

# Asian Male Domestic Violence Victims: Services Exclusive for Men

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**Abstract** The main reasons abused men do not seek social services include their strong endorsement of social/cultural values and avoidance of gender role conflict. Through internet-based service connections, we did not find sources in Asia, Australia, or New Zealand that advertised programs exclusively for male victims of domestic violence (DV). Nine social services in Hong Kong and Singapore describe their work with men in DV situations, but the main focus is “men as perpetrators.” Targeting men as victims, 32 sources in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom describe services designed especially for male DV victims. Findings demonstrate that services for male victims must address such factors as secretiveness, cultural values, masculine identity, tolerance, shame, and loss of face.

**Keywords** Spouse abuse · Male abuse victims · Abused men · Hong Kong · Singapore · Australia · New Zealand · Canada · United Kingdom · United States · Internet services · Asian men · Help seeking behavior · Losing face · Masculine identity

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2006), “Intimate partner violence (IPV) is abuse between two people in a close relationship...[including] current and former spouses and dating partners” (p.1). In

general, domestic violence (DV) and IPV are interchangeably used although DV can involve more than two persons in conflict such as spouses and their children. According to American Psychological Association (2001), DV is “an ongoing pattern of behavior, attitudes, and beliefs in which a partner in an intimate relationship attempts to maintain power and control over the other through the use of psychological, physical, and/or sexual coercion” (p. 3). Control and power are forcefully obtained through physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, emotional abuse, economic or financial abuse, and spiritual abuse, and a person may be subjected to more than one form of abuse.

DV affects people of all ages and both genders. A number of studies reveal that both males and females reportedly experience direct aggression in interaction with intimate partners (Archer 2000, 2002; Gelles 1999; Richardson 2005). Based on the annual projection from the results of National Violence Against Women Survey, 1.5 million women and 835,000 men are victims of physical violence by their intimate partners (Tjaden and Thoennes 1998). Brown (2004) found four times more female victims (81%) than male victims (19%) in partner violence reported to police.

Although DV statistics on Asians are not readily available, three studies indicate that males are the hidden victims. In a study focused on family violence, Yoshioka et al. (2000) found that 15% of the Vietnamese American respondents saw their mother regularly hit their father. Kim and Emery (2003) found that marital violence among Korean couples is correlated with power and conflict, and their study with 1,500 participants indicated that wife to husband abuse was 12% for minor violence and 2.8% for severe violence. Baba and Murray (2003) surveyed 131 Vietnamese students at a U.S. college and found that 26% of their mothers physically abused their fathers at least

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once. The male-victim findings revealed that Asian male victims are well-hidden and that Asian men are not always the perpetrators. Since men typically do not report their victimization, little is known about the needs of this understudied population.

This paper focuses on exploring the phenomena of men's help-seeking behavior, in general and among Asian men, analyzing from literature the reasons why male victims do not come forward, as well as describing the method and findings of an internet-based study that searched the availability of services with a focus on addressing male victims' needs. Implications for practice and research will be discussed.

### Men Not Seeking Help: In General

Gender difference in help-seeking behavior is a growing concern. Research has shown that men are less likely than women to seek help for a variety of psychological difficulties and medical attention (Commonwealth Fund 1998; Tudiver and Talbot 1999). In a study with four focus groups of 18 participants (12 men and 6 women) who were family physicians in active practice, perceived vulnerability, fear, and denial are important factors that influence men's decision not to seek help (Tudiver and Talbot 1999). According to George (1994), men are viewed as unacceptable victims of marital violence and the concept of the male victim is a great taboo. When men report abuse incidents, they are typically treated with blatant discrimination and harsh comments, such as "Look at the size of you! Maybe she was just defending herself" (Male Victims as Domestic Violence 2007). An internet-based organization, Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting (RADAR 2006), issued a special report about domestic abuse and described how men who seek help are ignored, ridiculed, and even accused of being the initiator of the crime. In a study of open-ended interviews with five male Marines about their experiences with violence in their homes, male victims do not view abuse in the same way as their female counterparts, and often deny that they are involved in an abusive relationship, which reinforces abusive patterns (Davis 2004). Social stigmatization and men's denial of being victims are among the many reasons explaining why men are less inclined to seek help than women.

Some studies argued that not all men are equally unwilling to seek help. A study on personal crises found that European American men are more receptive than African American men toward help-seeking (Neighbors et al. 1998). In another study, middle-class men are more likely than lower income and working class men to seek help (Hodgetts and Chamberlain 2002). Although not gender specific, Asian Americans and Asian immigrants have increased resistance to professional assistance (Shin 2002).

### Men Not Seeking Help: Asian Men

Many studies have recognized the importance of culture in understanding ethnic minorities (Lane and Addis 2005; Liu and Iwamoto 2006; Yu 2005). Exploration of Asian cultural values is an effective way to know more about Asian men. In general, Asian cultural values consist of avoidance of shame, collectivism, conformity to norms, deference to authority, emotional self-control, family recognition through achievement, filial piety, humility, and compliance based on hierarchical relationships (Kim et al. 2001; Kim et al. 1999).

Research has suggested that Asian cultural values may shape masculinity for Asian American men. A study of 559 college students, who self-identified themselves as Chinese, Japanese, or White/European, revealed that US-born and immigrant Asian men viewed their masculinity as distinct from White hegemonic masculinity (Chua and Fujino 1999). In Chua and Fujino's study, Asian American men characterized masculinity as being polite, obedient and caring, which indicates that Asian Americans' standards for masculinity are still shaped heavily by Asian traditional norms.

