woman, Russian woman/man with Japanese fiancé/fiancée, Russian woman/man who was/is living with Japanese man/woman). This study aimed to investigate DV and other cultural peculiarities between Russian migrants and Japanese citizens. Therefore, the quote sampling method was essential for recruiting a specific population segment. On the other hand, snowball sampling helped to invite more potential participants from networks such as Telegram and Facebook.

The questionnaire was sent to participants who belonged to different Facebook and Telegram groups. Subsequently, a second survey round was conducted to gather more comprehensive insights. A preliminary survey trial was carried out before the actual implementation of the research. Notably, all the respondents were members of the Russian-speaking community in Japan. Regarding data collection, multiple platforms were leveraged, including Facebook and Telegram.

The survey, comprising 81 questions, was developed based on existing research and literature. Participants included university students, company workers, interpreters, part-time

workers, and homemakers to ensure diversity in samples and data. They ranged in age from 20 to 60 years old, social class, race (Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, and others), gender, and place of residence in Japan. The interviews were conducted solely in Russian. 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 privacy and could withdraw their consent at any time. The dominant approach was applied to protect interview confidentiality. The interviews were transcribed manually and kept in separate files. The data was anonymous; only the researcher could link responses and participants.

The interview answers were analyzed using the case study and inductive coding methods<sup>iv</sup>. The inductive coding method helped interpret and analyze the data. By assigning codes to different elements of the text (transcript), the researcher could examine the underlying relations and forms of abuse and DV. The coding process involved multiple stages. First was the open coding. It helped to identify patterns and themes. Second was the axial coding. It was needed to provide connections between categories and subcategories. The recorded and transcribed interviews were coded using a manual method. Fifty-nine codes and fifteen themes were identified, illustrated, and examined during the coding process (Tab. 2; Tab.3).

Finally, the case study design concentrated on the data analysis of the phenomenon selected by the author for examination. Its central aim was to illustrate a comprehensive exploration of issues and concerns illustrated by respondents who experienced diverse instances of abuse and violence.

### 3. Results

*Table 1. Determining whether the Japanese partners/spouses have ever committed sexual abuse? (%)*

Response	Percentage
Yes	5.6
No	94.4
Other	
Total	3

*Source: Authors field survey 2022*

Table 2. Coding: Sexual abuse

Text	Code	Categories/Themes
Yes, but he did not disclose his real age.	Did not, disclose, real, age	Age disclosure
When I got pregnant with my second, he kind of (emphasis on the word) yelled (silence) I said before I got married that I wanted kids. He did not say it. I said.	Got pregnant, before marriage, I wanted kids, he did not, I said	Planning pregnancy
He stopped right away. <...> When I got pregnant with my second child, he stopped.	He, stopped, right away, when, I got pregnant, second child	Work and employment
<p>But maybe the abuse started earlier when he started sending me to do abortions.</p> <p>He would cum in, and then he would say, "I will give you a piece of paper from the municipality.</p> <p>How would I know? He would never cum before, and then he started messing with me. How? Do I cut his dick off with a knife? How would I know? He never came in me before. &lt;...&gt; You do not understand. This is a form of abuse in Japan. &lt;...&gt; I trust him. He found out that the municipality provides abortions. How can I get inside his head? We had an agreement. I had no idea.)</p>	Sending me, do abortions, cum in, would never cum, before, messing with me, form of abuse, in Japan, trust him, had an agreement, no idea	<p>Fertility control</p> <p>Sexual coercion</p> <p>Partial acceptance of abuse</p> <p>Expressions of resistance and frustration</p>
I started using contraception because he is somehow frightening. He hides everything.	Contraception, frightening, hides	Fertility control

Text	Code	Categories/Themes
I have been on birth control for about two years. I only gave birth in the third year. It was my own decision.	Birth control, for two years, own decision, third year	Planning pregnancy
Total:	33	Pregnancy (planning pregnancy, fertility control) - 4  Sexual coercion -1  Coping (Partial acceptance of abuse and expressions of resistance and frustration)  – 2  Age disclosure - 1  Work and employment - 1

