

Abstract

The present study aimed to find out the definitions and attitudes toward wife abuse processed by social workers and police officers in Hong Kong. Results revealed that police officers indeed had narrower definitions than social workers. These two groups of service providers still endorsed in certain stereotyped values about women and myths about wife abuse. Sex-role egalitarianism was found to be the best predictor of definitions and attitudes toward domestic violence. Results were discussed with regard to occupational socialization of the two groups of service providers and traditional Chinese patriarchal values.