### Reasons for Male Victims Not Coming Forward

Asian cultural values and norms, such as avoidance of shame and emotional self-control, also directly influence men's behavior. According to Ho (1976), face is lost when a man fails to meet the essential requirements placed on the man's position to perform his masculine roles. Since the concepts of shame and face are closely related, Chan (2006) stresses the use of face as a concept to understand men's feeling and behavioral responses because spousal conflict in Chinese culture is considered face-losing (Chan 2006). Rentoul and Appleboom (1997) revealed that when male victims seek help, the most pervasive themes are related to their problems in reconciling their masculine identity with their experience of being abuse victims. Through story telling that can conceal their identities, many men are then willing to share their sufferings from physical, fiscal, and emotional abuse (Equal Justice Foundation 2006). Contrary to the stereotypical image of the "tough macho man," male victims disclose feelings of shame, disgrace, emotional loss, and humiliation, any one of which would have prevented abused men from speaking out (Jill 2002, 2006).

Men who experience greater gender role conflict tend to have higher resistant attitudes towards seeking professional help. Rigid adherence to male gender roles and masculine expectations can result in gender role restriction and conflict toward self (O'Neil et al. 1986). A study of 401 male undergraduates found that adherence to the traditional male gender role, such as not expressing emotions or affection toward other men, was negatively related to professional help-

seeking behavior (Good et al. 1989). In addition to supporting this premise, Osborne (2004) also found that the availability of social support, situational distress, and acceptance of vulnerability were significant predictors for at least one form of help-seeking; namely, advice/guidance, practical assistance, companionship, and emotional support.

Another study of why men do not seek help further identifies some personal barriers related to a man's traditional social role characteristics, including 1) a sense of immunity and immortality, 2) difficulty relinquishing control, and 3) a belief that seeking help is unacceptable and men are not interested in prevention (Tudiver and Talbot 1999). Focusing on results from 192 Asian American men, Liu and Iwamoto (2006) found that endorsement of Asian cultural values is related to higher scores on gender role conflict. These studies and related research on domestic violence consistently suggest that Asian men's adherence to traditional cultural values is related to their unwillingness in help-seeking.

Although there is a dearth of studies on partner abuse against Asian men in domestic violence literature, it can be extrapolated that when men are assaulted by their partners, Asian men's unique psychology, personal barriers, and traditional cultural values greatly affect or even jeopardize their help-seeking decision. Despite the underreporting of abuse of men and underutilization of services by male victims, men do need help. Because of their resistance to step forward, there is a definite need to have specialized services designed solely for male victims. However, limited research has been conducted on examining the service needs of male victims and the existing service provisions.

The purpose of this paper explores the service availability and characteristics of existing services for male domestic violence victims in countries where Asian men are living. It is hoped that through this information more research will be conducted on men as domestic abuse victims and service providers will learn culturally sensitive ways to meet the needs of ethnic minorities, especially the Asian male victims, who are not immune to domestic violence.

## Method

In order to attain an updated and timely profile of service provisions and characteristics for Asian male domestic violence victims, the authors utilized an internet search to conduct the investigation. In 2007–08, the authors accessed different websites via google.com and yahoo.com to target Asian male victim services. We took two steps to ensure that we did not miss possibly important websites and services for men: 1) general and specific keywords were used with different combinations of word entries: spousal/domestic violence/abuse, man/male victims, battered man/husband, and services /programs/ projects for male victims/

men, and men's mental health; and 2) all three researchers separately searched the internet to cross-check whether we missed any relevant websites. We first focused on Asian countries and found no service or program exclusively publicized for male victims. There were nine domestic violence programs implemented by the government and NGO's in Hong Kong and Singapore. However, the announcements show that no services are solely designed for men as domestic violence victims.

Since Asians also live in many other countries, we decided to go beyond Asian countries and search other parts of the world. We first searched websites from Australia and New Zealand because many Asians migrated to these countries that are located in the Pacific Rim region. Although we found nine social services pertaining content on domestic violence, these services mainly serve men as perpetrators or men experienced general crises. We were disappointed that none of the DV social services publicized through the internet are designed exclusively for male victims.

Finally, we expanded our search to other websites in the world. Beyond keyword searches, government websites also provided links to information such as official national data and welfare services of related departments. This search was then followed up by clicking the related link to reach expected services/programs. To illustrate this process with an example, we first used one of search engines (google.com) and typed the word "male domestic violence victims," then clicked related websites, e.g., "MenWeb-domestic violence. 835,000 battered men each year, silent..."; and then clicked into the website "<http://www.batteredmen.com>" and scrolled down to the bottom to double click the program "SAFE" to get to "<http://www.safe4all.org/>"; by clicking "682 resource list" on the left column, we found a resource list under the website "<http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/>"; and lastly we selected services that led to their home websites and then reported the findings on a summary chart. This process continued until all the relevant resources were exhausted.

## Results

While thousands of agencies and units from governmental and non-governmental organizations are currently providing a broad range of services and programs for female domestic violence victims and their children, no services were found exclusively for male victims of domestic violence in Asia. This internet search showed that no services were found for male victims in China, India, and Japan. In Japan, it was not until 1992 that the term domestic violence was introduced (Tsunoda 1997). In South Korea, no unique services for male victims could be found; programs are available to prevent sexual abuse or domestic