Source: Authors field survey 2022

Table 3. Coding: Sexual abuse

Text	Code	Categories/Themes
I think after a few years, I lost all desire.  It was painful.  I told him I did not want to, that I was tired, that I felt pain.	Lost, desire, pain, told him, tired, pain, did not want	Mental health:  Loss of desire  Emotional decline
But he would not hear me.  I felt angry and a sense of resentment.  I even told him that if it was such a problem, he should find someone to have	Not hear me, felt angry, resentment, he did not want	Coercive behavior:  Communication breakdown  Rejection/ignore

sex with or that we should break up. He did not want either of those things		
<p>Then he started saying it was my responsibility.</p> <p>He started saying be patient.</p> <p>Sometimes he would push me for sex.</p> <p>It was just like he was taking advantage of me.</p> <p>Like my feelings did not mean anything.</p>	<p>He started saying, my responsibility, be patient, push me, taking advantage, my feeling did not mean</p>	<p>Coercive behavior:</p> <p>Power dynamics</p> <p>Manipulative tactics</p>
<p>I got mad at myself and decided to leave him.</p> <p>Not just because of the sex. Everything.</p>	<p>Mad, decided, leave, everything</p>	<p>Separation</p>
<p>I tried to explain it to him, but he would not listen to me.</p>	<p>Tried to explain, would not hear</p>	<p>Coercive behavior:</p> <p>Personal boundaries</p>
<p>I could physically feel myself dissolving.</p> <p>I told him I feel pain.</p> <p>I needed counseling. I still need it.</p>	<p>Feel dissolving, feel pain, need counseling, still need</p>	<p>Mental health:</p> <p>Impact on mental health</p>
Total	26	<p>Coercive behavior – 3</p> <p>Mental health – 2</p> <p>Separation - 1</p>

Source: Authors field survey 2022



## 4. Body of paper

First of all, it is essential to underline what were the classifications of violence in this manuscript. The author applied two categories of violence. *Relationship violence/abuse* was specified as intimate partner<sup>v</sup> mistreatment.

Meanwhile, another qualification was a *type of abuse/violence* (i.e., sexual<sup>vi</sup>, physical, and psychological). It was underlined that these mistreatments cause actual or potential harmful effects upon a victim's safety, well-being, dignity, and development. Information was analyzed to gain insights about reproductive freedom, infidelity, coerced sex, and other forms of sexual abuse that could coexist with physical abuse. Some previously published studies found a significant association between these two types of abuse (García-Moreno et al., 2005, p. 69). However, this study could not demonstrate the link between sexual abuse and physical violence because those were not found.

On the other hand, this manuscript demonstrated a connection between psychological abuse and sexual abuse. Moreover, it illustrated that women living in an environment of fear and male dominance lacked the ability and opportunities to control their fertility and sexual freedom. For them, their sexual life became a product of coercion and force. Moreover, this study showed that studies of sensitive topics such as sexual life and sexual abuse showed that women were way more comfortable disclosing their sex lives in interviews rather than anonymously in their survey.

Finally, as was mentioned earlier, this study was conducted with 83 survey participants and 18 interview participants. It revealed that the majority of respondents did not experience (or did not want to admit their experience of) sexual abuse. According to the OEQ, three out of 83 participants vocalized sexual abuse. Furthermore, among all the people invited to the interview, these three female participants wanted to talk about their experiences. With the consent of only two female respondents, their examples are illustrated below (Tab.1).

The author underlined that data on a more significant number of respondents was needed for a broader study of the issue. However, since only a few people confirmed the presence of sexual violence in the family, the experiences of both women were illustrated and analyzed. Indeed, their experiences were different. The first participant was more exposed to her husband's reproductive control. Meanwhile, the second one was about forced sex. However, it can be assumed that both cases provided a necessary tool to conclude that there is a need to explore sexual abuse in international households as a risk factor of sexual coercion, fertility control, and an issue of infidelity that might cause HIV and other sexual diseases in families.

### 4.1. Case one: Infidelity and fertility control

**Case 1:** Women, employee, 51-60 years old. Her husband is 61-70 years old. Husband's occupancy: other. The woman is originally from Russia and lives in Kansai. She has been living in Japan for more than 20 years. Has JLPT N3. She uses Japanese at home. She has two children. Divorced. Types of abuse described by this woman include disrespect for her privacy, disrespect for her and her desires/wishes, discrimination, manipulation, blackmail, infidelity by her spouse, and other forms of abuse.

