

## DIGITAL VIOLENCE AND WOMEN: SYSTEMATIZATION OF RESEARCHS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

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### Abstract

This study is based on the inequality that women experience in digital spaces and the oppression and anxiety in their lives. In addition to the violence that women experience in the private or public sphere, they also experience some difficulties in the digital field. The fact that people spend more time in the virtual environment, and the increase in their use of smart phones and the internet has led to the transfer of violence against women to digital platforms. The aim of this research is to keep the issue on the agenda due to the increasing trend of digital violence, to systematize studies in the academic field and to guide future research. For this purpose, systematic literature review method was used in the research. The relevant literature on digital violence/digital violence and women has been reviewed, studies have been defined and analyzed. It has been seen that the studies are mostly society and culture-oriented, and digital violence is frequently studied together with social media, partner violence, domestic violence, pornography, sexual harassment. Studies have been systematized according to the types of digital violence against women. In this direction, comments were made according to the findings and suggestions were made for future research.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Digital Violence, Virtual Violence, Violence Against Women, Gender-Based Violence, Systematic Research

**JEL Kodları:** M10, O30, O33.

## DİJİTAL ŞİDDET VE KADIN: ARAŞTIRMALARIN SİSTEMLEŞTİRİLMESİ VE GELECEK ARAŞTIRMALARA YÖNELİK ÖNERİLER

### Öz

Bu çalışma, kadınların dijital ortamlarda yaşadıkları eşitsizlik ile yaşamlarındaki baskı ve kaygıyı temel almaktadır. Kadınlar özel ya da kamusal alanda yaşadıkları şiddetin yanı sıra dijital alanda da bazı zorluklar yaşamaktadırlar. İnsanların sanal ortamda daha fazla zaman geçirmesi, akıllı telefon ve internet kullanımlarının artması kadına yönelik şiddetin dijital platformlara taşınmasına neden olmuştur. Bu araştırmanın amacı, artan dijital şiddet eğilimi nedeniyle konuyu gündemde tutmak, akademik alanda yapılan çalışmalarını sistematize etmek ve gelecekte yapılacak araştırmalara yön vermektir. Bu amaçla araştırmada sistematik literatür taraması yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Dijital şiddet/dijital şiddet ve kadın ile ilgili literatür taranmış, çalışmalar tanımlanmış ve analiz edilmiştir. Çalışmaların daha çok toplum ve kültür odaklı olduğu, dijital şiddetin sosyal medya, partner şiddeti, aile içi şiddet, pornografi, cinsel taciz ile birlikte sıklıkla işlendiği görülmüştür. Çalışmalar kadına yönelik dijital şiddetin türlerine göre sistematize edilmiştir. Bu doğrultuda elde edilen bulgulara göre yorumlar yapılmış ve ileride yapılacak araştırmalar için önerilerde bulunulmuştur.

**Keywords:** Dijital şiddet, Sanal şiddet, Kadına Yönelik Şiddet, Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet, Sistematik Araştırma

**JEL Codes:** M10, O30, O33.

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## INTRODUCTION

Globalization, the spread of technology, the increase in communication possibilities of information and communication technologies, and developments to increase people's quality of life also change people's lifestyles, business styles and behaviors. Especially the Covid-19 pandemic process, which entered our lives in 2019, has caused significant changes all over the world. Among these changes, there are common results such as more intensive use of technology, remote working, and remote communication. These results also changed the contact and association criteria for violence and destroyed the boundaries of violence. People did not need to be side by side in order to inflict violence on each other, and they made their presence felt in virtual environments over the internet.

In addition to these, developments such as Industry 4.0, Society 5.0 are proofs that borders have disappeared all over the world, that everyone is in interaction thanks to smart technologies, ways of doing business and lifestyles are changing. Today, countries, governments, businesses and individuals can do their jobs remotely thanks to technology. Today's most valuable resource has been technologies and the data obtained from them. Countries that can manage large and diverse data, make sense of it and make their decisions accordingly have an important competitive advantage. As a matter of fact, it is said that even wars in the future will be fought over data. In addition to the numerous benefits that smart technologies provide, they also cause great harm when used maliciously. Digital violence is one of them. Digital violence is the form of physical violence carried to digital environments. Moreover, digital violence is more courageous and free than classical violence. Because it may not be clear who the attacker is, there is no face-to-face environment. This can bring a sense of self-confidence in knowing that the attacker will not be found.

In the researches conducted in the last 10 years, the deliberate hurtful actions of individuals using digital communication technologies such as the internet and mobile phones are listed as follows; cyber bullying, digital bullying, online bullying, internet harassment, electronic aggression-bullying, cyber aggression and online harassment (Ojanen, Boonmongkon, Samakkeekarom, Samoh, Cholratana and Guadamuz, 2015, s. 160). It is noteworthy that digitally hurtful acts are similar to the criteria specified in traditional violence; the intent to harm is the power imbalance and repetition between the victim and the perpetrator. It is accepted that these three criteria are valid for digital violence (Smith, Del Barrio, and Tokunaga, 2012). Physical violence and digital violence are interrelated. Generally, people who are exposed to physical violence are also likely to be subjected to digital violence (König, Gollwitzer and Steffgen, 2010). Accordingly, perpetrators who think that they cannot take their revenge physically enough may continue violence in digital environments.

Although the literature has given great importance to various cyber crimes such as hacking, identity theft and online fraud in the previously studied subjects, issues such as partner violence, domestic violence and digital harassment have recently started to take place (Al-Alosi, 2017). Since it has been proven that women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence in public spaces (Moreno, Prados and Cuenca-Piqueras, 2022), it is thought that the tendency to experience digital violence will also be high. For example, according to the Digital Violence in Turkey Research conducted by the Turkish Social Information and Communication Association (2021); women stated that they were more exposed to digital violence because of their gender (52%) and physical appearance (21%), and men because of their political views (30%). 51% of women receive text, voice or video harassment messages in digital environments, and 46% are persistently followed (Sener and Abımk, 2021).

The focus of this research is on digital violence as it is of immediate importance. In-depth research shows that women are more prone to digital violence (Ward, 2021). Therefore, this study is expected to contribute to the fight against violence against women. In addition, the number of studies that systematize researches according to types of digital violence and focus on women on digital violence is not sufficient (Drouin, Ross and Tobin, 2015; Camacho, 2019). This difference constitutes the originality of the research. The studies in the literature were analyzed by considering the keywords, titles and abstracts in the databases and the studies were defined. Obtained studies are summarized and reported with the help of tables and figures. Accordingly, the researches have been systematically transformed and some suggestions have been made for future research. It is aimed to provide added value to the relevant area.