**Table 1** Services for male domestic violence victims in Asian countries

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
<b>China</b>		No available services can be found.	
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Caritas-Hong Kong Family Service	Men's Hotline: 2649 1100 (Wednesday: 2:00 pm-5:00 pm) <a href="http://family.caritas.org.hk/ser/hotline.html">http://family.caritas.org.hk/ser/hotline.html</a>	Men
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Christian Family Services Center	Men's Hotline: 2787 1355 (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10:00 am-10:00 pm) Men's Growth Group <a href="http://www.cfsc.org.hk/service/serv1c.php">http://www.cfsc.org.hk/service/serv1c.php</a>	Men who are disturbed by domestic violence
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Family Welfare Society - "Alternatives to Violence Project"	Originated from the Quakers in 1975 and has been adopted by 26 countries, it is a movement advocating anger management in a peaceful way. In 2002, the Society is the first agency to bring the Project to Hong Kong from overseas in view of increased family violence. It offers experiential workshops to empower individuals to transform violence in a peaceful way and build a peaceful community. <a href="http://www.avphk.org/index.php">http://www.avphk.org/index.php</a>	Aged 21 and above (male and female)
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Harmony House - Third Path Man's Services:	It aims to end DV with men as perpetrators Hotline: 2295 1386 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2:00 pm-10:00 pm) <a href="http://www.harmonyhousehk.org/eng/serviceimage/service7_eng.htm">http://www.harmonyhousehk.org/eng/serviceimage/service7_eng.htm</a>	Male perpetrators
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Po Leung Kuk	Men's Hotline: 2890 1830 Men are encouraged to use this hotline service and avoid violence if they are upset by problems regarding marriage, family, financial problem, work and interpersonal relationship, and courtship, etc. [24 hours] <a href="http://www.poleungkuk.org.hk/plk/index.aspx?lang=&amp;id=20060809125111">http://www.poleungkuk.org.hk/plk/index.aspx?lang=&amp;id=20060809125111</a>	Men in DV situations
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Social Welfare Department (SWD)	In Hong Kong, a wide range of welfare services for victims of child abuse, spouse battering and sexual violence are provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), subsidized and non-subsidized non-governmental organizations (NGOs). i) <u>The Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs)</u> of SWD: One-stop services include outreach, social investigation, crisis intervention, statutory protection, intensive individual and group treatment to victims of child abuse and spouse battering, batterers and their family members. Referrals for various services e.g. legal aid, school placement, residential placement etc. will also be made whenever necessary. ii) <u>Integrated Family Service Centers (IFSC)/Integrated Services Centers (ISC)</u> run by NGOs: Provide counseling and tangible assistance to help victims of child abuse, spouse battering and their family members. For victims of sexual violence, social workers of IFSCs/ISCs from both SWD and NGOs provide counseling services, crisis intervention, therapeutic and supportive groups, escort for report to the Police, if needed, and arrange referrals for other services including clinical psychological service, financial assistance, legal service, schooling arrangement, job placement, housing assistance (e.g. compassionate rehousing, conditional tenancy) and other community resources.	Victims of child abuse, spouse battering and sexual violence
	-Support for Victims of Child Abuse, Spouse Battering and Sexual Violence		

Table 1 (continued)

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
		<p>iii) Medical social services: Provide counseling, tangible services and arrange referrals for rehabilitation, community services and so forth to help the victims of child abuse, spouse battering and sexual violence cases and their family members.</p> <p>iv) <u>Clinical Psychological Services</u> (from SWD / NGOs / and some hospitals): Provide assessment and treatment services to abusers and victims of domestic and other sexual violence if they present symptoms of psychopathology.</p> <p>v) <u>Witness Support Program</u>: In strengthening support to the abused children serving as witnesses in criminal proceedings, support persons would be arranged through the Witness Support Program, set up jointly by SWD and the Police, to accompany the abused children who have to testify in the court proceedings through a live television link system. This program is also available to the mentally incapacitated persons</p> <p>vi) <u>Four Refuge Centers</u>: Provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children who are facing domestic violence or family crisis (including Wai On Home for Women, Harmony House, Serene Court and Sunrise Court. Refuge centers), admissions on a 24-hour basis</p> <p>vii) <u>The Family Crisis Support Center (FCSC)</u> operated by the Caritas-Hong Kong provides time-out facility and an integrated package of services in helping people under extreme stress or facing crisis to manage their emotions and seek positive solution to family problems, including domestic violence</p> <p>viii) <u>Two Pilot projects of Batterer Intervention Program</u> (operated by the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society and SWD): Develop a systematic and localized group intervention model to meet the needs of batterers of domestic violence, launched in March 2006 and completed by March of 2008</p> <p>ix) <u>Hotline Service</u>: Provide information on social welfare services and immediate support to victims of domestic and sexual violence (including child abuse). The hotlines which are operated by social workers or volunteers, or through the interactive voice processing system include: SWD Hotline : 2343 2255 [24 hours]</p> <p>x) Family Crisis Support Center : 18 288 [24 hours]</p> <p>xi) <u>Mutual Aid — HKCSS Helpline</u> (through IVPS) : 1878668 [24 hours]</p> <p>xii) <u>Crisis Intervention Team on Family Violence (CIT)</u>: The crisis intervention team has been set up in A&amp;E Department of Tuen Mun Hospital, United Christian Hospital and Tseung Kwan O Hospital to render immediate crisis intervention and support to battered spouse cases.</p> <p>xiii) <u>Men's Health Program</u>: Use an internet program to encourage men to answer questions regarding their concerns about health and issues including domestic violence.  <a href="http://www.hkmenshealth.com/eng/relationships/index.aspx">http://www.hkmenshealth.com/eng/relationships/index.aspx</a>  <a href="http://www.swd.gov.hk/ys/english/welfare.html">http://www.swd.gov.hk/ys/english/welfare.html</a></p>	
Hong Kong	SWD & Tung Wah Group of Hospitals: CEASE Crisis Center 24-hour Hotline: 18281	It provides the following services: 24-crisis intervention service; coordination with the concerned departments/agencies to facilitate the victim to go through the procedures, if necessary; provision of support and company to the victims and their families throughout the process; referrals to other necessary services, e.g. psychological treatment,	Domestic violence victims including children, women, men and elderly

