

Values and Violence Endorsement Among College Students in Turkey

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Abstract: This study examines the impact of values on approval of violence. Data was collected from university students with a stratified random sample. The results showed that violence endorsement has a statistically significant positive correlation with tradition, stimulation and power values, whereas universalism, security, conformity, and benevolence values have negative correlations with violence endorsement. The approval of violence did not have any significant relationship with self-direction, hedonism and achievement values. The effects of violence exposure and gender on violence approval were also examined and both were determined to be highly influential. However, the main theme of the research was the effect of values on violence endorsement. Multiple regression analysis showed that the most important predictor values are universalism, stimulation, tradition and power values. The absolute antidotes to violence were the universal values of equality, wisdom, peace, tolerance and nature conservation etc. Greater importance given to these universal values in education policies could help to reduce the endorsement of violence..

Keywords: Values, violence endorsement, exposure to violence, gender, college students.

Öz: Bu çalışma, şiddetin onaylanmasında değerlerin etkisini incelemektedir. Data, tabakalı-tesadüfi örneklem yöntemiyle üniversite öğrencilerinden toplanmıştır. Sonuçlar, şiddetin onaylanması ile gelenek, teşvik ve güç değerleri arasında istatistiksel olarak önemli düzeyde pozitif bir korelasyon, buna karşılık şiddetin onaylanması ile evrensellik, güvenlik, uyum ve hayırseverlik arasında negatif bir korelasyon olduğunu göstermektedir. Şiddetin onaylanması ile öz-yönelim (özerklik), hazcılık ve başarı değerleri arasında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmamıştır. Şiddetin onaylanmasında cinsiyetin ve şiddete maruz kalmanın etkisi de incelenmiş ve ikisinin de oldukça etkili olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Ancak bu araştırmanın ana konusu şiddetin onaylanmasında değerlerin etkisinin araştırılmasıdır. Çoklu regresyon analizi, en önemli yordayıcıların evrensellik, uyarım, gelenek ve güç olduğunu göstermektedir. Şiddetin panzehri ise eşitlik, bilgelik, barış, çevreyi korumak ve hoşgörü gibi evrensel değerlerdir. Eğitim politikalarında evrensel değerlere önem verilmesi, şiddetin onaylanmasını azaltabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Değerler, şiddetin onaylanması, şiddete maruz kalma, cinsiyet, üniversite öğrencileri.

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Introduction

The main question of this paper is to determine the role values have in predicting violence approval. Violence is known to be one of the most important problems in human history, with high social, economic, and psychological costs. The lives of millions of people are lost each year because of violence, and the economic costs run into billions of pounds (Brown, 2008). Many people suffer mental health problems because of violence. With the evolution of rule of law and democracy, violence has declined to some extent. However, it remains a current global problem throughout all countries (Karstedt, 2006), and the greatest losses from violence are experienced in poor countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 90% of global violence-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Violence is a form of power. In a sense, it is power in action. It has many different types, ranging from killing a human being to non-fatal physical injury. Killing is the most extreme form of violence and is thus considered as absolute violence. Non-lethal violence covers a wide range of actions, examples being from a slap all the way to torture (Trotha, 2007). One of the most accepted definitions of violence is the one defined by the WHO, which states that violence is “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation” (Krug et. al., 2002:5).

With the widespread use of the Internet, violence has become more visible, with new technologies also being used by terrorist organizations to commit violent actions on a global scale. Absence of democracy, equality, rule of law, and human rights are among the factors that increase violence. However, violence has deeper roots that are closely related to culture. Values, one of the most important components of a society’s culture, are very important in conveying and legitimizing violence.

Many theories exist about the factors that engender violence. Some biological theories explain it through neurological or genetic factors (i.e., the hormone testosterone) or using Freud’s Oedipus complex. Some of these theories explain violence through homo-social behaviors, which describe competition among men (Kimmel, 2004; Edwards, 2006; Annagür, 2010; Moore, 2001; Lafrance, 2004; Pope & Englar-Carlson, 2001). Connell (1996) claimed that boys learn violence from the examples of their fathers.

Sociology has shown the emphasis on violence to have made changes in the social structure. Anomie, inequality, poverty socialization, and subcultural issues in particular are the most emphasized issues (Heimer, 1997; Trotha, 2007). According to functionalist theory, violence in society is not evenly distributed; it is particularly more prevalent among low socio-economic groups. Abundant data also are found indicating the fact that violence is related to low socio-economic status (Magura, 1975; Wolfgang & Ferracuti, 1967; Mulvihill, Tumin & Curtin 1970). The more that people in low socioeconomic groups experience frustrations and deprivations, the more likely they are to have violent reactions (Gelles & Murray, 1979).