## **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

Violence is any physical, sexual, psychological, verbal or economic attitude and behavior that is arbitrarily applied to an individual. Digital violence, one of the types of violence, has become quite common recently. It will be useful to know the theoretical background in order to understand the increasing importance of the subject.

### **Digital Violence**

Technological and digital phenomena that have become a part of our business and private lives have changed the way we communicate, reducing face-to-face communication and increasing communication in virtual environments. This situation has caused people to behave differently than face to face, to develop personality and character, and to the emergence of different types of violence. In this context, the concept of digital violence means repeated harassment by a person (the abuser) using digital technology against a current or former close partner. It includes a series of controlling and coercive behaviors such as threatening



phone calls, cyber harassment, location tracking via smartphones, harassment on social media sites and unauthorized dissemination of close images of partners (Al-Alosi, 2017).

The UN, refers to digital violence against women, whether in public or private life, against women and girls, oppression or arbitrary deprivation of liberty is defined as any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to result in suffering, including physical, sexual or psychological harm, or threats of such acts (Jagayat and Choma, 2021). The characteristics of digital violence are similar to those of physical violence. It includes the purpose of deliberately harming the other person and is done willfully. The most important difference that distinguishes digital violence from classical violence is that violence is done face to face and digital violence is done in digital environments via the internet. For this reason, it is seen in the literature that digital violence is given names such as virtual violence, online violence, and cyber violence (Choja and Nelson, 2016; Lenhart, Ybarra, Zickuhr and Price-Feeney, 2016). However, when different studies are examined, it is striking that there is a confusion about the concept. There are opinions that concepts such as cyberbullying, cyberbullying, cyber harassment, and digital harassment are the same or similar to digital violence (Baker, Campbell and Barreto, 2013). Cyberbullying usually refers to deliberate and repeated aggressive behavior transmitted electronically to a person who cannot adequately defend himself (Kowalski, Giumetti, Schroeder and Lattanner, 2014). On social media platforms, the possibility of mass posting or widespread sharing can quickly announce the aggressive action against the victim to many people (Jagayat and Choma, 2021). Therefore, the concepts of digital bullying and violence are similar. Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011) stated in their research on digital violence that there are five basic features that distinguish digital violence from others;

- Anonymity; The perpetrator of the violence is unknown.
- Distance; For digital violence, it is not necessary for the victim and the perpetrator to be in the same environment. Distance is not an obstacle to the application of violence.
- Automation; violence is perpetrated in virtual environments using technological tools.
- Accessibility: Thanks to technological opportunities and the fact that everyone can buy them, the victim can be easily found and followed.
- Diffusion and persistence; The rapid spread of violence in digital environments is that it can be seen by everyone, and its effect lasts for a long time.

It includes digital violence, hate speech (posting an abusive slander), hacking (blocking private communications), identity theft, online stalking, and other voiced threats. The internet also facilitates other forms of violence against women, including human trafficking and sex trafficking. For example, UN Women, UNDP and ITU report (2015) stated that commercialized sex on the internet will not only drive

demand for the sex industry in general but will also allow traffickers to use the legal aspects of commercial sex on the internet as a cover for illegal activities.

Digital violence has degrees from mild to severe, just like physical violence. In other words, it can manifest itself in different ways. This situation can range from receiving unsolicited e-mails, being exposed to violence in digital games, to sexual harassment (Ayanoğlu, 2021, s. 23). The form of digital violence is changing. In this context, when the literature is examined, it is seen that digital violence has different types (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Types of digital violence

<b>Types of digital violence</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>
<b>Hacking</b>	Obtaining, changing personal information, unauthorized access to resources. For example, violation of passwords.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, (2021)
<b>Surveillance and Monitoring</b>	Unauthorized tracking and monitoring actions. For example, GPS tracking via mobile phone.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, (2021), Hellevik (2019)
<b>Impersonation</b>	The use of technology to create false identity documents, assume the identity of the victim or someone else. For example, sending an e-mail with a fake username.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, (2021)
<b>Harassment and Spam</b>	The use of technology to constantly seek, intimidate and threaten the victim in digital environments. This type covers all behaviors from sexually explicit messages, location tracking to post tracking.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, 2021, Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011).
<b>Hiring</b>	Attracting with compromising situations. For example, communicating with advertising and false advertisements, using technology for employment opportunities.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, (2021)
<b>Malicious distribution</b>	It is the malicious distribution of private information of individuals. For example, leaking private photos.	Baker et al. (2013), United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations (2015), Jagayat and Choma, (2021).



<b>Stalking</b>	Cyber harassment, stalking via email, text (or online) messages, or the internet.	European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), Ayanoglu (2021).
<b>Harresment and Violent</b>	This type can also be referred to as boredom or discomfort. It includes spam e-mails, aggressive behavior in chat rooms, threats of sexual violence with messages, and use of derogatory language.	European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), Hellevik (2019).
<b>Revenge pornography</b>	It can also be called cyber exploitation or revenge porn. The person's obscene photos and videos are distributed online without the person's consent.	European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), Ayanoglu (2021), Hellevik (2019).
<b>Intimate partner violence</b>	It is the type in which technology is used for violence in family and spouse violence and close relationships. For example, disclosure of partner messages.	Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011).
<b>Culturally justified violence against women</b>	It is the malicious use of technology to justify culture and religion. It aims to normalize violence against women. For example, men are more valuable than women.	Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011), Ayanoglu (2021).
<b>Rape and sexual assault</b>	To follow the movements of women and victims, to distribute them, to provide location information. For example, luring women into sexual assault.	Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011).
<b>Communities targeting violence</b>	It is the exposure of individuals to digital attacks because of their gender, sexual identity or political views. For example, some web pages for women's rights have been attacked for their stance on gender inequality.	Fascendini and Fiaolava (2011), Ayanoglu (2021).

The perpetrator of digital violence can be anyone, but it is mostly practiced by people who are in the person's life and know him, such as lovers, spouses, friends, colleagues, managers, customers. The perpetrator of digital violence is anonymous, disturbing the other person with GPS, social media platforms or messaging applications, making them feel uneasiness, restlessness, and fear (Peterson and Densley, 2017).

Anonymity of those who show violence in the digital environment encourages the occurrence of violence. Again, the fact that the number of people who watch violence is unlimited, that it can spread easily and be seen by everyone can change the direction of violence. Violent acts in the digital space can desensitize the public to violence, romanticize it and cause a positive attitude (Nair, 2018). When the literature is examined, studies on digital violence include digital dating violence, domestic violence, digital



game violence, and sports violence. For example, it is stated that cases and studies related to domestic violence have increased during the pandemic process, and a significant portion of young people experience dating relationships where online control, harassment, stalking, and harassment are common, and this rate varies between 12% and 56% (Smith et al., s. 220). As with other types of violence, women are more disadvantaged than men in encountering digital violence.