Table 1 (continued)

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
<b>India</b>		financial assistance and temporary accommodation (80 beds by 2008 will be provided for victims of domestic violence); and case consultation to frontline professionals handling sexual violence cases. ceasecrisis@tungwahcds.org <a href="http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_family/sub_listofserv/id_sersexviolvic/">http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_family/sub_listofserv/id_sersexviolvic/</a>	
<b>Japan</b>		No available services can be found.	
<b>Singapore</b>	Singapore Government	No available services can be found 1) Family Violence Networking System: It is collaboration between government and non-government agencies to deal with family violence cases. The system helps ensure that victims receive the appropriate and timely help and advice for their safety and protection. It links police, hospitals, social service agencies, the courts, prisons and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) in a web of assistance for victims and perpetrators of family violence. A victim of family violence can approach any one of these agencies and appropriate services will be rendered to the person. This means that there are many contact points for the victims and their families to seek help. 2) Family Protection and Welfare: Mandatory Counseling Program: A Counseling Order (Section 65 of the Women's Charter) is usually made when the Family Court issues a Personal Protection Order. It is an order for those involved in family violence to attend a compulsory counseling program. MCYS works closely with social service agencies in providing counseling services to these cases. <a href="http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/fam_supfam_familyprotection.asp#1">http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/fam_supfam_familyprotection.asp#1</a>	Victims and perpetrators of family violence
<b>Singapore</b>	Family Service Centers (FSCs)-Family Violence Programs	Along with the Family Court, police, hospitals and crisis shelters, the FSC is one of the entry points into the network of help and support for people who experience family violence. FSCs provide a range of professional services and practical assistance, which include the following: Legal advice and referrals to the Family Court Referrals to crisis shelters, if necessary Counseling, Groupwork and Support Groups for: - Those who experienced violence - Those who used violence - Children who witnessed violence <a href="http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/fam_supfam_familyservicesctr.asp#2">http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/fam_supfam_familyservicesctr.asp#2</a>	Abuser and abused of DV as well as the children who witnessed violence
<b>S. Korea</b>	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family	Programs for the prevention of sexual abuse/domestic violence and for the protection of victims include 'enforcing victim protection' and 'prevention plan.' A 24-hour national women's hotline '1366' service for victims to call in case of emergency and to report incidents has been made available. Interpretation service for foreign sex trafficking and sexual assault victims has been provided. In addition, counseling centers and shelters have been established to offer legal, medical and vocational training services. The shelters to house family-level domestic violence victims are under expansion as well. Prevention plans that focus on increasing awareness and preventing violence are also executed. Domestic violence offender treatment and behavioral correction therapy programs are being developed and applied to prevent the recurrence of violence.	Women and all victims

Table 1 (continued)

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
S. Korea	Seoul Women's Hotline	<a href="http://english.mogef.go.kr/index.html">http://english.mogef.go.kr/index.html</a> The SWHL was founded in 1983 to eliminate wife abuse, and it is one of the leading non-governmental organizations for women's human rights in Korea. <a href="http://www.womanrights.org/eng/aboutus.php">http://www.womanrights.org/eng/aboutus.php</a>	Abused wife
	<i>Affiliates:</i> Domestic Violence Counseling Center	The Domestic Violence Counseling Office provides counseling to the victims of domestic violence, and provides them with medical and legal support. To keep homes violence free, it trains future counselors on domestic violence and holds various kinds of campaigns and forums. * Counseling: 82-2-2263-6464	Victims of domestic violence
	Seoul Sexual Assault Counseling Center	The Seoul Sexual Assault Counseling Center provides counseling, medical and legal support to the victims of rape and sexual harassment. In order to create equal and healthy values on sex and culture, the center trains sex education instructors and organizes sex education projects. * Counseling: 82-2-2263-6465	Victims of rape and sexual harassment
	Temporary Protection Facility, "Shimteo"	The SWHL operates a "Shimteo", temporary protection facility, to provide the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with a place to stay, and offers not only psychological treatment through individual, group counseling and various group activities but also legal and medical support. Inquiry: 82-2-2272-2161	Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

violence for protecting female victims and their children. (Table 1)

Based on these internet sources in Asia, we found three hotlines that provide services for men in domestic violence, but these hotlines do not solely target men as victims. Generally, most specified services focus on helping men to find ways to avoid violence. For instance, according to Po Leung Kuk Men's Hotline in Hong Kong, men are encouraged to use the hotline to avoid using violence when faced by problems with marriage, family, financial condition, work, interpersonal relationships, and courtship issues. Another example is "Alternatives to Violence Project" offered by the Family Welfare Society in Hong Kong, which aims to empower men to transform violence peacefully. In Singapore, services are offered by the government, in collaboration with NGO's, to help DV victims of both genders as well as their children. These findings indicate that Hong Kong and Singapore have developed a system accessible through the internet, mainly for female victims of spouse abuse.

Further investigation reached services in Australia and New Zealand for males in crisis or men inflicted and at risk of family violence. "Mensline Australia" uses teleconferencing technology to support male callers individually, as well as in groups, and its "Mensline's Online Counseling Service" helps men as victims or perpetrators. "Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault" clearly targets male survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, which might implicitly include male DV victims although it was not the focus. Also in Australia, "Commissioner for Victims' Rights, South Australia" helps victims of both genders. The "No To Violence" in Australia and "Man Alive" in New Zealand are programs that encourage men to take responsibility for their violence and assist them to change and end their violent behaviors. Again, most services focused on working with men as perpetrators. (Table 2)

In the third search, possibly due to the use of English as the medium, we found websites from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Knowing many Asians are also residing in these countries, we went ahead with further analysis. We found 32 male-focused non-duplicated sources with a home website describing domestic violence, including five in Canada, eight in the United Kingdom (UK), and 19 in the United States of America (USA). None of these websites specify Asian populations as their target clientele. Among these websites, five characteristics of their male victims' services stand out.