One of the most studied topics in violence is subculture theory. Subculture is defined as “a group with certain characteristics that enable it to be distinguished from other groups and the wider society from which it has emerged” (Muggleton, 2007:4877) Subculture theory explains the use of violence through the group values that justify violent behavior. Violent behavior is the result of values that endorse violence. However, a subculture of violence is not entirely separate from national culture.

According to subculture theory, adhering to the values of groups that approve violence increases aggressive behavior through socialization and social control within the group. For example, a significant relationship exists for the emphasis cultures have on the value of honor or masculinity with violence endorsement (Bozkurt, Tartanoğlu, & Dawes, 2015). Just as in other subculture groups, a violent subculture is also thought to share certain values. According to this theory, examining the subcultures (and their values) in which people are involved is necessary for understanding why people are violent, because the behaviors of those who exhibit violent behavior are in harmony with the attitudes and values of their own groups.

Values are a basic element of subculture theory. Despite the criticism of this theory (Ball-Rokeach, 1973; Lee & Ousey, 2011), numerous studies have shown that individuals who endorse certain values show more aggressive behavior. Those who adopt the values of violence tend to be more inclined towards offensive behavior and to respond aggressively to provocations (Bernburg & Thorlindsson, 2005; Baron, Kennedy, & Forde, 2001; McGloin, et.al., 2011, Heimer, 1997; Kubrin & Weitzer, 2003; Markowitz & Felson, 1998).

Most research has found a positive relationship between violent values and aggressive behavior. The more people have values that support violence, the more

aggressive they are. According to findings from a large number of researchers, neighborhood street culture significantly predicts violent delinquency (Wolfgang & Ferracuti, 1967; Ellison 1991; Agnew, 1994; Smith, 1979; Heimer, 1997; Markowitz & Felson, 1998; Bernburg & Thorlindsson, 2005; Stewart & Simons, 2010).

To summarize, a number of reasons exist that lead to violence with different theories that explain it. However, violence is also a part of culture. It is learned via the socialization process through the modeling and emulation of behavior and is closely related to values.

Values are the abstract criteria that tell us what is right and wrong, and they are highly influential in shaping behaviors. Rokeach (1973:5) defined values as “an enduring belief that a specific mode of conduct or end-state of existence is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of conduct or end-state of existence,” and Schwartz (1992:4) as “desirable, trans-situational goals, varying in importance, that serve as guiding principles in people’s lives.”

According to Rokeach, values are limited in number, but attitudes number in the thousands. Values are broader and deeper than attitudes. Values have the criteria of ‘should’ and ‘ought to.’ Rokeach stated that values are shaping factors rather than elements of attitudes. Furthermore, values are the most important components of culture, which Hofstede (2003) defined as “collective programming of the mind” or “software of the mind.”

A values system also shapes the foundation of a society’s reward and punishment system. A society without values means the most powerful tool for social control has also been lost. Values state what is required of people and what is forbidden to them, thereby determining what will be rewarded and what will be punished. Values are sustained in embedded experiences. As Durkheim stated, the identity of a community cannot be considered separate from its set of values (Bozkurt, 2017; Cheney, 2013).

According to Rokeach’s (1979) and Schwartz’s (1992, 2006, 2007; Schwartz & Bilsky, 1987) theories, values are the beliefs, ideals, and core concepts used as a means of evaluating the social value of people and goods. They define preferred targets that promote action. Values show the idealistic way of thought and social action in every society, describing a socially tolerable behavior scheme. People understand through their values how best to show their actions.

Values are used as standards or criteria that template how to evaluate people and policies. They help people know where they are in the eyes of the community. Values are not forms of tangible action, but suggestions for a specific way of life. They have an abstract role in forming social identity and rationalizing and are ranked according to priorities. Moreover, this hierarchical characteristic differentiates values from attitudes and norms (Rokeach, 1979; Schwartz, 2006).