### **Digital Violence and Women**

The spread of technology and the widespread use of the internet, it has also increased the likelihood that the internet will be used as a tool to harm women and girls (Viveiros and Bonomi, 2022). This poses a risk to inclusive, sustainable development goals that identify gender equality and women's empowerment as key to their success (UN Women, UNDP and ITU, 2015). According to UN Women, UNDP and ITU, (2015); most of the cases encountered involve mainstream forms of cyber-aggression such as harassment or doxing, as well as fundamentally gendered forms of aggression such as non-consensual distribution of pornography, sexist trolling or threats of rape. Although it is examined in different groups such as children and relationships, the concept of digital violence is mostly associated with women in the literature. In this respect, by entering into gender-based research, it is stated that digital violence mostly applied to women and girls is a violation of women's human rights and discrimination.

Digital spaces are suitable environments for perpetrating harmful cyberattacks against women. (Jagayat and Choma, 2021). For example, social media platforms cause women to be exposed to trolling, which includes destructive and deceptive behaviors (Peterson and Densley, 2017). In general, it is seen that the people who commit this violence are divorced, obsessive, obsessive, and jealous (Southworth, Finn, Dawson, Fraser, and Tucker, 2007). In a study, it was stated that revenge porn abuse was mostly done by men. According to this study, while porn pictures of women were viewed an average of 42 times, it was seen less than twice for male victims (Ward, 2021).

Those who are in the friend ratio are more likely to be co-workers. Again, Chowdhury and Fileborn (2020) stated in their study in Bangladesh that women experience sexual violence digitally and this rate is quite high. In this research on Facebook, it was seen that women are constantly exposed to sexual violence in their daily activities, and these mostly come from their closest relatives and acquaintances. Like friends, schoolmates, colleagues from work, teachers, spouse, lover. It is important that digital violence is mostly associated with women. Awareness level needs to be increased. Because in the UN (2015) report on cyber violence against women and girls, women are 27 times more likely to experience digital violence than men.

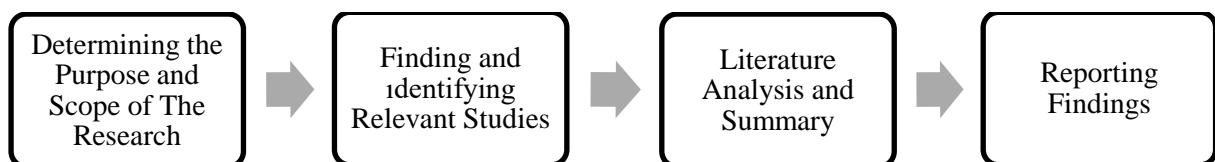
According to Lewis, Rowe and Wiper (2018), digital violence is mostly directed against women and they argue that its gendered nature is a civil rights violation that jeopardizes women's "digital citizenship".

Global estimates show that one in three women has experienced domestic violence in their lifetime (WHO, 2018). This violence is usually perpetrated by men—mostly by spouses or ex-spouses against women (Woodlock, McKenzie, Western and Harris 2020). Woodlock et al. (2020) stated in their research that in this violence against women, technology is used to control, monitor and intimidate women. Again, according to Rueda, Lindsey and Williams (2015) and Stonard (2020), technology exacerbates young people's feelings of control and jealousy. Being online on social media accounts, being watched, jealousy and subsequent harassment, monitoring or surveillance pose a problem and are quite common among young people. In the report of Hacettepe University (Sayın, 2021) on the violence experienced by women and girls during the pandemic period, it was stated that four out of ten women were exposed to violence. It is also stated that one third of women are victims of persistent stalking. The researchers, who call this "being haunted", stated that women are exposed to different forms of persistent follow-up according to their age groups and that they mostly call and check the victims by phone. It was stated that this behavior was followed by the behaviors of sending text messages, letters, e-mails, following social media, and disturbing them by coming to the workplace or living place, respectively.

## METHODOLOGY

Data on digital violence is recent and limited. For this reason, this research tries to understand the theoretical and practical consequences of digital violence beyond discussing the application situation. The method of this research is systematic literature review. Thus, studies are collected, summarized and findings are obtained. The systematic review method is clear and simple, offering researchers the opportunity to quantify through bibliometrics (Kong, Liu and Wu, 2020). In this context, the systematic research process followed can be visualized as in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Systematic research process





## Determining the Purpose and Scope of The Research

The aim of this research is to analyze the literature on digital violence, to keep the issue on the agenda and aims to guide future research. It is aimed to draw attention to women by examining studies on women, especially since women are more likely to experience digital violence than men. Our aim is to contribute a little academically to the studies on violence against women. In order to achieve these goals, the relevant literature was searched using the Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) database. A number of principles have been taken into consideration while obtaining the data. The basic principles of this research can be summarized as in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Basic principles of the research

Research Method	Systematic Review
Researched Databases	Web of Science Core Collections (like Elsevier, Emerald, Taylor and Francis, Mdpi).
Research Type	For research quality, it is limited to article type only.
Language	English only articles.
Date range	In order to be up to date 2015 and above studies.
Search areas	Title, abstract and keywords.
Searched keywords	“digital violence”, “digital violence-women” “virtual violence” “virtual violence-women”.
Inclusion criteria	Digital violence studies focusing on women were included in the research.
Exclusion criteria	Studies on digital violence that do not address women were not included in the detailed analysis.

## Finding and Identifying Relevant Studies

This study was carried out using the WoS database, taking into account only the articles in the English language of 2015 and above. The literature was limited by searching “digital violence”, “digital violence-women”, “virtual violence” and “virtual violence-women” in the WoS database, respectively. By making this limitation, the results obtained as of July 2022 are as seen in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Search keywords and number of research articles found