First, about half of these service agencies or programs have provided hotline services with most of them running on a 24-hour basis. For instance, "Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men" offers a nationwide hotline in the USA for all victims of domestic violence, with a particular focus on battered men and same sex victims. Programs in Canada

**Table 2** Services for male domestic violence victims in Australia & New Zealand

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
<b>Australia</b>	Mensline Australia 1. Helpline service	It responds to callers in a variety of ways: - Standard Call — an immediate, single-session discussion and support - Call Back Support Service — short to medium term follow-up coaching and support, initiated by the service to the caller after the initial contact call - Peer Education Telegroups — small groups of men from anywhere in the country engaged in a facilitated discussion on a relevant topic using teleconferencing technology. - Assisted Referrals — Referring services or agencies who have established protocols with -Mensline Australia can assist their clients to link directly with the Mensline service via a real-time warm-link transfer or email. - Dedicated Industry Lines — Mensline Australia can provide customized telephone counseling services to support male employees. <a href="http://www.menslineaus.org.au/HelpLine.aspx">http://www.menslineaus.org.au/HelpLine.aspx</a>	For men with relationship and family concerns
<b>Australia</b>	2. Mensline's Online Counseling Service No To Violence (NTV), the Male Family Violence Prevention Association Inc.	This service is currently in development. Expected delivery date: October 2008 <a href="http://www.menslineaus.org.au/OnlineCounsel.aspx">http://www.menslineaus.org.au/OnlineCounsel.aspx</a> NTV is a peak organization of individuals and agencies working for the prevention of male family violence. The specific focus is work with men to assist them to change and end their violent behavior. Activities undertaken by NTV include: • Provision of telephone, counseling, information and referral service for men wishing to change and end their use of violence towards family members • Support and development of men's behavior change programs • Development and provision of training, resources and information • Data development and analysis • Education and information provision • Provision and Support of research • Contribution to policy development • Service sector advocacy and leadership. <a href="http://www.ntv.org.au">http://www.ntv.org.au</a>	Men inflicted and at risk of family violence
<b>Australia</b>	Commissioner for Victims' Rights, South Australia	Domestic violence hotline: 1-800-80-00-98 (24/7) This is a domestic (family) violence helpline for anyone, male or female, who would like to speak to a person who understands domestic (family) violence. This service is available Statewide. <a href="http://www.voc.sa.gov.au/Information/Who_can_help/Support_services/Support_services_SA.asp">http://www.voc.sa.gov.au/Information/Who_can_help/Support_services/Support_services_SA.asp</a>	Men and women DV victims
<b>Australia</b>	Department for Community Development: The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline	The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline is a free telephone information, referral and counseling service for men to help them change their violent behavior towards female partners. Ph. 9223 1199 or 1800 000 599 (24 hours) <a href="http://www.dvirc.org.au/ServicesHub/ServicesIndex.htm">http://www.dvirc.org.au/ServicesHub/ServicesIndex.htm</a>	Men as perpetrators
<b>Australia</b>	The Lone Fathers Association (Australia) Inc. (LFAA)	The LFAA conducted for some years a men's and children's crisis and accommodation service in the ACT for homeless men and their children.	Lone fathers and their children

Table 2 (continued)

Country	Organization/ Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
Australia	The Men's Phone-Line (Sydney)	<p>The MAACS (Men's Accommodation and Crisis Service), based in Canberra, provides short term crisis accommodation (up to 21 days) as well as information and referral services for men and their children who are in a marriage or relationship breakdown situation.</p> <p><a href="http://www.lonefathers.com.au/">http://www.lonefathers.com.au/</a></p> <p>(02) 6241 0433 6255 0970 or 6258 4216 (After Hours)</p> <p>The Aims of the Men's Phone-Line are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to provide telephone information &amp; support for men; acknowledging that men can feel more comfortable initially discussing sensitive issues with another man. And,</li> <li>- to assist new &amp; existing services to identify themselves to men in need. And,</li> <li>- to provide phone-line inquiry-based research into men's needs.</li> </ul> <p>Phone: 02-99799909</p> <p><a href="http://www.getworks.com.au/mp/MPL.HTM">http://www.getworks.com.au/mp/MPL.HTM</a></p>	Men in crisis
Australia	Murringu Men's Center	<p>Information and services for men, including one to one counseling; a senior men's group meeting fortnightly; programs on anger management, grief and loss support; and on-going confidential peer support groups.</p> <p>Phone: (03) 9428 2899</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:vnet@vicnet.net.au">vnet@vicnet.net.au</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/10241">http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/10241</a></p>	Men in crisis
Australia	Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault (SAMSSA)	<p>SAMSSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provides support to men recovering from sexual assault and child sexual abuse;</li> <li>- provides education and information services about male sexual assault issues to the community;</li> <li>- assists men who seek to eradicate sexual violence against men, women and children.</li> <li>- is inclusive and accepting of all men who seek assistance in their recovery.</li> </ul> <p>24-hour Hotline: 02 6247 2525</p> <p><a href="http://www.apex.net.au/~samssa/">http://www.apex.net.au/~samssa/</a></p>	Male survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse
New Zealand	Man Alive	<p>Living Without Violence and Te Ara Taumata Ora programs run by Man Alive will not blame, shame or judge men. Men will be encouraged to take responsibility for their violence and understand there is no excuse for abuse. Man Alive's point of difference from other non-violence programs is that they are run by men, for men. [Counseling for men by men]</p> <p>In mid 2006, their services expand to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men's change and support group</li> <li>- Counseling and Group Support for Sexually Abused Men</li> <li>- The Respect program</li> <li>- Family &amp; couple counseling</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.manalive.org.nz/nonviolence.htm">http://www.manalive.org.nz/nonviolence.htm</a></p>	Men and boys in crisis