The relative importance of values lie in their capacity to lead to action. Values guide people in choosing and implementing social roles. They construct awareness and inspire. In this way, people become aware of what is requested and anticipated with respect to numerous roles. They are the application of social pressure and social control. Values encourage individuals to obey rules and do “right” things; they also prevent unapproved behavior. Values also function as solidarity tools. People become close with others who share similar values. Common values are one of the most important factors in creating social solidarity. Moreover, values can redirect prominent social change in communities and countries, as well as able to read to social change (Schwartz, 2006, Fichter, 1996; Williams, 1979).

Survey research on values goes back to the 1950s. One of the most well-known studies in this field was conducted by Almond and Verbra (1963), in which they studied the relationship between the political system and culture in the USA, Germany, Mexico, Italy, and England. In the 1960s, Smith and Inkeles (1966) at Harvard University developed the Overall Modernity Scale (OM Scale) in order to comparatively measure modernization trends in societies. This research also foreran the World Values Survey (WVS), which was established by Inglehart in the 1970s (Inkeles & Smith, 1974; Bozkurt, 2018).

This study uses the Human Values Scale developed by Schwartz (2007) for measuring values. Schwartz’s scale has been the most widely used measure of values over the last 20 years. The scale used in this study consisted of 57 items comprising 10 value types. These values are power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation, self-direction, universalism, benevolence, tradition, conformity, and security (see Table 1). These 10 value types are classified under the four super-dimensions of self-enhancement versus self-transcendence, and openness to change versus conservatism (Schwartz, 2007).

Table 1. *Motivational Types of Values (Schwartz, 1994)*

Power	Social status and prestige, control or dominance over people and resources
Achievement	Personal success through demonstrating competence according to social standards
Hedonism	Pleasure and sensuous gratification for oneself
Stimulation	Excitement, novelty, and challenge in life
Self Direction	Independent thought and action - choosing, creating, exploring
Universalism	Understanding, appreciation, tolerance, and protection for the welfare of all people and for nature.
Benevolence	Preservation and enhancement of the welfare of people with whom one is in frequent personal contact
Tradition	Respect for, commitment to, and acceptance of the customs and ideas that traditional culture or religion provide for the self
Conformity	Restraint of actions, inclinations, and impulses likely to upset or harm others and violate social expectations or norms
Security	Safety, harmony, and stability of society, relationships, and self

Power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation, and self-direction, which are common in Western societies, are individualistic values, whereas benevolence, tradition, and conformity, which are common in Eastern societies, are collectivistic values. However, universalism and security serve both. Individual values are focused on self-centered goals. In contrast, collectivist societies, tending toward benevolence, tradition, and conformity, highlight group goals while power values stress social superiority and domination of others. Stimulation values place emphasis on a daring and exciting life (Schwartz, 1992; 1994; Ryckman & Houston, 2003). All these features can lead to justifying violence in cases of frustration and deprivation.

Tradition can either justify or prevent violence according to a country's cultural characteristics. In societies where historically violence is decisively rejected, the values of tradition can reduce violence. In Turkish culture, tradition justifies violence (Battaloğlu, Çifçi, & Değer, 2013; Göka, 2008).

Universalism and self-direction are related to *intellectual openness*, whereas power and security are more associated with *uncertainty control*. The main source of motivation for universal values is to work for the well-being of all people (Schwartz & Boehnke, 2004). In a sense, humanistic universal values are those that can limit the violent behavior that compels others to their own ends. Thus, values can be said to be able to increase or decrease violence.

The subculture theory briefly mentioned above is important in terms of understanding the effect of a culture (i.e., its values) on violence. However, in subculture theory, the relationship between values and violence has been examined in connection with highly-disadvantaged groups prone to violence. Nevertheless, values not only show the effect of human behavior on subculture groups but also influence the behavior of all individuals to a certain extent.

Sundberg (2014) stated security values to have a positive correlation with endorsing violence. In addition, the values of conformity and tradition have been correlated with violent child-rearing. Knafo, Daniel, and Khoury-Kassabri (2008) found violent behavior to have a negative correlation with conformity and universalism among high school students, whereas power values have a positive relation. In that research, values that predict violent behavior explain 12% of the variance. The academic literature has an extremely limited number of studies examining the direct relationship of values and violence.

This paper also examines the impact of gender and *exposure to violence* on the approval of violence, because gender is closely associated with violence. The more people are exposed to violence in daily life, the more they endorse violence (Contreras & Cano, 2016; Özgür, Yörükoğlu, & Baysan-Arabacı, 2011; Ayan, 2007; Güleç et. al., 2012; Avcı & Yıldırım, 2014). Males are known to legitimize violence more than females (Rodriguez Martinez & Khalil, 2017). Most of the perpetrators of violence are men, and the targets are women (Mills, 2001; Kimmel & Mahler, 2003). In many cultures, violence is seen as a way of gaining the male identity (Kimmel, 2004; Rubenser, 2007). *Violent warrior values* have always been associated with male stereotypes (Campbell, 2006).

