



Jealousy in Mixed Families: A Psychosocial Analysis of Stepmother's Violence Against Stepchildren in Pontianak

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Blended Family;
Jealousy; Psychosocial;
Violence Against Children

Received : 31 August

Revised : 30 Sept

Accepted: 25 October

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes jealousy within blended family structures and its impact on violence against stepchildren, focusing on a case in Pontianak. A qualitative case study approach was employed, using data from police reports and relevant podcast interviews. The findings reveal that the stepmother's jealousy, triggered by the husband's unequal attention between biological and stepchildren, led to emotional tension that escalated into physical violence. Social pressures and the inability to manage jealousy exacerbated conflicts within the family. The study highlights the importance of healthy emotional management and social support in preventing domestic violence, particularly within blended families.

INTRODUCTION

The structure of the family in the modern world has undergone significant changes in recent decades (Nassiri & Bakhtiari, 2012). One of the increasingly common forms is the mixed family (Fauzi, 2018), which is a family formed from a second or more marriages, where the couple brings children from the previous relationship into a new household. This phenomenon is a reflection of the social changes that have occurred in various countries, including Indonesia (Widanarti et al., 2019), along with the increasing number of divorces and remarriages. Mixed families, although considered a solution to previous failed marriages, bring their own challenges in establishing relationships between family members, especially between stepparents and stepchildren (Riness & Sailor, 2019).

These challenges can manifest in a variety of ways, including issues of acceptance, loyalty, and the blending of different family cultures and traditions (Zucker, 2003). In the context of mixed families, the relationship between stepparents and stepchildren is often complicated (Uzzi & Tsiotes, 2013). In contrast to the biological relationship between biological parents and children, the emotional bond between stepparents and stepchildren takes time and effort to build (MSW & LCSW, 2000). This imbalance can trigger various problems, one of which is jealousy. Jealousy in mixed families not only impacts the relationship between stepparents and stepchildren, but can also trigger conflicts in the husband-wife relationship (Zucker & Reiss, 2009). Jealousy that is not managed properly often develops into emotional conflict, which in some extreme cases, leads to physical or emotional violence against the stepchild.

Previous research has identified that jealousy in mixed families is one of the main factors that trigger domestic violence. According to a study conducted by James L. Furrow, jealousy in family relationships can develop into aggressive behavior when one family member feels neglected or unappreciated in his or her relationship with a partner (Furrow & Palmer, 2007). In mixed families, this jealousy often arises because one spouse's attention is more focused on the child than from a previous marriage (Portrie & Hill, 2005). This imbalance creates feelings of insecurity and a sense of threat, which then encourages violent behavior.

In Indonesia, mixed families are not a rare phenomenon. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022 shows an increase in the divorce rate by 10% in the last decade, followed by an increasing trend of second or more marriages (BPS, 2022). This increase in the number of mixed families shows the need to pay more attention to the dynamics and challenges faced by these families. Research conducted by Diane D. Lipat revealed that emotional instability in mixed families is often caused by the disharmony of the relationship between stepparents and stepchildren, which then has an impact on discomfort in the household (Lipat, 2021).

Further studies on mixed families in Indonesia also identified that one of the factors influencing domestic violence is the inability of stepparents to manage jealousy towards stepchildren. Geon Ho Bahn states that in mixed families, stepmothers often feel neglected when the husband's attention is more

focused on the child than in the previous marriage, which triggers feelings of envy and anger (Bahn & Hong, 2019). This condition is exacerbated when there is not adequate emotional support from the partner to help the stepmother cope with her feelings.

The phenomenon of jealousy that triggers violence in mixed families is also supported by the findings of Becky L. DeGreeff, who found that stepmothers who experience jealousy towards their stepchildren are more prone to commit acts of physical or verbal violence (DeGreeff & Burnett, 2014). In this study, Becky L. DeGreeff noted that stepmothers who did not have a strong emotional bond with their stepchildren were more likely to feel pressured by the parenting responsibilities placed on them, especially when she felt less supported by her husband. This finding is in line with research conducted by Adrienne Bartle, which shows that jealousy in the family is one of the main predictors of domestic violence (Bartle, 2014).