This case offered a comprehensive illustration of fertility control and women's coping mechanisms.

***Was he older than you?***

Yes, but he did not disclose his actual age. <...> He worked in a sauna where prostitutes worked. In those saunas, hotels. A lot of people here are prostitutes. It is a glamorous country.

<...>

***Can I ask you something else about you? You had children, and you started working. Did he work?***

No, no! He stopped right away. When I got pregnant with my second child, he stopped. When I got pregnant with my second, he kind of (emphasis on the word) yelled (silence). I told him before our marriage that I would like to have kids. He did not say so. I said.

***How many years did it take you to have children? Right away?***

I started using contraception because he was somehow suspicious (frightening) to me. He hid everything. I have been on birth control for about two years. I only gave birth in the third year. It was my own decision.

The part of the interview was skipped.

***When did domestic violence begin?***

When I had the children, when he stopped working, he stayed home. (Pause) Nevertheless, maybe the abuse started earlier when he started sending me to do abortions. He would finish in me, and then he would say, "I will give you a paper from the municipality."

***Well, have you ever tried to stop it?***

What? How? Do I gag him? <...> How would I know? He would never finish in me before, and then he started messing with me. How? Do I cut his dick off with a knife? How would I know? He never came to me before. <...> You do not understand. This is a form of abuse in Japan. <...> I trusted him. He found out that the municipality provides abortions. How can I get inside his head? We had an agreement. I had no idea.

The inductive coding analysis (Tab.2.) revealed fertility control, sexual coercion, coping with abuse, and other themes. The most highly vocalized topics were “pregnancy” and “coping.” These themes included planning pregnancy and fertility control, as well as partial acceptance of abuse and expressions of resistance and frustration. The fertility-related abuse included coercive practices associated with reproductive choices. A cultural context influencing the perception of pregnancy planning affected the respondent's choices. For instance, she vocalized that her husband was suspicious, and she used contraception to control her fertility for the first three years (“*I started using contraception because he was somehow frightening to me. He hid everything. I have been on birth control for about two years. I only gave birth in the third year. It was my own decision.*”). On the other hand, the respondent specified that later (after childbirth), she was not able to control her reproductive choices and was sexually coerced (“*But maybe the abuse started earlier when he started sending me to do abortions*”).

Based on the interview insights above, it is possible to underline a dynamic in the relationship and a transition from self-control to becoming a victim of coerced behavior. In the beginning (when she had just started her life in Japan), this woman made decisions about her reproductive health. She did not consult with her husband about what could be partly interpreted as a Russian cultural pattern associated with partial female independence in the

Soviet Union. However, later, the respondent became utterly dependent on her husband. Therefore, it is essential to underline that her financial well-being was unrelated to her husband. She worked and supported her family herself. Hence, it can be assumed that there is no direct association between her financial dependence on her husband and reproductive unfreedom, which was detected in other studies (García-Moreno et al., 2005).

On the other hand, the following conclusion was made. The more this respondent lived in Japan, the more she became somehow emotionally dependent on her husband. The speaker expressed helplessness and resistance (theme “coping”) when she was questioned about stopping abuse. It highlighted the complex power dynamics within this union.

Finally, 33 codes and 9 themes were highlighted. The inductive coding analysis listed reproductive control, deception, shifts in employment dynamics, sexual abuse, and the speaker's expressions of resistance and helplessness. This approach allowed for a detailed exploration of the complex narrative, providing insights into the relationship dynamics and the impact of cultural factors on the speaker's experiences.

#### **4.2. Case two: coerced sex**

**Case 2:** Women, student, 31-40 years old. Her partner is 20-31 years old. Originally from Russia, she lives in Kansai. She had lived in Japan for over ten years. Has JLPT N1. She uses Japanese at home. No children. Separated. Types of abuse described by this woman included different cultures, no respect for her personal space, no respect for her and her needs, and discrimination.