Although the primary purpose of this study is not to investigate the relationship between gender and violence, gender is an influential factor both on values and on the approval of violence (Bozkurt, Tartanoğlu, & Dawes, 2015). Therefore, gender and exposure to violence have been included in the second stage of the study using hierarchical regression.

The aim of this research is to provide a contribution to the academic literature in an area that has not been sufficiently studied. Thus, it will help the reader understand the motivational sources of violence in the context of Turkish culture. There are three research questions in this paper:

1. Do values make a difference in violence endorsement among university students?
2. Which values better predict violence endorsement?
3. Does violence exposure and gender make a difference in violence endorsement?

Method

The stratified random-sampling method has been used in the research. A total of 1,024 questionnaires were taken into consideration. The number of females (512) and males (512) was kept equal because gender is known to affect both values and violence. The sample was applied to undergraduate students of the social sciences in a university in Turkey. The students' ages range from 17 to 28 years old. An attempt has been made to achieve a balanced distribution of the sample over the four years of classes.

The purpose of the questionnaire was explained briefly to the students, who had voluntarily participated in the survey. The questionnaire was completed by undergraduate students in approximately 10-15 minutes with the support of students and the lecturers in the classrooms. Any questionnaires lacking full answers to all of the questions were excluded, and to ensure the male-female balance, some of the female surveys were not evaluated.

As more female students attend than males, the number of female students who answered the questionnaire was higher. To equalize the numbers for each gender, a limited number of female students' questionnaires were randomly deleted from the data. This number did not affect the results.

The questionnaire applies the long Schwartz' Values Survey (SVS) consisting of 57 questions. This is one of the most used scales for currently measuring values. Responses require that values are considered as a guiding principle for life, scored as -1 (opposed to my values), 0 (not important), 3 (important), 6 (very important), and 7 (supremely important).

The reliability coefficients of the 10 dimensions obtained for values from the scale were as follows: universalism, 77; tradition, 63; conformity, 60; benevolence, 73; self-direction, 61; stimulation, 60; hedonism, 67; achievement, 69; power, 70; and security, 67. These coefficients are in parallel with previous applications of the scale.

In addition to the SVS, the Violence Culture Scale (VCS) has been used to measure violence approval. This scale was developed by Bozkurt, Tartanoğlu, and Dawes (2015) and consists of 10 questions and two sub-dimensions (violence endorsement and exposure to violence; see Table 2). A 5-point Likert scale was used where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 2. Violence Culture Scale Rotated Component Matrix ^a

	Component	
	1-	2-
VIOLENCE ENDORSEMENT-- Cronbach's Alpha = .77		
If necessary, violence can be used to resolve disputes	.840	
Exerting violence is sometimes normal	.832	
Fighting and/or self-defense sports should be taught to children from an early age	.650	
I am against all kinds/types of violence R	.551	
Knives and guns have always attracted me	.543	
I enjoyed interacting with violent games and movies when I was a child	.527	
VIOLENCE EXPOSURE- Cronbach's Alpha = .73		
When I was child, I never knew when my parents would reward me or punish me		.822
When I was a child, violence was seen as punishment from heaven		.799
I was exposed to physical violence when I was a child		.746
I have done physical violence to others in the past		.542
Explained variance: 54.2%	36.4%	17.7%

^aExtraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. Total Explained Variance: 54.2%; KMO = .789; Overall Cronbach's Alpha = 0.80.

Cronbach’s alpha value of the scale’s factor of violence endorsement is 0.77; violence exposures Cronbach’s alpha value is 0.73. After re-encoding the reverse-scored question, Cronbach’s alpha value for the overall scale is 0.80.

Results

Table 3 shows the mean scores and standard deviations for the variables used in the analyses. The scores for the values range from 4.27 to 6.05. In the Schwartz’ Values Survey, a score of 4 or higher corresponds to the options that are important or very important. The values with the lowest averages (means) are stimulation, power, tradition, and hedonism. The top priority values have been determined as security, benevolence, self-direction, and universalism. The standard deviations for the low priority values have been found to be high, while the SDs for the high priority values are lower than expected.