In addition to jealousy factors, mixed family dynamics are also influenced by socio-cultural factors. In Indonesian society, the role of mothers is often associated with childcare, and stepmothers are expected to embrace stepchildren with the same affection as biological children (Khairunisa & Coralia, 2022). However, these expectations do not always correspond to reality, especially when stepmothers do not have an emotional bond with stepchildren. A study by Kingsley M. Schroeder shows that social pressure to fulfill the ideal mother's role can cause stepmothers to feel depressed, which ultimately increases the risk of conflict in the family (Schroeder & Liben, 2021).

From a psychological perspective, jealousy can be interpreted as an emotional response to a perceived threat to a relationship, either in the form of attention, affection, or emotional bonding (Banaszkiewicz, 2022). In mixed families, this threat often comes from the stepchild, who is considered a competitor in getting the attention of the partner. Research by Irena Pavela Banai confirms that jealousy in mixed families tends to be higher than in nuclear families, due to biological and emotional differences between family members (Banai et al., 2023). The inability of stepmothers to manage this jealousy often leads to acts of violence, both physical and emotional, against stepchildren (Roper, 2017). A longitudinal study conducted by Cara Zaharychuk found that stepmothers who felt devalued in their family relationships were more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior towards stepchildren (Zaharychuk, 2017). This behavior can be in the form of physical violence, as happened in the case of stepchild violence in Pontianak, or in the form of emotional violence such as neglect and verbal intimidation.

In the case of Pontianak, the jealousy of the stepmother is the dominant factor that triggers violence against the stepchild. Based on the police report, the perpetrator experienced deep jealousy because her husband paid more attention to the child from a previous marriage. This jealousy encourages the perpetrator to commit acts of violence that lead to the death of the stepdaughter. This is in line with the findings of Marjorie Pichon et al., who noted that in many cases of domestic violence, perpetrators often use violence as a way to express unchanneled emotional dissatisfaction (Pichon et al., 2020).

On the other hand, spousal support also plays an important role in reducing jealousy rates in mixed families. According to Vivian Hui, couples who actively provide emotional support to their partners in mixed families can reduce the risk of conflict and jealousy (V Hui & Constantino, 2021). In the case of Pontianak, the husband's inability to fulfill his promise to provide a domestic assistant also worsened the perpetrator's emotional condition, which then triggered violence against the stepchild.

The study focused on the analysis of jealousy in mixed families and how these emotional dynamics can trigger domestic violence. Using a psychosocial approach, this study explores the relationship between stepmother's jealousy and violence against stepchildren, as well as sociocultural factors that influence mixed family dynamics. This study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the psychosocial factors that influence violence in mixed families and provide recommendations to prevent domestic violence in the future.

Thus, the study seeks to answer some important questions: How does jealousy in mixed families affect stepmothers' behavior towards stepchildren? What are some sociocultural factors that influence the relationship between stepmothers and stepchildren in mixed families? How can this emotional dynamic develop into domestic violence? The answers to these questions will provide clearer insights into how mixed families can be managed in a healthier and more harmonious way.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In understanding the phenomenon of violence against stepchildren in the context of mixed families, it is important to pay attention to several psychosocial theories and concepts that can explain the dynamics that occur. Jealousy, family relationships, socio-cultural factors, and the psychology of violence are the main elements that affect the relationship between stepparents and stepchildren, which often triggers acts of domestic violence.

Theory of Jealousy and Mixed Family Dynamics

Jealousy in mixed families often arises due to an imbalance of attention and affection from the spouse towards the children from a previous marriage (Rahayu, 2024). According to psychosocial theory, jealousy is an emotional response to perceived threats to interpersonal relationships, especially when a person feels neglected or unappreciated by their partner (Afonso, 2017). In mixed families, stepparents often feel that their spouse's attention is more focused on the child than in previous marriages, which creates insecurity and dissatisfaction. This can lead to conflicts and misunderstandings, which further exacerbates tensions within the household.

This feeling of jealousy can develop into hatred of the stepchild, which is considered the main cause of the imbalance of attention. When jealousy is not managed properly, these negative emotions can encourage aggressive and violent behavior towards stepchildren (Ibrahim, 2022). In this context, jealousy serves as a negative motivator that directs stepparents to express anger and frustration through acts of violence, both verbally and physically.

Family Relations Theory

Family relationship theory emphasizes the importance of healthy and balanced interactions between family members to create strong emotional bonds. In mixed families, the challenge of creating strong emotional bonds is often greater than in nuclear families, due to biological differences and relationship backgrounds (Kyegombe et al., 2022). When stepparents and stepchildren fail to build a positive emotional bond, this can increase feelings of alienation and jealousy in the relationship.