**Table 3** Services for male domestic violence victims in Canada, UK and USA

Country	Organization / Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
Canada	Men's Alternative Safe House (MASH Project)	Works towards providing men and fathers with children an opportunity to remove themselves from a potentially explosive domestic situation. The fulfillment of its goal to provide beds for these people in need is imminent Operates a telephone crisis line, shelter, and support for people wanting support and information for abused man <a href="http://www.mash4077.ca">http://www.mash4077.ca</a>	Men victims
Canada	Ontario Association of Male Survivor Services (OAMSS)	Provides victim services and treatment programs with critical information, networking, and training. <a href="http://www.malesurvivor.on.ca">http://www.malesurvivor.on.ca</a>	Men victims
Canada	Ottawa Men's Center	A dedicated support group whose primary goal is to stem the trend of suicide by fathers. It provides divorce resources, impartial attorney referrals and support for men or fathers who are victims of false allegations, parental alienation and or gender bias. <a href="http://www.OttawaMensCentre.com">http://www.OttawaMensCentre.com</a>	Men or fathers in crisis
Canada	The Family of Men Support Society	It aims to stop the cycle of violence and abuse. The society is for men who want to remove themselves from a potentially explosive domestic situation with dignity. It provides a positive form of intervention and help before anyone is hurt and before children experience violence. It educates all persons that family violence and abuse are non-gender issues and to elevate the cries of men to the same level of women and children. Hotline: 403-242-4077 <a href="http://www.familyofmen.com/">http://www.familyofmen.com/</a>	Men victims in domestic violence
Canada	The Victoria Men's Center	As the physical representation of a supportive men's network, it is a place for men to gain support, companionship, and a place to share concerns and experiences in a spirit of brotherhood. <a href="http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/MensCentre/">http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/MensCentre/</a>	Men victims
UK	It Does Happen 2 Men	Offers Advice Line and SMS based support for battered men (07800 647 379). Founder: Mike Kenny <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/tees/content/articles/2004/09/10/it_does_happen_to_men_feature.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/tees/content/articles/2004/09/10/it_does_happen_to_men_feature.shtml</a>	Battered men
UK	Men Cry Too	Provides an invaluable resource on male victim of domestic violence, such as information, facts, myths, and coping methods. <a href="http://www.mencrytoo.homestead.com/index.html">http://www.mencrytoo.homestead.com/index.html</a>	Male victims of sexual and domestic violence
UK	Men's Advice Line & Enquiries (M.A.L.E.)	There is a hotline especially designed for male victims of sexual and domestic violence, which provides opportunities for men to talk in confidence and anonymously. Victim Support's Male Helpline: 0800-328-3623 <a href="http://www.mencrytoo.homestead.com/Links.html">http://www.mencrytoo.homestead.com/Links.html</a> Offers a range of support, information & counseling services to men who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence and abuse from intimate partners. Provides a telephone advice line for a minimum of 28 hours per week; face to face outreach work and to liaise with other relevant service providers from the statutory and voluntary sectors.	Men experienced domestic violence

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Organization / Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
UK	Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Center	<p>Hotline: 0808-801-0327  <a href="http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk">http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk</a></p> <p>The first refuge for male was opened in Wales in south-west England, will shelter men and their children who have been physically or emotionally abused by a female partner.</p> <p>Its program, Men Experience Domestic Abuse, provides a confidential 24 hour help line every day of the year for individuals who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic violence. Help Line: 01686-610391</p> <p><a href="http://www.familycrisis.co.uk/safehouses_male.shtml">http://www.familycrisis.co.uk/safehouses_male.shtml</a></p>	Abused men and their children / all victim of domestic violence
UK	Men's Aid	<p>Aims to help and support all men suffering any form of abuse or discrimination. It is run and supported by a group of concerned parents and professionals.</p> <p>Provides national support throughout the UK for male victims of domestic violence, their children, family, friends and colleagues.</p> <p>Advice Line: 0871-223-9986 (8am-8pm; 7 days a week)</p> <p><a href="http://www.mensaid.com/about_us/">http://www.mensaid.com/about_us/</a></p>	Men suffering from abuse/ discrimination
UK	Survivors UK	<p>Provides a telephone helpline with staff who are specialized in male abuse. The helpline is Helpline: 0845-122-1201(Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm to 10pm)</p> <p><a href="http://www.survivorsuk.org">www.survivorsuk.org</a></p>	Male victims of domestic abuse
UK	The Mankind Initiative	<p>National Domestic Abuse helpline for men and their children (01823-334244).</p> <p><a href="http://www.mankind.org.uk">www.mankind.org.uk</a></p>	Men and their children of domestic abuse
UK	Warwickshire County Council	<p>Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Referral Line Provides the opportunity to talk through abuse experiences and help to determine what options are available (0845-234-0822)</p> <p>The Council's webpage also lists resources available for male victims in Warwickshire and the UK.</p> <p><a href="http://www.talk2someone.org.uk">http://www.talk2someone.org.uk</a></p>	Male victims of domestic abuse
USA	Alternative Horizons (Colorado)	<p>Victims Support: 0845-130-9551</p> <p>Services include 24-hour crisis hotline, court advocacy, support groups, Latino outreach, legal project and community education</p> <p>Hotline: 970-247-4374</p> <p><a href="http://www.alternativehorizons.org/">http://www.alternativehorizons.org/</a></p>	Abused gay/bisexual, transgender men (Individuals with disabilities, individuals in gay/lesbian relationships, individuals who do not speak English)
USA	Crisis Connection	<p>Men's Line: Counselors available to help men with domestic violence/abuse calls, custody and legal referral calls (612)379-6367 (612-379-MENS).</p> <p><a href="http://www.crisis.org/aboutmain.html">http://www.crisis.org/aboutmain.html</a></p>	Abused men
USA	Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men (Nationwide)	<p>Offers a nationwide hotline for all victims of domestic violence. Services are particularly sensitive to the plight of those who traditionally have not been believed when they call, such as battered men and same sex victims.</p>	All victims of domestic violence (also with a focus on men)