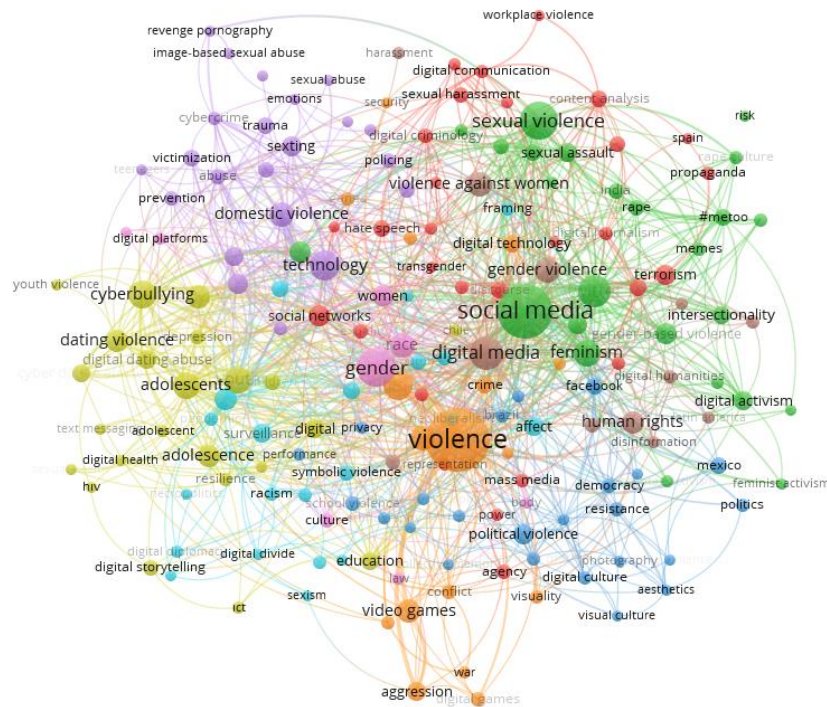
Search Keywords	Number of All Studies	Number of Articles	Number of Articles in English
Digital violence	1621	1371	1163
Digital violence-women	400	353	290
Virtual violence	585	457	478
Virtual violence-women	121	104	96
Total	2727	2285	2027

2027 studies were found with the relevant keywords searched in the WoS database. Cyberbullying, cyber harassment and similar concepts similar to digital violence, except for the relevant keywords, were excluded from the review due to time and difficulty of reviewing constraints. The research continued with 2027 studies.

### Literature Analysis and Summary

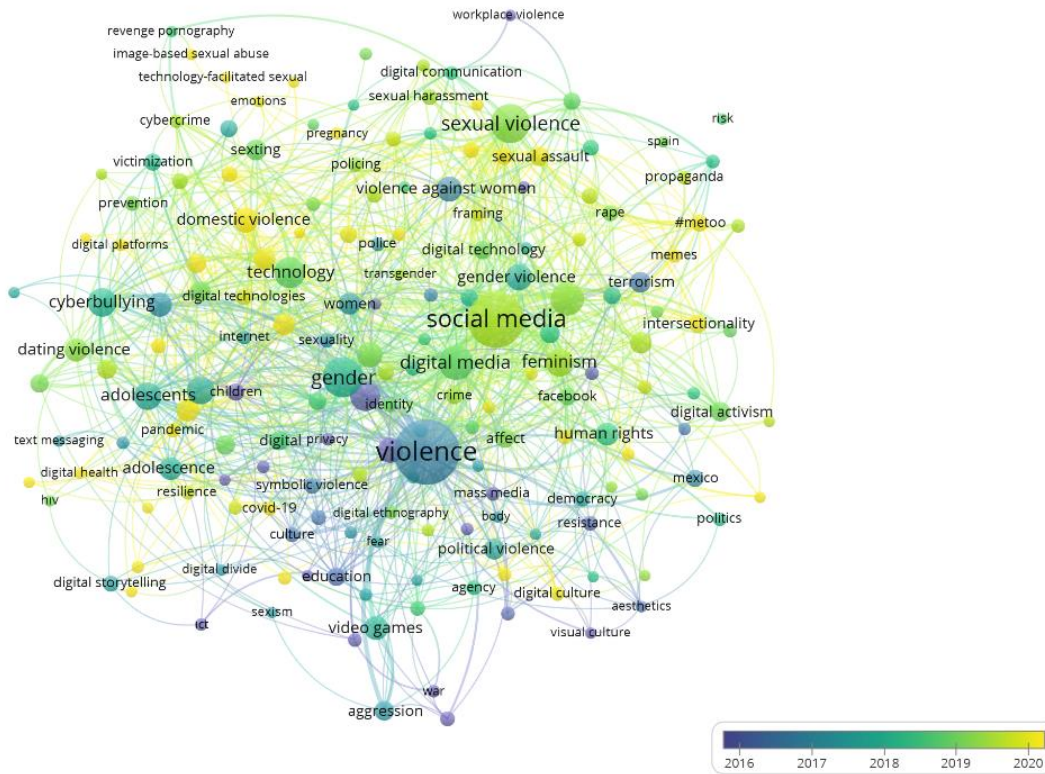
In order to evaluate the literature in general, concept maps were created with the "VOSviewer Manual" program developed by Van Eck and Waltman (2022). VOSviewer is a software tool for creating and visualizing and exploring maps based on network data. With this software, relationship maps such as frequency, time, author and country of the evaluated variables can be created. Network (Figure 2) and time analysis (Figure 3) of the concepts used in the titles and keywords of 1641 studies focusing on "digital violence (1163)" and "virtual violence (478)" from the literature were performed.

**Figure 2.** Network analysis of the most used concepts in the keywords of studies with “Digital-Virtual Violence”



In Figure 2, it is seen that the word digital and virtual violence is related to the network visualization and other issues that are studied in the literature. According to Van Eck and Waltman (2022), variables are represented by labels and circles in network visualization. The size of the label and the size of the circle are determined by the weight of the variable. More studied topics are represented by larger labels and circles. Accordingly, the most frequently studied topics with digital violence are: social media, gender, sexual violence, digital media, feminism, cyber violence, technology, domestic violence, women, violence against women, video games, human rights and anger. Again, the color of a variable is determined by the cluster it belongs to, and the lines between the variables represent the connections (Van Eck and Waltman, 2022). For example, the green circle represents the social media cluster and the subjects studied in this weight, while the pink circle belongs to gender-focused studies. Again, with the VOSviewer program, temporal trend analysis of the studies can also be done. Accordingly, the time trend of studies on digital and violence is as in Figure 3.

**Figure 3:** Temporal analysis of the concepts in the keywords of "Digital and Virtual Violence"



According to the findings from Figure 3, while the subject of digital violence was studied together with subjects such as physical violence, anger, education, video games, culture and racism in the publications in 2016, recently, subjects such as social media, domestic violence, digital platforms, sexual violence have started to be studied more frequently. General information about which publication titles, affiliations and publishers of the studies on digital and virtual violence in the literature is given (Table 4). While making this classification, the first 20 rankings with the most studies were taken into consideration. These results can give a clue about the journals and institutions that have done the most research on digital violence and which researchers should focus on.