This inability to build emotional bonds often triggers conflicts within the household, especially when one party feels underappreciated. A study conducted by Danielle N. Shapiro found that stepmothers' inability to form strong relationships with stepchildren is often a trigger for domestic violence (Shapiro & Stewart, 2011). When the relationship is not supported by healthy interactions, jealousy and frustration can trigger acts of violence as a form of expression of unchanneled emotions.

Socio-Cultural Factors in Mixed Families

In Indonesian society, social and cultural norms about the ideal family can influence the behavior of family members, including in mixed family structures. Traditional societies often expect stepparents, especially stepmothers, to fully embrace the role of parents to their stepchildren, with the same affection and responsibility as to biological children (Ganong & Coleman, 2004). However, these social expectations are not always easy to meet, especially when stepmothers do not have a strong emotional bond with stepchildren.

When these social expectations are not met, internal conflicts can arise in the stepmother, who feels pressured by the role she has to live. The social pressure to fulfill this ideal role often triggers jealousy and frustration, especially when the couple's attention is more focused on the stepchild. Lisa Doodson notes that in mixed families, stepmothers who feel they have failed to meet these social expectations are more prone to experiencing feelings of jealousy, which ultimately triggers conflicts and acts of domestic violence (Doodson, 2009).

Psychology of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence, particularly against stepchildren, often stems from feelings of frustration, jealousy, and an individual's inability to manage their emotions in a healthy way. The psychology of violence shows that individuals who are unable to express anger and dissatisfaction constructively tend to use physical violence as a form of emotional venting (Puente et al., 2003). In the case of Pontianak, the jealousy of the stepmother appears to have played a key role in triggering acts of violence against stepchildren.

According to a study conducted by Todd M. Jensen, stepmothers who do not have emotional support from their partners are more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior towards stepchildren (Jensen & Shafer, 2013). In extreme cases, this behavior can lead to fatal physical violence, as happened in the case of Pontianak. This psychology of violence suggests that individuals who feel

depressed and alienated in mixed family relationships tend to use violence as a way to express their feelings of insecurity and frustration.

Overall, a combination of jealousy, inability to build healthy relationships, socio-cultural pressures, and an inability to manage emotions are the main factors that trigger domestic violence, especially in the context of mixed families. This study highlights the importance of a deeper understanding of psychosocial dynamics in mixed families, as well as the need for adequate emotional support to prevent violence against stepchildren.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method to analyze jealousy in mixed families and its impact on violence against stepchildren. The case study was chosen because it allows researchers to explore complex phenomena such as jealousy in a specific context, namely the case of the murder of a stepdaughter by a stepmother in Pontianak. This method provides space to delve deeply into how family dynamics and psychosocial factors play a role in triggering violence against stepchildren (Yin, 2018). This approach is also very relevant in the context of analyzing emotional behaviors that occur in the domestic environment.

The main subject of this study is the perpetrator of violence, namely the stepmother who is directly involved in the case of the murder of the stepdaughter. In addition, the research also involved the victim's father as a supporting subject. This additional subject is needed to understand family dynamics before and after violent events, as well as to gain perspectives from other family members on the relationship between stepmothers and stepchildren (Creswell & Poth, 2018). The main focus of this study is to identify how jealousy develops in the context of mixed families and how it triggers acts of violence.

The data collection in this study was carried out through two main sources. Primary data was taken from the official police release which contained the chronology of the incident, the results of the investigation, and the perpetrator's motive for committing violence against the stepchild. Secondary data were taken from interviews in Podcast CURHAT BANG Denny Sumargo, where the victim's parents talked about family dynamics and emotional relationships before the incident. These interviews provide in-depth information about the perspective of the victim's family, which helps enrich the analysis of emotional factors that influence the behavior of the perpetrator (Patton, 2015). This data was then integrated to provide a more comprehensive picture of jealousy in mixed families.

The collected data were analyzed using a psychosocial approach, focusing on the relationship between stepmothers' jealousy and violence against stepchildren. Thematic analysis techniques are used to identify patterns in the relationship between family dynamics and jealousy. This approach is particularly relevant because it allows researchers to relate the psychological and sociocultural factors that play a role in these cases of violence (Braun, V., & Clarke, 2019). In addition, the analysis also includes how social expectations of the role of stepmothers in society might contribute to the emergence of jealousy.