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Organization / Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
USA	Domestic Abuse Shelter Homes (Florida)	Hotline number: Toll Free 1-888-7 Helpline (or 207-683-5758) <a href="http://www.dahmw.org/">http://www.dahmw.org/</a> Provides support, referral and transitional housing to victims of domestic abuse and their families (men, women, children and teens) in Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. <a href="http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/13390">http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/13390</a>	Male victims as well as their families
USA	Equal Justice Foundation	It sets up "Domestic Violence Against Men in Colorado" to help males who have suffered from physical or mental abuse from a female partner are encouraged to write their story or seek help by emailing <a href="mailto:help@ejfi.org">help@ejfi.org</a> . It hopes that the presented stories can influence the law that brings into equal justice. It preaches the message that domestic violence and abuse is a human problem, not a gender issue. <a href="http://www.ejfi.org">http://www.ejfi.org</a>	Abused men
USA	Men Working Against Abuse (Washington)	Crisis Line: (206) 461-7824 (serves residents of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties in Washington state) Offers voluntary support group for abusive men; educational programs for individuals and couples that suffer from abusive relationship; and services for men who are victims of abuse, to help them understand the situation and get free of abuse. Also offers public educational services. <a href="http://www.mwaa.org/">http://www.mwaa.org/</a>	Abused men
USA	Men's Resource Center (MRC) for Change	Supports men, challenges men's violence, and develops men's leadership in ending oppression in oneself, families, and communities through Domestic Abuse Program, Anger Management Classes, Support Program for sharing, Fathering Program, Workshop, Training and Consultation. <a href="http://mrcforchange.org/programs.html">http://mrcforchange.org/programs.html</a>	Men as victims or perpetrators
USA	MenWeb	Encourage male victims of domestic violence to email their personal stories <a href="http://www.batteredmen.com/gdvstor.htm">http://www.batteredmen.com/gdvstor.htm</a>	Abused men
USA	National Center for Men	Incorporated in 1987, NCM is dedicated to the advocacy of <i>men's equal rights</i> . Educates the public about how men have been hurt by sex discrimination and also counsel individuals and families who have been damaged by discrimination against men. Educates the public about male victims of domestic violence, men's health concerns and how men are often victimized by false accusation, particularly during divorce. <a href="http://nationalcenterformen.org">http://nationalcenterformen.org</a>	Male victims and general public
USA	Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Shelter	Offers services to both men and women. Men do not stay at the shelter; however, they are able to provide shelter in a safe place for them at another location in the community. (912)764-4605 crisis line in Atlanta, GA	Men and women in DV situations

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Organization / Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
USA	Peaceful Choices	<a href="http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/33881">http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/33881</a> Helps male and female victims find shelter in Washington County, Maine. 1-800-604-8692 <a href="http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/10697">http://www.safe4all.org/resource-list/view/10697</a>	Men and women in DV situations
USA	Safe Horizon/ Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Accountability Program (DVAP)	Provides support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. <a href="http://www.safehorizon.org/index.php?nav=nb">http://www.safehorizon.org/index.php?nav=nb</a> 24 Hour Crisis Line 1-800-621-4673 <a href="http://www.safehorizon.org/page.php?page=batterersgethelp&amp;nav=se_batterersgethelp">http://www.safehorizon.org/page.php?page=batterersgethelp&amp;nav=se_batterersgethelp</a>	Male victims of domestic abuse
USA	Shattered Men International	A web-based organization established in Indiana for the purpose of educating churches, schools and other groups and organizations on the issues of abuse from a Biblical perspective. Most of its work takes place in the interactive club on Yahoo. This club is open for everyone. <a href="http://www.shatteredmen.com/">http://www.shatteredmen.com/</a>	Men victims of abuse (Women are welcome to join the discussions)
USA	Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) (Nationwide)	A human rights organization that provides services for those who typically do not have services. Services include: Professional trainings and presentations to service providers, Brochures for underserved domestic violence groups (currently men, gay men, and lesbian women) in several languages, an online support group, online resource lists, such as court advocacy, support groups, hotlines. Phone: (319) 441-1010; <a href="mailto:jade@safe4all.org">jade@safe4all.org</a> <a href="http://www.safe4all.org/info">http://www.safe4all.org/info</a>	Battered men, same sex victims, teens, the elderly, and immigrants.
USA	The Florida Men's Resource Center	Has a list of resources for men in Florida. Provides information about support group, shelters, divorce and so forth. <a href="http://www.themenscenter.com/fmrc/">http://www.themenscenter.com/fmrc/</a>	Abused men
USA	The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project	It is a nonprofit program that provides support service for male victims of same-gender domestic violence. In addition, they provide outreach and education to law enforcement and communities. The crisis line (Toll free crisis line at 1-800-832-1901) is monitored 24 hours a day and accessible throughout the commonwealth. They have also initiated a Safe Home Program where victims can go when leaving a battered relationship. GMDVP offers shelter, guidance, and resources to allow gay, bisexual, and transgender men in crisis to remove themselves from violent situations and relationships. <a href="http://www.gmdvp.org">http://www.gmdvp.org</a>	(Women and children are welcome also) Male victims of same-gender domestic violence
USA	The Resource Center (South Dakota)	Provides counseling for men, may start a men's support group, and provides ad hoc sheltering for battered men who've had to leave their homes. <a href="http://www.safeharbor.ws/services.html">http://www.safeharbor.ws/services.html</a>	Battered men
USA	Twin Cities Men's Center	Provides resources for men seeking to grow in body, mind and spirit, and from that foundation advocates for healthier family and community relationship.	Men, heterosexual, gay, bisexual and transgender men in crisis