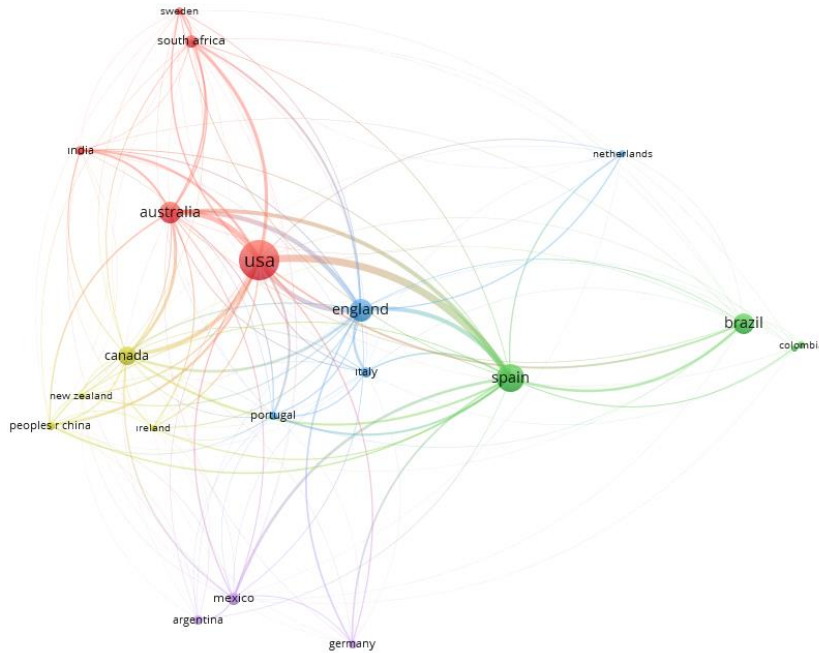
**Table 4:** WoS summary (publication titles, affiliations and publishers with the most studies) on digital and virtual violence

	<b>Publication Titles</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Affiliations</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Publishers</b>	<b><u>N</u></b>
<b>1</b>	Journal Of Interpersonal Violence	27	University Of London	51	Taylor & Francis	246
<b>2</b>	Feminist Media Studies	26	University Of California System	48	Sage	242
<b>3</b>	New Media Society	19	University Of Melbourne	26	Elsevier	89
<b>4</b>	International Journal of Communication	17	Complutense University of Madrid	25	Springer Nature	84
<b>5</b>	Computers In Human Behavior	13	Monash University	25	Univ Autonoma Barcelona	47
<b>6</b>	Information Communication Society	11	State University System Of Florida	25	Wiley	41
<b>7</b>	Plos One	11	University Of Toronto	25	Routledge	30
<b>8</b>	Crime Media Culture	10	Columbia University	24	Oxford Univ Press	29
<b>9</b>	Journal Of Gender Based Violence	10	Royal Melbourne Institute Of Technology Rmit	23	Mdpi	27
<b>10</b>	Children And Youth Services Review	9	University Of Texas System	23	Cambridge Univ Press	25
<b>11</b>	Frontiers In Psychology	9	University College London	22	Univ Complutense Madrid, Servicio Publicaciones	18
<b>12</b>	Terrorism And Political Violence	9	Brown University	20	Univ Nac Mar Plata	18
<b>13</b>	International Journal of Environmental Research And Public Health	8	Queensland University Of Technology Qut	20	Usc Annenberg Press	17
<b>14</b>	Palgrave Studies In Cybercrime and Cybersecurity	8	University Of Michigan	20	Emerald Group Publishing	14
<b>15</b>	Sexual Violence in A Digital Age	8	University Of Michigan System	19	Frontiers Media Sa	14
<b>16</b>	Violence Against Women	8	University Of Pennsylvania	19	Jmir Publications, Inc	14
<b>17</b>	Culture History Digital Journal	7	Harvard University	18	Univ Estadual Campinas, Fac Educacao	13
<b>18</b>	British Journal of Criminology	6	King S College London	16	Bristol Univ Press & Policy Press	12
<b>19</b>	International Journal for Crime Justice And Social Democracy	6	University Of New South Wales Sydney	16	Intellect Ltd	12
<b>20</b>	Journal Of Gender Studies	6	University Of Texas Austin	16	Brill	11





**Figure 6:** Network analysis of most researched countries by authors of studies on “Digital/Virtual Violence-Women”



By examining the abstract and article content of (105+38) 143 studies obtained from the literature in detail, we wanted to find out which type of digital violence (Table 5) is more studied according to research topics. Our aim here is to find out which types of digital-based studies in the literature are more common. Accordingly, it was seen that the studies were mostly concentrated on "communities targeting violence", "culturally justified violence against women", "intimate partner violence" and "harassment and violence".