This research pays attention to research ethics by maintaining the confidentiality of the identity of the subjects involved. The information used in this study has been officially published by the relevant authorities, thus ensuring the validity of the data. The privacy of the victims' families is also respected by not disclosing personal information that is irrelevant to the research. Thus, this research is in accordance with the applicable social research ethical standards (Israel & Hay, 2018), as well as ensuring that the data used in the analysis are valid and valid.

RESEARCH RESULT

The study revealed a number of significant findings related to jealousy in mixed family structures and its impact on violence against stepchildren. Data collected through official news releases from the police and podcast interviews show that stepmothers' jealousy is the main factor that triggers fatal acts of violence against stepchildren in Pontianak.

Stepmother's Jealousy as a Major Factor

An official police release revealed that the perpetrator, Iftahurrahmah, felt deeply jealous of her stepdaughter because her husband's attention was given more to the victim than to the child from their own marriage. This jealousy seems to have been going on since the beginning of the marriage, and it gets worse when the perpetrator feels that her position as a wife and mother is not well appreciated by her husband. These findings are supported by research that shows that jealousy is often a trigger for domestic violence, especially when a person feels less attention from their partner (Kizildag & Yildirim, 2016).

A podcast interview with the victim's father emphasized the feeling of jealousy. The victim's father said that the perpetrator often complained that her husband's attention was more focused on his stepdaughter, causing deep jealousy. Previous research has also shown that unmanaged jealousy in mixed families often leads to disharmony and conflict, which ultimately leads to violence (O'Connor & Boag, 2010).

Imbalance of Relationships in the Family

Other findings from this study show that imbalances in relationships in mixed families also contribute to increased conflicts between perpetrators and stepchildren. The stepmother felt neglected and underappreciated by her husband, which further exacerbated her feelings of jealousy. This condition was exacerbated by her husband's unfulfilled promise to hire a domestic assistant to help take care of his stepchild. Failure to fulfill these promises worsens family dynamics, thus creating emotional tension that leads to violence (Temrin et al., 2011).

In the police release, it was also revealed that the perpetrator had shown dissatisfaction with this family dynamic for a long time, but no settlement effort was made by her husband. Feelings of being devalued and abandoned in her role as a stepmother triggered acts of violence as an outlet of frustration and disappointment towards her husband (DeGreeff & Platt, 2016).

The Psychological Role of Stepmothers in Violence

Further analysis revealed that stepmothers experienced significant psychological pressure in carrying out their role as stepchildren's caregivers. The perpetrator is unable to manage his jealousy towards his stepdaughter in a healthy way, which ultimately exacerbates the negative emotions he feels. Jealousy that is not properly managed often develops into hatred, which ultimately triggers acts of violence (Samad et al., 2018).

Interviews with the victim's father also showed that the stepmother's abusive behavior towards the stepdaughter had occurred gradually, before culminating in an act of deadly physical violence. This emphasizes that violent behavior towards stepchildren occurs through a process of emotional escalation, where the perpetrator continues to experience unresolved frustration (Skinner et al., 2019).

Social and Cultural Influences in Mixed Family Dynamics

Social and cultural aspects also play an important role in these dynamics of violence. In a podcast interview, the victim's father mentioned that his wife felt pressured by society's expectation that a stepmother should embrace her stepdaughter like a biological child. This social expectation adds psychological pressure to stepmothers, who basically do not feel that they have an emotional bond with their stepchildren (Shapiro, 2014).

The perpetrator's inability to meet social expectations creates tensions that further exacerbate family dynamics. The perpetrator feels trapped in a role he does not want, which then triggers an internal conflict that eventually explodes in the form of physical violence against the stepdaughter (Shah, 2014).

Child Violence and Neglect

Physical neglect is one of the forms of violence found in this case. Based on findings from the police, the victim was locked in the backyard without being fed for a whole day. This action is a form of physical neglect that clearly shows the perpetrator's inability to manage the responsibility of raising stepchildren (Rosnawati et al., 2018).