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Organization / Program	Service Descriptions	Service Targets
USA	Valley Oasis Shelter	<p>Offers support groups and services for male victims of sexual abuse, men who were wrongly accused, bisexual men, and men in crisis, as well as a web-based newsletter <i>Men Talk</i>. Information: 612-822-5892 or online at <a href="http://www.tcmc.org">http://www.tcmc.org</a>.</p> <p>The <i>Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council</i> provides domestic violence services including a shelter for people of all ages in Los Angeles County. There are no geographic restrictions and they serve both men and women in abusive situations. Stated as the only shelter in the USA that provides full ranges of services to male victims in the Special Report, VAWA Programs Discriminate Against Male Victims, 2006. 1-800-282-4808 (Service/Intake and Hotline), 1-661-945-6736 (Service/Intake and Hotline) <a href="http://www.avdvc.org/">http://www.avdvc.org/</a></p>	Male DV victims

and the UK also provide hotline services for male victims, such as “Men’s Alternative Safe House (MASH Project)” in Canada and “Men Cry Too” in the UK.

Second, these services specify distinctly that their service targets are male victims or abused men. These agencies advertise that they offer services for men who are dealing with their own abuse, such as “Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men” in the USA, “Ottawa Men’s Center” in Canada, and “Men’s Advice Line & Enquiries (M.A.L.E.)” in the UK.

Third, six shelters or shelter resources—four in the USA and one each in Canada and the UK—are available exclusively for men and some for their children as well. These shelters provide a clear message that men need help too.

Fourth, technology is used as a means to reach out to abused men through online support groups and email services for male victims. In the USA, Equal Justice Foundation’s “Domestic Violence Against Men in Colorado” and “Stop Abuse for Everyone” provide online support for men to build mutual support through sharing on the internet. Both “Shattered Men” and “MenWeb” encourage male victims of domestic violence to email their personal stories for sharing with strict anonymity.

The fifth characteristic is that these three countries list multiple services for male victims, such as crisis counseling, support group, educational programs, community resources, legal advice, and referral for other services. Some programs stress the importance of engaging men in couples counseling and group treatment. (Table 3)

### Implications for Practice and Research

This paper originally aimed to explore the service needs of Asian male domestic violence victims. We were not successful, however, in identifying much information in Asian countries about men’s help-seeking behavior or the resources supporting them. Through a literature review that focused on domestic violence affecting male victims, we were able to analyze the possible cultural and social expectations that lead men not to seek help. Of nine service sources available for men in Asian countries that posted internet materials on domestic violence, we noted that the services seldom advertised with “men also need help” or “men are victims/survivors/sufferers, too,” or the equivalent, as catch-phrases to reach out to the male client population. On the other hand, in Canada, the UK, and the USA, it seemed to be appropriate for services to tell clients that “men cry too” or “men as DV victims need help.” We will need further research, however, to find out whether Asian men with domestic violence problems living in these countries have actually utilized the services available for men as DV victims.

Though computer and internet searches are convenient and efficient in obtaining timely information, this techno-

logical method limited our search to only agencies or organizations that may be more technologically oriented in information dissemination. In addition, we only accessed information from countries that are ready to post information on the internet in English. With these technological limitations as a constant, we hit the keyword “domestic violence” and found services for women as victims immediately and services for men as victims were nowhere near the top one thousand websites. This outcome may reflect the perspective that men are not perceived as domestic violence service consumers unless they are perpetrators. Although services are now delivered to both genders, not focusing on men’s distinct needs can be perceived as a lack of concern toward men as victims. Such perception may impose an invisible barrier to men’s help-seeking action.

Since strong cultural values may create hindrances for men to seek help, what we learned from this research is that users’ anonymity must first be maintained to outreach male victims. When programs are designed, it is also essential to consider “boundary-less support” because Asian men are now residing in different parts of the world and their concerns may change after migrating to a country outside Asia. Further research may also need to address Asian men living in other parts of the world, such as other European countries, South and Central America, Africa and Middle East where Asians are the minorities in power.

Chan (2006) stresses the concept of face as a crucial factor to understand men’s feelings and behavioral responses in face-losing situations caused by spousal conflict. Nguyen (2005) discusses similar cultural factors that have built barriers against men disclosing their domestic violence victimization. These two observations are important considerations in helping male victims, especially when they want to preserve the family’s name and reputation and hide their shameful feelings. Although we cannot find many resources addressing the needs of Asian male victims, the websites that posted resources for male victims also present similar reasons to those cited in the literature for men not coming forward: secretiveness, cultural values, masculine identity, tolerance, shame, and loss of face.

Like other men, Asian men live in a society that seems to demand that they endorse and adhere to the role of dominant gender and live up to certain masculine expectations which are sometimes impossible to achieve. These societal expectations may place added strain and conflict on men, especially when they cannot find suitable employment or other resources to support the expected gender role. The internet findings in this study reinforce the notion that adequate services must place importance on helping men deal with these conflictual feelings and must also respect their cultural ways in handling these “hidden” issues.

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