This case offered a comprehensive illustration of forms of sexual coercion. There is a loss of desire and emotional decline, communication breakdown and rejection/ignore, power dynamics and manipulative tactics, the decision to leave, lack of personal boundaries, and impact on mental health and need for counseling. This case revealed an urgent need for further investigation of risk factors of sexual abuse and underlined a significant association between psychological abuse, coercive patterns, and sexual abuse.

##### ***Can you describe the sexual abuse?***

I think that after a few years, I lost my libido. It was painful. We were living apart. We were apart for three or four months in a row. When he came over, he wanted sex. I told him I did not want to, that I was tired, that I felt pain.

Nevertheless, he would not hear me. For example, he told me: “All my friends have been together as long as we have, but they sleep together every day, and they are attracted to each other.” I felt angry and a sense of resentment. I told him: “Your friends are not us.” I felt so bad. I even said to him that if it was such a problem, he should find someone to have sex with, or we should break up. He did not want either of those things. Sometimes, he would push me for sex. It got worse.

##### ***What happened next?***

Then he started saying it was my responsibility. He started telling me to be patient. I was quick. I was in pain. Then, I physically could not take it anymore. Then he started saying I had to do it orally. I was so disgusted. I was so happy when I did not meet him. Sometimes, I was so tired I wanted to sleep, but he would say that he could not sleep without sex. It was just like he was taking advantage of me. Like my feelings did not mean anything. Like I was just there to fulfill his needs, I could feel myself dissolving. I told him I was in pain. He always said it was quick. Then I got mad at myself and decided to leave him. Not just because of the sex.

Everything. It was hard. I tried explaining it to him, but he would not listen. How can a man who says he loves you do such a thing?

***How did it stop?***

I needed counseling. I still need it.

The inductive coding analysis (Tab.3) revealed the following themes. There was coercive behavior, mental health, and separation. The most highly vocalized topics were “coercive behavior” and “mental health.” Coercive behavior included communication breakdown, rejection/ignoring, power dynamics, manipulative tactics, and personal boundaries. Mental health provides loss of desire, emotional decline, and impact on mental health.

The respondent described a gradual loss of desire and emotional and physical pain. At first, the fiancée tried to persuade the female victim to have sexual interactions against her will (*“Sometimes he would push me for sex. It got worse. <...> Then he started saying it was my responsibility. He started saying to be patient. I was quick. I was in pain. Then, I physically could not take it anymore. Then he started saying I had to do it orally. I was so disgusted.”*). On top of it, the female respondent underlined that her intimate partner shifted all responsibility onto the respondent and manipulative tactics contributed to a sense of being taken advantage of (*“It was just like he was taking advantage of me. Like my feelings did not mean anything. Like I was just there to fulfill his needs.”*). Finally, the participant highlighted the necessity for psychological support (*“I needed counseling. I still need it”*).

It can be concluded that the analysis revealed a narrative of enduring mental and sexual abuse, marked by a significant power imbalance and manipulation. Inductive coding revealed disregard for the woman’s boundaries and well-being. The decision to seek counseling and the ongoing need for psychological support underlined the traumatic experience.

Finally, it can be concluded that 26 codes and six themes were highlighted. The inductive coding analysis listed coerced sex, emotional decline, power dynamics, manipulative tactics, the impact on mental health, and the need for counseling. This approach illustrated the complex nature of sexual abuse and its outcomes on health.

## **5. Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study investigated the instances of violence on examples of intimate partner mistreatment, including relationship abuse, and various forms of maltreatment, including sexual, physical, and psychological violence. It also underscored the negative impact on victims' safety, well-being, dignity, and development, as illustrated in cases one and two. It demonstrated that, unlike in Japan, where sexual violence was less prevalent, in Russia, sexual violence was the second most common form of abuse after physical. Furthermore, the study showed that women are vulnerable to violence and often find different ways to endure it rather than leaving the abuser.

The author highlighted that while multiple previous research (Manitul, 2018; Ando, 2020; Lukyantseva, 2023) had identified connections and correlations between different types of abuse, this study did not find any connection between sexual abuse and physical violence. However, it revealed a link between psychological abuse and sexual coercion (cases one and two). In case two, the victim’s partner used manipulative tactics (manipulation, coercion, threat) to gain complete control over the victim’s body and mind.