When the victim was allowed to re-enter the house, his condition was already very weak due to the neglect. The feelings of anger and frustration experienced by the stepmother towards the stepdaughter reached its peak, which then triggered an act of physical violence that led to the death of the victim. This violence indicates an escalation of emotional tension that leads to fatal criminal acts (Egan, 2014).

Escalation of Violence

These findings suggest that violence in mixed families does not occur suddenly, but through an escalation process involving emotional tension, inability to manage jealousy, and psychological distress experienced by stepmothers. Neglect carried out by perpetrators is the first step in this escalation, which eventually leads to physical violence (Miller, 2015).

Based on the analysis of existing data, unmanaged jealousy and the inability to adjust to the role of stepmother are the main factors that trigger violence in this case. The jealousy felt by stepmothers progresses to hatred and

violence, which shows how mixed family dynamics can create dangerous conditions for stepchildren (Vinick, B. H., & Lanspery, 2000).

Psychosocial Implications

This study also reveals the psychosocial implications of mixed family dynamics. The psychological pressure experienced by stepmothers, both from within the family and from social expectations, affects the emotional balance of the perpetrator. The inability to manage emotions and jealousy leads to acts of violence that not only harm the stepchild, but also damage the overall family harmony (Labella & Masten, 2018).

The social pressure to embrace the role of stepmothers as ideal caregivers is also a significant factor in creating emotional tension in mixed families. This inability to meet social expectations adds to the psychological burden felt by the perpetrator, which then triggers acts of violence (Palermo, 2007).

Overall, the findings of this study suggest that jealousy in mixed families, especially those that are not well managed, can be a major trigger for violence against stepchildren. The psychological pressure experienced by stepmothers due to unwanted roles, as well as high social expectations for the role of stepmothers, creates dangerous dynamics in the family. Violence in mixed families develops through a process of emotional escalation that ends in the tragedy of the death of a stepdaughter (Mertin, 2019).

This study emphasizes the importance of healthy emotional management and strong psychological support in mixed families to prevent violence. These findings also provide broader insights into how mixed family dynamics can trigger domestic violence if jealousy and psychological distress are not properly addressed (Johnson, et al 2008).

DISCUSSION

The results of this study show that jealousy in mixed families plays an important role in triggering violence against stepchildren. From the findings, stepmother's jealousy became the main factor that caused tension in the family and developed into physical violence. This jealousy arises as a result of the imbalance of attention between stepchildren and biological children, which is exacerbated by the less harmonious relationship between stepmothers and stepfathers. This study confirms that jealousy in the context of mixed families can transform into dangerous dynamics if not managed properly (Aune & Comstock, 2002).

In mixed families, the emotional bond between stepparents and stepchildren is often weaker compared to the biological bond. This situation creates a feeling of alienation and alienation for stepparents, especially when more attention and affection are given to stepchildren. Paul E. Mullen emphasizes that jealousy often arises due to an emotional imbalance in the family, where stepmothers feel abandoned by their spouses (Mullen, 1995). In the case of Pontianak, this jealousy eventually triggered acts of violence because the stepmother did not feel that she had enough emotional support from her husband.

These findings are in line with psychosocial theories that state that jealousy is a strong negative emotion, which can encourage individuals to act aggressively if not managed properly. The stepmother, in this case, experienced deep jealousy of the stepdaughter because she felt that her husband prioritized the child over the previous marriage. This condition is exacerbated by the stepmother's inability to form an emotional bond with the stepchild, which further reinforces feelings of isolation and unappreciated in family relationships (Murtorinne-Lahtinen, M., & Jokinen, 2020).

The dynamics of unbalanced relationships in the family also exacerbated the situation. The study found that stepmothers feel neglected and neglected in their roles as wives and mothers. The husband, who failed to fulfill the promise to provide a domestic assistant, created deep emotional dissatisfaction in the perpetrator. This reinforces the impression that imbalance in relationships in mixed families is one of the important factors that trigger emotional tension, which ultimately leads to violence (Widodo, 2021).

In addition, social and cultural roles also put pressure on stepmothers. In the context of Indonesian culture, the role of stepmothers is often associated with high social expectations, where stepmothers are expected to care for stepchildren like their own biological children. This social pressure exacerbates the emotional conflicts experienced by stepmothers, especially when the perpetrator is unable to meet these social expectations. This inability creates tension that contributes to increased jealousy and hatred of stepchildren (Church, 2000).

