Honour related violence in a Swedish context – an intersectional perspective

Siv-Britt BJÖRKTOMTA, Social Sciences - Social Work,

During the past decade a “new” social problem area, regarding what has come to be termed honour related violence and oppression, HRV, has been constituted in Sweden. In my dissertation, About Patriarchy, Resistance and Breaking-up – young girls movement in social spaces (2012), I investigated how some girls with non-ethnic Swedish background who in Swedish media, government documents and project descriptions have come to be categorized as “vulnerable girls in patriarchal families” describe their situation themselves. In this paper I will place the girls and their families in a broader context of the Swedish society. The patriarchal family formations described by the interviewees are understood as variations of patriarchy formed within transnational social spaces in a late modern society. The girls found themselves at the intersection between a patriarchal field and a field characterized by a more liberal view of sexuality and strong discourses about equality and children’s rights. In reflecting upon my results, I conclude that what has been categorized, as a social problem – HRV – is an extremely complex phenomenon that occurs on several levels: individual, family, group, and structural – both national and global. The intersectional perspective used in this paper emphasises relations and processes such as patriarchy together with norms of honour, fundamentalism, migration & transnationalism, religion, men’s violence against women/parents’ violence against children/brothers’ violence against sisters and finally the late modern society. For an understanding of how these relations and processes are interrelated I’m using Bourdieu’s theories of habitus and symbolic violence. My analysis is taking place within a Swedish context which means that focus will be on some specific relations and processes, as those mentioned above. An analysis, which takes place in another context, might probably stress the point on (partly) other relations and processes.

Keywords: honour related violence, patriarchy families, intersectional, late modern society, habitus

HRV in a swedish context
– an intersectional analysis

The late modern society –
Secularization, Individualism, A liberal view of sexuality, Ban of corporal punishment at home as well in a wider society, A child perspective.

Religion –
Family monar, Hormoostes, Creator of meaning, Patriarchal structure.

Men’s violence against women,
Parent’s violence against children,
Brother’s violence against sisters –
A universal phenomenon.

Variations of patriarchal families –
A context of threat scenario, A latent violence.

Honour and norms of honour –
A woman’s virginity as a social capital for the honour of the family/group.

Migration, transnationalism –
Mobility, Belonging, Creation of differences (Transnationalism from we and/or being a refugee).

Fundamentalism –
The myth of a common destiny, The heterosexual family as a universal solution of social problems, A reaction against, or a version of modernity.

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