Moreover, case one highlighted the complex interplay of power dynamics within the family. It showed how the victim shifted from complete control over her reproductive freedom to being dependent and sexually and reproductively abused by her husband. This case also denied that there is a connection between economic violence and sexual violence in this couple.

Furthermore, the narratives of the two cases provided meaningful insights. Case one illustrated the phenomenon of reproductive control and coercion, shedding light on the transition from autonomy to dependence within the relationship. In contrast, case two showed the nature of sexual coercion and emotional manipulation, emphasizing the profound impact on the victim's mental health and the imperative need for psychological support.

Finally, these findings underscore the need for further investigation of sexual DV in international households as a risk factor for sexual coercion, fertility control, and infidelity, which may lead to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Future research should focus on developing and implementing strategies to address these issues (especially highlighting that women living in an environment of fear and male dominance lacked the ability and opportunities to control their fertility and sexual freedom), providing support and resources for affected women and men, and creating policies to protect their rights and well-being remembering that this study showed that women were way more comfortable disclosing their sex lives in interviews rather than anonymously in their survey.

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Step 1: Creation of the Questionnaire

The author formulated the questions for the questionnaire based on the research objectives and specifics of the topic.

Step 2: Trial and Polishing

The original questionnaire was tested to provide coherence and relevance to the research goals.

Step 3: Final Questionnaire

The revised version of the questionnaire was finalized. The fieldwork was set in Japan among Russian-speaking expatriates (primarily Russian migrants). Both urban and rural areas were represented in this research. However, the prevalence of regions such as Kanto (Tokyo, Chiba, and Yokohama), Chubu or Kansai (Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, and Kyoto) were significantly higher compared to Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa.

Step 4: Additional Questionnaire and Invitation to the Interview

The follow-up questions have been included based on the initial responses. Furthermore, 18 participants were invited for the in-depth interview.

Step 5: Interview with Further Iterations

**iii Case Study Process (CDA):**

Step 1: Organizing data using manual methods

Step 2: Coding into themes (CDA)

This step included the identification of passages of text and applying labels to them to get clarity and structuralize data associated with some particular thematic ideas (CDA).

Step 3: Interpreting

This process included analytical interpretation of the text and codes (i.e., keywords indicated by the author)

Step 4: Description

This step included analysis of social situations, providing pieces of evidence of DV and abuse, and bringing depth to the study by finding a way to support the author's theories.

**iv Process of Inductive Coding (CDA):**

Step 1: Interpretation and Analysis

Inductive coding helped with the interpretation and analysis of the data. By assigning codes to different elements of the text (transcript), the researcher could analyze the underlying relations and forms of abuse/DV.

Step 2: Theory Building

Theory building was essential for CDA in this dissertation. First, it helped to support the author's theories. Furthermore, it contributed to developing new conceptual frameworks and analyzing different patterns represented in the transcripts of respondents' speeches. Finally, coding in CDA involves systematical analysis of qualitative data, such as text, and categorizing it into codes to identify patterns and themes (topics).

Step 3: Familiarization with Data

For further analysis and comparison, familiarizing myself with the texts and understanding the context, the participants, and the overall content was essential.

Step 4: Identifying Units (Topics) of Analysis

This step is required to break down the text into sentences or keywords.

#### Step 5: Coding

This step required assigning codes to the units, representing the key ideas, concepts, or themes in the transcripts. Then, looking for relationships and connections between the codes, selecting the most relevant codes that contribute to the understanding of the discourse, and taking notes and writing memos to the transcript, which were valuable for identifying patterns.

#### Step 6: Theoretical Sampling

This step required theoretical sampling. The author deliberately selected additional data through the interview to refine her emerging codes, which helped ensure the robustness and depth of the analysis.

#### Step 7: Interpretation and Analysis

After completing the coding process, the author moved on to the interpretation and analysis. She presented the coded data, discussed the identified themes, and related them to the broader context of this research objectives.

<sup>v</sup> The **term partner** was defined as spouse in the first case, and fiancé in the second case.

<sup>vi</sup> **Any sexual activity** that takes place against the victim's will is sexual abuse. It is also known as sexual harassment or sexual abuse and encompasses, among other things, rape, forced oral sex, and unwanted sexual contact.