	<i>M</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>SD</i>
Conformity	5.3582	1,024	1.15966
Tradition	4.5683	1,024	1.34464
Benevolence	5.7640	1,024	.98069
Universalism	5.5375	1,024	.98917
Self-Direction	5.7205	1,024	.91855
Stimulation	4.2754	1,024	1.52530
Hedonism	4.8481	1,024	1.49496
Achievement	5.1846	1,024	1.27101
Power	4.5687	1,024	1.45814
Security	6.0533	1,024	.94853
Violence Endorsement	2.3580	1,024	.87768
Violence Exposure	1.9783	1,024	.88145

A 5-point Likert-type response scale has been used for the questions in the Violence Culture Scale (VCS), where 2 = disagree and 3 = undecided. The mean for the factor of violence endorsement is 2.35, and the mean for the factor of violence exposure is 1.97.

Pearson correlation analysis has been used to determine the relationship between values and violence. The analysis reveals a statistically significant and positive correlation for the values of tradition ($r = .070, p < 0.05$), stimulation ($r = .199, p < 0.05$) and power ($r = .119, p < 0.05$) with violence endorsement. In other words, people who value stimulation, power, and tradition are more likely to endorse violence. Violence is quite common in traditional Turkish culture (Battaloğlu, Çifçi, & Değer, 2013, Göka, 2008).

Violence endorsement displays a significant and negative correlation with the values of conformity ($r = -.149, p < 0.05$), benevolence ($r = -.105, p < 0.05$), universalism ($r = -.242, p < 0.05$), and security ($r = -.108, p < 0.05$). These results were in line with the findings from the only research on this topic (Knafo, Daniel, & Khoury-Kassabri, 2008). This study by Knafo et al. was conducted on Palestinian and Jewish high school students in Israel. The results showed a statistically significant and negative correlation for violent behavior with benevolence, universalism, and conformity among the high school students. A negative correlation was determined for approval of violence with the values of power and stimulation. These results differ from the current study's findings with respect to the values of tradition, achievement, and hedonism.

No significant relationship was determined for the values of hedonism, self-direction, and achievement with violence endorsement. When examining the correlations by separating the data according to gender, a statistically significant and positive correlation is determined between hedonism and violence endorsement in males ($r = .144, p < 0.05$) but not for females ($r = -.061, p > 0.05$). Thus, violence can be said to be pleasurable for some males.

A fairly high and positive correlation has been determined between violence endorsement and violence exposure ($r = .394, p < 0.05$). As people are exposed to violence, they become more and more consenting toward violence. In other words, those who grow up in a violent social environment are more likely to endorse violence.

A positive correlation ($r = .071, p < 0.05$) exists between the value of stimulation and violence exposure. The value of stimulation consists of items such as adventure, risk, daring, variety, excitement, and challenges in life. On the other hand, violence exposure has a significant correlation with the values of conformity ($r = -.187, p < 0.05$), benevolence ($r = -.102, p < 0.05$), achievement ($r = -.082, p < 0.05$), and security ($r = -.193, p < 0.05$). People who grow up in an environment of violence are more removed from the values of humanism, benevolence, self-direction, and conformity.

Table 4. Correlations for Human Values with Violence Endorsement and Violence Exposure According to Gender^c