**Table 5:** Classification of research topics according to types of digital violence

Types of digital violence	Researchs	N
Hacking	Claramonte and Gutierrez (2018), de Felice et al. (2022), Miner (2022), Page and Jones (2021).	4
Surveillance and Monitoring	Albury and Byron (2016), Crone et al. (2013), Dragiewicz et al. (2018), Dragiewicz et al. (2022), Gutierrez and Romero (2015), Havard and Lefevre (2020), Tan (2021).	7
Impersonation	Estrada et al. (2022), Kimber et al. (2021).	2
Harassment and Spam	Arhuis-Inca et al. (2021), Brown et al. (2021), Clark (2016), Gillett (2021), Harmer and Southern (2021), Moreno et al. (2022).	6
Hiring	Wood et al. (2021), Zunic and Vilic (2018).	2
Malicious distribution	Alvares (2018), Duarte et al. (2018), Ferris and Allard (2016), Henry and Flynn (2019), Lopez (2017), Lopez (2018), Mayet (2017), Rodo (2019), Zauner (2021).	9
Stalking	Reed et al. (2016).	1
Harassment and Violent	Bali et al. (2021), da Silva and de Oliveira (2015), Gayon (2015), Gutierrez-Esparza et al. (2019), Harris and Vitis (2020), Leigh et al. (2021), Lozano (2015), Martinez (2020), Mott and Cockayne (2021), Rebollo-Catalan and Mayor-Buzon (2020), Sibrian (2021), Ullah et al. (2021),	12
Revenge pornography	Linares et al. (2021), Pavon-Benitez et al. (2021), Tranchese and Sugiura (2021), Vilic (2019).	4
Intimate partner violence	Banati and Idele (2021), Branson and March (2021), Cuomo and Dolci (2022), Decker et al. (2022), Dragiewicz et al. (2021), Drouin et al. (2015), Garcia et al. (2021), Glass et al. (2021), Gonzalez-Lienres et al. (2020), Hellevik (2019), Jabeen et al. (2021), Lopez-Cepero et al. (2021), Overlien et al. (2020), Ozumerzifon et al. (2022), Reed et al. (2021), Sabri et al. (2022), Schokkenbroek et al. (2021), Schrag et al. (2022), Tello-Navarro and Gomez-Urrutia (2021), Terra et al. (2015), Usher et al. (2021), Viveiros and Bonomi (2022), Wilson et al. (2021).	23
Culturally justified violence against women	Albuquerque et al. (2021), Andreassen (2022), Bartolucci and Favero (2020), Boudiaf (2019), Choi et al. (2022), Doncel (2015), Ferreira et al. (2021), Garcia-Mingo and Blanco (2021), Hamal and Huijsmans (2022), Han and Yin (2022), Henry et al. (2021), Hlalele and Brexa (2015), Jordan et al. (2020), Kanai and McGrane (2021), Kurasawa et al. (2021), Limaye et al. (2018), Llamas and Garcia (2017), Marceau et al. (2020), Nelaeva and Sidorova (2019), Recuber (2021), Taha-Thomure et al. (2022), Taher (2020), Villar-Aguiles and Gracia (2021), Waling and Pym (2019), Wiebesiek and Treffry-Goatley (2017).	26
Rape and sexual assault	Adams-Clark and Chrisler (2018), Carvalho et al. (2021), Kaur (2017), Keller et al. (2018), McCaughey and Cermele (2022), Powell and Henry (2019), Reyes-Sosa et al. (2022), Zurita (2019).	8
Communities targeting violence	Abbafati et al. (2020), Awan and Zempi (2016), Bento and Moreira (2017), Brignone and Gomez (2022), Camacho (2019), Decker et al. (2021), Dey (2020), Ferre-Pavia and Sambuceti (2022), Ganzalo (2018), Guevara et al. (2021), Jane (2017), Labantu (2021), Lokot (2018), Martinez-Jimenez and Zurbano-Berenguer (2019), Matorel and Casadiego (2017), Meuli (2017), Meuli (2020), Navarro et al. (2018), Okech (2021), Patel et al. (2022), Patil and Puri (2021), Revelles-Benavente and Arroyo (2019), Rodriguez and Hernandez (2018), Stuart et al. (2020), Uria et al. (2017), Ward et al. (2021), Wiens and MacDonald (2021), Williams (2021), Yamile (2021), Yin and Sun (2021), (García-Mingo and Blanco (2021).	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>135*</b>
*Since publications that are the same in terms of "digital violence-women" and "virtual violence-women" were published, 135 studies were discussed.		

In Table 5, 135 studies classified according to the types of violence were examined in depth. The titles, abstracts and contents of the studies were evaluated. A summary of the scope, methods and findings

of the studies most relevant to our research topic (Table 6) was made. The research scopes are mostly collected on topics such as digital intimate partner violence, domestic violence, digital dating violence, gender-based digital violence, abuse and digital feminist actions. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used for the studies. Mostly surveys, social media posts, pictures and messages, feminist movements #hashtags and case studies were used.

**Table 6:** Comparison of journal, research scope, methods and findings of the most relevant studies

Author(s)	Scope the Research	Method	Findings
de Felice et al. (2022),	Potential dangers of social networks	Quantitative- N=296 (166 female and 130 male), sample of middle and high school students	According to the findings of this research, it is seen that social networks have an effect on the development and mental health of adolescents.
Crone et al. (2018),	#WhatWomenWant platform.	Qualitative- Internet-based platform	According to the research findings, gender equality and sexual health are important for countries to achieve their sustainable development goals. Attention should be drawn to the issue of sexual health by using the power of social media.
Tan (2021),	Sexual violence and attitudes towards it in Singapore.	Quantitative- Facebook comment analyze	According to research results, Facebook creates an environment suitable for women to experience digital violence. It makes women helpless by obscuring the identities of the perpetrators..
Estrada et al. (2022),	Toxic Social Media	Qualitative- #EllasNoMeRepresentan (TheyDoNotRepresentMe) Twitter analysis	Research results show that social media is used to create polarization in women's participation in politics. It makes it difficult for women to participate in politics with negative propaganda on social media.
Kimber et al (2021),	Child maltreatment online education for healthcare and social service providers	Qualitative- Observation, study of students' behavior	The results of the research show that when adequate security measures are not taken in online education environments, suitable conditions for abuse of children (especially girls) may occur.
Arhuis-Inca et al. (2021),	Violence at School and Bullying	Quantitative- N=23,641, a study on students in Peru	According to the results of the research, psychological violence and bullying are seen at a high rate in schools. Violence that continues face-to-face in schools continues in the digital environment as well.
Brown et al. (2021),	Technology-facilitated abuse in relationships	Quantitative- N=527, (46.5% men, 52.8% women, 0.7% transgender) 16-24 years.	In social media and digital environments, women are more affected by humiliating and threatening behaviors than men. Research results show that young women experience more digital violence than young men.
Clark (2016),	Hope in a hashtag	Qualitative- Domestic violence case study #WhyIStayed	Research results show that social media has an important power in defending women's rights. Accordingly, hashtag(#) feminism is an effective way to defend women's rights in digital environments.

Gillett (2021),	Women's safety work on Tinder	Qualitative interview and walkthrough data,	Research results show that women limit themselves when using the Tinder app. Compared to men, women abstained from freely participating in dating practices.
Harmer and Southern (2021),	Tweets sent to women members of Parliament in the UK	Qualitative- Thematic analysis of 11,543 tweets	The results of the research addressed the consequences of digital attacks on women in the parliament. Accordingly, digital attacks can damage women's democratic representation as much as direct harassment.
Moreno et al.(2022),	Fear for all women	Quantitative- Survey on violence against women in the European Union (EU; 2012)	According to the research results, European women frequently encounter harassment. Women live with the anxiety and fear of abuse and aggression in public spaces and digital environments.
Wood et al. (2021),	Survivors during the COVID-19 Pandemic	Quantitative- Online survey on people who have experienced violence and have safety concerns	Research findings show that the COVID-19 outbreak has increased domestic violence. In quarantine, people who have free time in both physical and virtual environments may increase their tendency to violence. Especially stalking can leave women helpless.
Zunic and Vilić (2018),	A gender analysis of female victimization in the cyberspace	Qualitative interview Analyzing victimization in the cyberspace.	According to the results of the research, digital world, the privacy of women is significantly compromised and associated with new and terrifying forms of online violence.
Alvares (2018),	Disciplining through public exposure in Brazilian social media	Qualitative- Online harassment case study	Research findings show that in the Brazilian context, social media limits women. It reveals that the destructive effects of social media are used to spy on and discipline women in a punitive manner.
Duarte et al. (2018),	Abortion experience in the media.	Collection and analysis of virtual narratives.,	Research findings indicate that in the Brazilian context, social media can have a devastating effect on women's freedom of abortion. It points to the insecurities, risks and violence that women are exposed to in digital environments.
Ferris and Allard (2016),	Sex work database as an activist digital archived	The Sex Work Database project Canada	The research findings focus on the ethics and efficacy findings of the sex work database. Malicious use of the database makes sex worker women feel insecure, and ethical problems may arise.
Henry and Flynn (2019),	Image-Based Sexual Abuse	Qualitative- Image-based sexual abuse analysis on online websites	According to the results of the research, IBSA promotes hyper-masculinity in the social sphere and pushes women out of the public sphere.
Lopez (2017),	Media analysis of murder cases	Qualitative- digital media analysis	Research findings focus on the negative effects of media on femicide. The spread of femicide in digital environments increases the fear of young people.
Zauner (2021).	Sexting education neglects image-based sexual abuse	Qualitative- Feminist case study	The results of the research show that image-based sexual abuse is an important type of violence, and the images displayed in digital media violate the victims' bodily/sexual autonomy rights.
Reed et al. (2016),	Use of digital media for dating	Quantitative- Survey of 365 college students	Research findings show that digital media is a suitable environment for harmful dating



