

# Increase the Effectiveness of Anti Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention

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Statistically, domestic violence exists in 24.7% families in China and the victims are mostly women, children and seniors who belong to the disadvantaged group; 10% of the juvenile offenders grow up in an environment with domestic violence. It has severely affected the social stability and security and has impeded the development of a harmonious society. In reality, the action against domestic violence requires not only more judicial interventions, but also unambiguous public opinion and family education, so that the domestic violence problem could be dealt with comprehensively from its origin. Specifically, there are two aspects of possible measures:

One the one hand, the mass media should fully play its role in publicizing, educating and guiding the anti domestic violence actions. Considering the features of Shanghai, the methods mass media can take in the action of anti domestic violence are as follows:

Firstly, take effective use of the press spokesman system. We can take advantage of the guiding role of newspaper, magazine, radio, television, Internet and Wechat, so that the important information about the development, rights and interests protection concerning women, children and seniors can be duly released to the society.

Secondly, bring the advertisements, which are aimed at safeguarding women, children and seniors' rights, promoting women and children's development, into the overall plan of producing public utility advertisements. Encourage the mass media to take on the responsibility of publicizing some basic state policies such as gender equality, children preference and senior protection. In this way, there is hope to make those policies institutionalized and normalized.

Thirdly, contain the appearances of prejudice against women and children in mass media, build a monitoring and supervising system and increase penalties on illegal behaviors.

Fourthly, mass media should develop series of programs, series of columns and anti domestic violence case study series to promote laws concerning rights and interests of women, children and seniors, based on the experience of the feature program A Documentary of Anti Domestic Violence Actions in China produced by "Society and Law" for the channel

*The lasting problem of domestic violence has severely affected social stability and security, and has impeded the development of a harmonious society. In the anti domestic violence action, strengthening judicial intervention is just one measure, more importantly the mass media should play a better role in publicizing, educating and guiding the action; on the other hand, home education should take its advantage in preventing and controlling domestic violence, so that the domestic violence problem could be dealt with comprehensively from its origin.*

of CCTV 12. Now there are feature series like “One Seventh” and “Eastern 110” which can be downloaded for free on the Internet. Columns of anti domestic violence actions can be serialized on important pages.

Fifthly, related departments should build an anti domestic violence platform via new media. In the modern information society, the new media has the following features: it is interactive and fast; it has a large content, big target audiences, huge influence, good concealment and low cost, which makes it crucial for the anti domestic violence action. For instance, if we could establish an anti-domestic violence Wechat official account, we can design modules on domestic violence case studies, cause analysis and anti domestic violence legal advice, and offer information on how to seek help after being abused and how to locate service resources.

Sixthly, mass media should increase its ability in publicizing and promoting anti domestic violence knowledge and strengthen its sense of social commitment. If mass media can publicize with a strong sense of social commitment the constitution and related laws, popularize the basic state policy of gender equality and gender consciousness, and propagate laws and social actions of anti domestic violence, more people can be informed that domestic violence is not just common family dispute but an illegal action that can pose great mental and physical damages to the family members; domestic violence is not a family privacy but a social problem. Family is the cell of a society, but the families which are shadowed with domestic violence problemes are like cancer cells that need to be treated with precaution, be discovered and interfered at early stage, and deterred by law. It is everybody’s responsibility to fight against domestic violence, while the mass media should take more efforts by making full use of all kinds of communication platforms to make sure that the understandable and persuasive anti domestic violence information can be spread to more people and in return more people can voluntarily take part in the social action.

On the other hand, it is important to take advantage of family education in preventing and controlling domestic violence. President Xi said on the New Year’s party: “Family is the fundamental cell of a society, is the first school in one’s life.” Considering the characteristics of Shanghai, possible measures could be taken in the following steps:

Firstly, the Family Civilization Guidance Centers in every district and every county, which were established by Shanghai Women’s Federation, will be used as a platform, there trainings targeted at families, especially at men, will be provided, and a training syllabus and textbooks targeted at the family members will be designed for the trainings. The previous trainings offered by Women’s Federation were centered around women,

however, statistically 90%-95% domestic violence were done by men to women and children. Therefore, the trainings targeted at men become crucial. The training contents should include explanations on what domestic violence is and its harm, skills to harmonize family relations, methods to control emotions, etc. For women and children, we can continue to offer training on how to avoid domestic violence and protect themselves, and offer information and resources to help them after becoming victims in domestic violence.

Secondly, strengthen the marriage education in the frame of family education. Before registering for marriage, the couple should receive training and acquire knowledge from related personnel about domestic violence. What's more, we can print relevant contents on the marriage certificate and require the couple to make "anti domestic violence" commitment as prevention to later domestic violence.

Thirdly, we should further improve the three-in-one (school, family and society) family education guidance module and take advantage of the existing parents school at all levels to improve its quality. While guiding parents' upbringing of their children, we can also improve their own abilities especially those in dealing with family conflicts and relations and in establishing a harmonious family.

Fourthly, the government should plan the budget for purchasing family education services and add it to the Government Purchase Public Services list so as to encourage more social organizations to take part in the services of family education on anti domestic violence.

Translator/ Ji Yingyun