		ViolentEnd	ViolentExp	Sex	Conformity	Tradition	Benevolence	Universal	SelfDirection	Stimulation	Hedonism	Achivement	Power	Security
Violence Endorsement	Pearson Correlation	1	.394**	.479**	-.149**	.070*	-.105**	-.242**	-.053	.199**	.043	.036	.119**	-.108**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.026	.001	.000	.090	.000	.167	.249	.000	.001
Violence Exposure	Pearson Correlation	.394**	1	.272**	-.187**	-.018	-.102**	-.160**	-.067*	.071*	-.045	-.082**	-.030	-.193**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.561	.001	.000	.031	.024	.150	.009	.333	.000
Sex 1.Women 2.Men	Pearson Correlation	.479**	.272**	1	-.174**	-.008	-.126**	-.163**	-.003	.114**	-.016	-.039	-.020	-.137**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.792	.000	.000	.928	.000	.614	.215	.523	.000
Conformity	Pearson Correlation	-.149**	-.187**	-.174**	1	.533**	.613**	.517**	.285**	.121**	.139**	.407**	.267**	.606**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Tradition	Pearson Correlation	.070*	-.018	-.008	.533**	1	.514**	.339**	.146**	.157**	.078**	.291**	.246**	.429**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.026	.561	.792	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.012	.000	.000	.000
Benevolence	Pearson Correlation	-.105**	-.102**	-.126**	.613**	.514**	1	.612**	.423**	.174**	.179**	.363**	.174**	.493**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.001	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Universal	Pearson Correlation	-.242**	-.160**	-.163**	.517**	.339**	.612**	1	.492**	.258**	.264**	.348**	.197**	.458**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
SelfDirection	Pearson Correlation	-.053	-.067*	-.003	.285**	.146**	.423**	.492**	1	.439**	.414**	.444**	.301**	.292**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.090	.031	.928	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Stimulation	Pearson Correlation	.199**	.071*	.114**	.121**	.157**	.174**	.258**	.439**	1	.438**	.428**	.409**	.176**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.024	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000
Hedonism	Pearson Correlation	.043	-.045	-.016	.139**	.078**	.179**	.264**	.414**	.438**	1	.378**	.423**	.174**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.167	.150	.614	.000	.012	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000
Achivement	Pearson Correlation	.036	-.082**	-.039	.407**	.291**	.363**	.348**	.444**	.428**	.378**	1	.614**	.390**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.249	.009	.215	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000
Power	Pearson Correlation	.119**	-.030	-.020	.267**	.246**	.174**	.197**	.301**	.409**	.423**	.614**	1	.323**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.333	.523	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000
Security	Pearson Correlation	-.108**	-.193**	-.137**	.606**	.429**	.493**	.458**	.292**	.176**	.174**	.390**	.323**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	

** Correlation is significant at the $p < 0.01$ level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the $p < 0.05$ level (2-tailed).

c. $N = 1024$ for this table.

A strong positive correlation has been determined for males with violence in both dimensions, similar to the results of other studies (Bozkurt, Tartanoğlu, & Dawes, 2015; Çakmak & Çelik, 2016; Rodriguez Martinez, & Khalil, 2017; Mills, 2001; Kimmel & Mahler, 2003; Rubenser, 2007; Campbell, 2006). The obtained results are as expected, as the fact that prisons throughout the world are full of men is no coincidence.

Multiple regression analysis has been applied to predict the combined effects of values. In order to only see the variance explained in the regression analysis, the 10 variables are taken together. The adjusted R^2 explains 16% of the variance in violence endorsement. Although the variance rate explained by the 10 values is not very large, it is quite significant. In the subsequent stage in accordance with Schwartz's recommendation, the three variables with no significant correlation to violence endorsement are excluded from the first regression model.

The second phase of hierarchical multiple regression analysis also includes gender and violence exposure. The adjusted variance (adjusted R^2) increased to .372. Gender was the most important indicator for predicting violence endorsement ($\beta = .356, t = 13.489, p < 0.05$). The second predictive variable is exposure to violence ($\beta = .249, t = 9.421, p < 0.05$). In the hierarchical multiple regression model, the values of universalism ($\beta = -.240, t = -7.173, p < 0.05$), stimulation ($\beta = .143, t = 5.056, p < 0.05$), and power ($\beta = .099, t = 3.462, p < 0.05$) are predictive variables. The strongest predictive value in the regression analysis again is universalism ($\beta = -.38, t = -8.286, p < 0.05$). In the second model of the hierarchical multiple regression analysis, the other variables had no significant effect.

Discussion

A culture of violence refers to choosing violence as a problem-solving method. In other words, a culture of violence increases aggression (Luckenbill & Doyle, 1989). Data show that victims of violence have greater approval of violence, and this has been confirmed by findings from studies on the thesis of violence subculture. However, the current study was not restricted to a subculture group with violent behavior, as in the theory, because the sample was taken from a group of university students.