	aggression and abuse		behaviors. In addition, women are more likely to encounter digital dating abuse than men.
Bali et al. (2021),	Psychological Violence Against Arab Women	Quantitative- An empirical in-depth analysis, (n-1312), Arab women over 15 years old.	Research findings show that young and low-educated women are more vulnerable to social media abuse. These women have problems such as low self-image, feelings of fear, cynicism, anxiety, depression and sleep disorders. These problems restrict women from using social media, and some are considering quitting social media use.
da Silva and de Oliveira (2015),	Violence against women in Brazil	Quantitative- Systematic review	The findings converge with the current trend to address violence in a qualitative way, in order to provide an in-depth analysis of the victims' experiences.
Harris and Vitis (2020),	Technology, spatiality and violence against women	Qualitative- Review	Researchers state that women frequently encounter digital violence. In addition, digital violence reinforces and facilitates physical violence.
Leigh et al. (2021),	Sex and outcome expectancies on perceptions of sexual harassment	Qualitative interview- One hundred and ninety-six participants (52% women)	Research findings focus on the positive and negative consequences for the perception of sexual harassment. Digital environments can affect the perception of harassment positively or negatively.
Martinez (2020),	Feminist Cyber-resistance to Digital Violence	Qualitative- Project analysis	According to the research results, digital environments are an important tool for feminism actions. Feminist cyber behaviors can have positive results, especially in the change of organizational cultures.
Mott and Cockayne (2021),	Racism, sexism, and homophobia in North America	Qualitative- #MeToo hashtag analyze	The findings question the extent to which digital platforms are creating new opportunities for harassment and violence.
Rebollo-Catalan and Mayor-Buzon (2020),	Examination of adolescent behaviors witnessing violence in digital media	Quantitative- A survey with 1,468 adolescents aged 13-17 years	Research findings question young people who witness digital violence. Accordingly, men responded less to violence than women. Both girls and boys have normalized and justified digital violence.
Gutierrez-Esparza et al. (2019),	Classification of Cyber-Aggression Cases	Qualitative- Classification of aggressive behavior in social networks in the Mexican context	According to the results of the research, the internet and digital media cause cyberbullying. Cyberbullying has had serious negative consequences on the welfare of the society.
Linares et al. (2021),	Cyber-dating abuse in young adult couples	Quantitative-Survey 697 young adults (aged between 18 and 35 years; 548 women)	Digital dating abuse legitimizes violence and creates the feeling that partners are spying on them. According to the findings, especially women face stalking such as location and status updates.
Pavon-Benitez et al. (2021),	Sexting, revenge porn, especially rural disadvantage	Qualitative-in-depth interviews (N = 40) carried out with young people (22 women and 18 men) between 18 and 24 years of age in Spain.	According to the research results, sexually explicit messaging and disclosure of messages poses a great challenge for young women. Especially in rural and underdeveloped areas, women face serious consequences.
Tranchese and Sugiura (2021),	Pornography trend and features	Qualitative- Analysis of digital forum data	According to the results of the research, the internet and advanced technologies can normalize violence against women and increase insensitivity.

Vilic (2019)	Revenge porn, its use as misogyny.	Qualitative- Internet-based platform analyze	According to the results of the research, cyber misogyny and revenge porn restrict the freedom of women. It is important that revenge porn is considered a crime and legally guaranteed by the state.
Branson and March (2021),	Cyber dating abuse, jealousy, hostility and narcissism	Quantitative-Survey (N = 817; 78.2% women; Mage = 28.16)	Research results show that jealousy, narcissism and psychopathic behaviors are positive predictors of cyber dating abuse.
Cuomo and Dolci (2022),	Digital technologies and domestic violence in Seattle	Qualitative interview	According to the results of the research, digital technologies emphasize that they have an important place for feminist actions. Accordingly, positive digital feminist actions contribute to women's freedom in society.
Decker et al. (2022)	Gender-based violence during COVID-19 among adolescent girls and young women in Nairobi	Qualitative Interview technique	The COVID-19 pandemic, quarantine and financial difficulties threaten gender roles. It creates an environment suitable for intimate partner violence..
Liencrees et al. (2020),	Intimate Partner Violence in Virtual Reality	Qualitative- Analysis with survey and interview techniques	Digital environments prepare the appropriate conditions for intimate partner violence. According to the findings, women feel vulnerable and helpless in digital environments..
Hellevik (2019),	Digital intimate partner violence and abuse	Semi-structured, in-depth interviews, a sample of 14 teenagers (12 girls), aged 15-18 years old, who had experienced digital IPVA victimization.	According to the research findings, digital intimate partner violence occurs together with face-to-face violence. Digital partner violence manifests itself through methods such as harassment control, monitoring and sexual coercion.
Lopez-Cepero et al. (2021),	Intimate partner violence, Peru review.	Quantitative-Survey 449 Peruvian students took part in the study (X = 21.2 years; SD = 4.3 years; 73% women)	According to the research findings, digital intimate partner violence is a valid and reliable measure of digital victimization. Women experience fear and abuse in digital environments more than men.
Overlien et al. (2020)	Young women's experiences of intimate partner violence	Semi-structured interviews, 33 young women from Norway and Sweden.	According to the research findings, intimate partner violence occurs in the forms of control, humiliation, fear, sexual pressure, secrecy and resistance.
Usher et al. (2021),	Domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic in Australia	Qualitative- Social media analyze (key term, posts).	Social media is an important representation to defend women's rights. According to the findings, it represents an important avenue for the dissemination of knowledge; The posts are widely distributed and easily accessible to a number of different communities that are often hard to reach.
Wilson et al. (2021),	The effects of anti-concession technologies and feminist actions on women's bodies	Qualitative- Online searches	According to the results of the research, digital environments are both a problem and a solution for women. It is an important tool especially for the organization of anti-rape actions.
Boudiaf (2019),	Using technologies for the sexual exploitation of immigrant girls	Qualitative- Review	According to research findings, the digital world facilitates the work of criminal organizations. Especially migrant women and refugees are involved in criminal organizations through digital technologies. Technologies are used