Psychological factors also play an important role in these dynamics of violence. The emotional pressure felt by the stepmother due to her unwanted role is the main trigger for acts of violence against stepchildren. The perpetrator's inability to manage jealousy and frustration in a healthy manner leads to an escalation of violence that leads to the death of a stepchild. This study shows that jealousy in mixed families often develops into acts of violence if individuals do not have adequate emotional skills to cope with those negative feelings (Shapiro & Stewart, 2011).

The physical neglect experienced by the victim before the physical violence also shows how the jealousy of the stepmother develops into a more destructive act. The victim who was locked out of the house and not fed for a full day showed that the stepmother used neglect as a way to express her jealousy and frustration towards her stepdaughter. This neglect is an early sign of an escalation of violence that leads to criminal acts (Johnson et al., 2008).

This escalation process is important to note, as it shows that violence in mixed families does not occur suddenly. Neglect and emotional violence that initially occurs subtly then develop into more severe physical violence when emotional tension is not resolved. This is in line with previous findings that show that domestic violence often develops through stages of emotional and physical escalation (Bartle, 2014).

Imbalances in roles and social expectations also play a role in exacerbating the situation. The husband in this case failed to provide adequate support to the perpetrator, both emotionally and physically, which exacerbated the

stepmother's jealousy of the stepchild. This disharmony in the relationship between husband and wife shows that the dynamics in mixed families are often very complex and prone to conflict if not managed properly (Zaharychuk, 2017).

In addition to pressure from within the family, social pressure to embrace the role of the stepmother as the perfect caregiver also adds to the psychological burden felt by the perpetrator. This inability to meet social expectations causes the perpetrator to feel alienated in her role as a stepmother, which ultimately encourages acts of violence against stepchildren. This study highlights how unrealistic social expectations can create dangerous emotional tensions in mixed families (Marsiglio, 2004).

Violence against stepchildren in these mixed families reflects a very complex dynamic between psychological, social, and cultural factors. This study found that jealousy experienced by stepmothers developed into hatred and acts of violence due to social pressure, imbalances in family relationships, and the inability of individuals to manage negative emotions in a healthy way (O'Connor & Boag, 2010).

The study also provides new insights into how mixed family dynamics can create dangerous conditions for stepchildren if jealousy and frustration are not properly managed. In the case of Pontianak, the emotional tension experienced by the perpetrator eventually culminated in a fatal act of violence, which shows how important emotional and psychological support is in a mixed family (Christian, 2005).

In addition, the importance of social and psychological interventions in preventing violence in mixed families is also highlighted in this study. Support from your partner and the ability to manage jealousy in a healthy way can be key in preventing domestic violence. This study emphasizes the importance of paying special attention to emotional dynamics in mixed families to create a safer environment for all family members (Vinick, B. H., & Lanspery, 2000).

Thus, this study concludes that jealousy in mixed families is a major factor that triggers violence against stepchildren. Attention imbalances, social pressure, and inability to manage negative emotions worsen the emotional state of the perpetrator, which ultimately leads to acts of violence. This study provides deeper insights into how jealousy can be a major trigger for conflict in mixed families and how these dynamics must be managed properly to prevent domestic violence from occurring (Fusco, 2017).

These findings have important implications for further research on mixed family dynamics and the importance of psychological support in preventing domestic violence. This study highlights the need for a more holistic approach in understanding the factors that trigger violence in mixed families, as well as the importance of early intervention to manage jealousy and emotional tension in mixed families (Shapiro & Stewart, 2011).

Overall, the study provides a deeper understanding of how jealousy in mixed families can create dangerous conditions for stepchildren. These findings emphasize the importance of healthy emotional management and adequate

social and psychological support to prevent domestic violence, particularly in the context of mixed families (Riness & Sailor, 2019).

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of this study confirm that jealousy in mixed family structures, especially between stepmothers and stepchildren, is a major factor that triggers domestic violence. The results of the study showed that poorly managed jealousy, socio-cultural pressure, and imbalance in relationships in the family exacerbated emotional conflicts that led to acts of physical violence. Jealousy, which was initially emotional, developed into hatred and neglect, which eventually culminated in fatal violence. The findings of this study highlight the importance of healthy emotional management and adequate social and psychological support in mixed families to prevent the escalation of violence, and make a new contribution in understanding the emotional dynamics of mixed families as triggers of violence against stepchildren.

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