Table 5. Hierarchical Regression-Analysis Summary for Variables Predicting Violence Endorsement

Variables	β	t	SD	Sig.	R	R^2	Adj. R^2
Step 1					0.41	0.17	0.16
Constant	3.15		0.19	.00			
Conformity	-.099	-3.09	.032	.00			
Tradition	.125	5.34	.023	.00			
Benevolence	.039	1.03	.038	.30			
Universalism	-.282	-8.29	.034	.00			
Stimulation	.135	7.30	.019	.00			
Power	.050	2.52	.020	.01			
Security	-.050	-1.424	.035	.15			
Step 2					0.61	.38	0.37
Constant	1.12	5.68	.197	.00			
Conformity	-.036	-1.28	.028	.20			
Tradition	.076	3.73	.020	.00			
Benevolence	.034	1.05	.033	.29			
Universalism	-.213	-7.17	.030	.00			
Stimulation	.082	5.06	.016	.00			
Power	.060	3.46	.017	.00			
Security	.001	.048	.031	.96			
Violence Exposure	.248	9.42	.026	.00			
Gender	.625	13.49	.046	.00			

$N = 1,024$

The strongest predictor in the regression model is the value of universalism ($\beta = -.317, t = -8.286, p < 0.05$). In the first model, the values of stimulation ($\beta = .235, t = 7.300, p < 0.05$), tradition ($\beta = .191, t = 5.340, p < 0.05$), and conformity ($\beta = -.131, t = -3.089, p < 0.05$) are also significant predictors of violence approval. Seven values from the first model explain 16% of the variance.

This undergraduate sample revealed the relationship between values and violence endorsement. A positive relationship has been determined between traditional values and the approval of violence in the study. Traditional values include items such as respect for tradition, accepting my place in life, avoiding extremes of feelings and action, and being modest and conservative. Not all these items positively correlate to violence approval. Some items (albeit not significantly) have a negative correlation, such as those related to modesty and humility. However, most items related to traditional values have been determined to have a positive correlation with the approval of violence because violence is one of the most important features of the socialization process in the traditions of Turkey. A Turkish proverb says, “The beating comes from heaven,” and there are many idioms about the virtue of physical violence. The process of Turkish modernization has seen a partially increased awareness of the damage of violence on a child’s socialization, although violence remains a means of socializing. One Turkish author (Göka, 2008) has claimed that Turks have a warrior mindset that stems from their history.

Violence is an action with risks, so the fact that those who adopt stimulation values in search of excitement, adventure, and risk in life are more likely to endorse violence than others is no surprise. Violence and stimulation cause similar emotions in the individual. In other words, violence is a form of stimulation. For example, sexual excitement and violence manifest themselves in the same way, with most measurable bodily reactions behaving the same in both cases (Girard, 2003). Both violence and stimulation are a challenge that involves risk taking and excitement with basic biological impulses.

Nietzsche (1968) argued that mankind is driven by the *will to power* as the main motivation for all actions. Power increases man’s chances of survival, and one of its most important means is violence. Violence, as an instrument of power, intimidates opponents and provides access to resources. Moreover, some writers have claimed that personal power inhibits the ability to empathize (Keltner, Van Kleef, Chen, & Kraus, 2008). Low empathy makes it hard to understand other people’s suffering (Eagleman, 2015), so the existence of a positive relationship between power values and approval of violence is no surprise.

Data have shown the antidote to violence to be universal values. Universal values consist of values such as equality, social justice, a peaceful world, pro-environment, wisdom, beauty, and tolerance to different ideas and beliefs. These are humanistic values that protect the well-being of all people. An increase in universal values in the world would contribute to world peace and the reduction of violence.

One of the most important problems, however, is the fact that identities are based on the *other*. Therefore, those who want to build a community identity see universal values as an obstacle because, as stated by Sennet (1996), if you have an enemy, you feel a sense of brotherhood.

The most commonly used way to try to strengthen loyalty to an identity (group integration) is to encourage tension between different identities, especially in countries that have not developed individuality and are late to modernization. The encouragement of universal values could play an important role in reducing violence endorsement.

Limitations and Implications

The control of violence is vital towards creating a more livable world. The most important limitation of this research is that it only included university students and is therefore not representative of the general population. Future research would be more meaningful if the population consisted of a more representative sample.

However, despite the limitations, these data provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the relationship among values, gender, and violence. Based on the results of this study, policymakers could revise the school syllabus. Values education is a topic that is currently on the agenda in Turkey, as in many other countries.

Of course, values are not the only cause of violence, but the data show a relationship to exist between values and violence endorsement. Policymakers could help to reduce violence in the future by considering the consequences of such research.

More awareness could be created about values such as stimulation, power, and tradition. In order to reduce violence endorsement, humanistic universal values can be emphasized in *values education* programs.

The data obtained in this study show once more that violence causes violence because the victims of violence adopt violence as a way of solving a problem or as a survival strategy. Therefore, in the process of socialization, parents and policymakers should develop mechanisms to control traditional approaches that see violence as part of a child's education.

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