			maliciously for the sexual exploitation of migrant women.
Han and Yin (2022),	Examination of patriarchal and male-dominated discourses in digital environments	Qualitative- Review	According to the results of the research, misogynistic digital communities contribute to the formation of a masculine society. Digital communities that try to normalize violence against women have an impact on culture and lifestyle.
Kanai and McGrane (2021),	Feminist filter bubbles	Qualitative- The case study	According to research findings, women use digital filters because they feel more secure.
Kurasawa et al. (2021),	Feminist struggles against gender-based online violence	A qualitative content analysis	Research findings show that gender-based digital violence culturally normalizes violence against women.
McCaughey and Cermele (2022),	Dataraid in a (Cyber)Rape Culture	Qualitative Case study (information privacy breach)	According to the results of the research, sexual privacy and information privacy are violated in the digital age. Accordingly, both sexual and digital breaches of information privacy are simultaneously affected by a mutually reinforcing culture of rape and surveillance.
Powell and Henry (2019),	Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization	Quantitative- Online Survey on Australian Adults	According to the results of the research, women and men experience technology-oriented sexual violence at the same rate. However, women were more likely to report victimization of sexual harassment.
Reyes-Sosa et al. (2022),	Examination of sexual violence images and discourses in digital environments	Qualitative Image and discourse analysis	Research findings play roles such as promoting sexual violence in the digital space, disbelieving women in rape, blaming the victim, re-victimizing and disempowering women.
Brignone and Gomez (2022),	Domestic violence advocacy by race, ethnicity and gender	Quantitative- Analysis of ethnicity and gender graphs	According to the research findings, digital environments provide support to domestic violence.
Camacho (2019),	Commodification of the territory and reconfiguration of violence against women	An in-depth analysis, a case study with action-research methodologies	Research findings, it is difficult to distinguish violence against women online and offline. It shows that there is a need for in-depth studies on new violence against women because of women's gender status and leadership.
Dey (2020),	Gender violence and digital activism, for example in India	Qualitative A case study	According to the results of the research, new digital technologies create an environment suitable for gender-based violence.
Revelles-Benavente and Arroyo (2019),	Violence against women in Spanish mass media	Qualitative- A theoretical approximation	According to the research findings, the representation and encouragement of patriarchal violence in digital magazines limits the lives of women.
Wiens and MacDonald (2021),	Feminist futures	Qualitative- #MeToo tweets and their framings within media accounts of the movement	Research findings show that misogynistic tweets and rhetoric on social media culturally normalize violence.



Williams (2021),	Digital Defense and Black feminism on social media	Qualitative- A theoretical approximation	Announcing the rights of black women and violence against them on social media strengthens the rights of black women..
Yin and Sun (2021),	Intersectional digital feminism	Qualitative- Analyzing the MeToo movement in China	Research findings focus on the power of digital media. Accordingly, while censorship and misogynistic attacks limit women from the social sphere, feminist actions result in women's favour.
García-Mingo and Blanco, (2021).	Intimate Partner Violence in Virtual Reality	Qualitative- Immersive virtual reality	Research findings show that women who experience cyber threats live with how vulnerable they feel and the feeling that they may be attacked.

Some of the research findings summarized in Table 6 and the results of our general research will be discussed and suggestions will be made.

## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Digital violence is increasingly seen with technology becoming a part of our lives and the spread of smartphones and social networks. As digital technologies become part of our lives, the abuse of technologies, like violence, is increasing. For this reason, it is important to keep the issue on the agenda and to contribute to the literature by examining digital violence theoretically and systematically. The aim of this study is to give direction to future research by making a systematic analysis on digital violence. When the literature was searched with the relevant keywords, the studies were systematically classified according to general criteria. Frequency maps were created by word analysis. Then, studies focusing on digital/virtual violence and women were examined in detail. It is seen that digital/virtual violence and women-oriented studies mostly work together with topics such as social media, feminism, gender, domestic violence, Covid-19, technology and sexual violence. In particular, the increase in the use of social media platforms has made it easier to damage people's privacy and immunity. These platforms have both provided a suitable environment for violence against women and have been instrumental in violence. At the same time, these platforms, where violence is made, have turned into places where action is taken in the fight against violence against women. Feminist discourses have been used for purposes such as organizing in the fight against violence against women and creating a hashtag. In addition, issues of gender equality, gender-based violence and sexual violence have often been studied together with digital violence. Issues such as domestic violence and the Covid-19 pandemic were examined together with intimate partner violence. These results obtained according to the research findings can be summarized as follows;

- There is a significant relationship between violence and the economic development of countries. In developing countries, women are exposed to more violence (Wiebesiek and Treffry-Goatley, 2017). Especially in countries with economic problems such as Africa, Bolivia, and Kenya, digital violence is seen



(Gutierrez and Romero, 2015; Nelaeva and Sidorova, 2019; Okech, 2021; Decker et al., 2021, 2022). Violence shows its face more in black, poor, helpless and immigrant women (Gonzalo, 2018; Boudiaf, 2019; Williams, 2021; Choi et al., 2022). There is a significant gap in the evidence regarding the prevalence, magnitude and forms of violence against certain groups of women, such as older women, those with disabilities, immigrants (Henry, Vasil, Flynn, Kellard and Mortreux, 2021; Sabri, Saha, Lee and Murray, 2022), indigenous and ethnic minorities, and trans women who may be at higher risk of violence (WHO, 2018; Sibrian, 2021; Taha-Thomure, Milne, Kavanagh and Stirling, 2022). These distinctions that categorize women and show them weak can expose them to digital violence. For example, women who needed help during the Covid-19 period were exposed to the hiring method (Jimenez-Rodriguez et al., 2021; Schrag, Leat, Backes, Childress and Wood, 2022; Wood et al., 2021). The existence of a gender-based digital divide in many developing countries limits women's access to and ability to engage critically with information and technology tools (Fascendini and Fiaolava, 2011).

- Digital violence against women, especially young girls, is used in the form of persistent stalking (Reed, Tolman and Ward, 2016), hacking (Claramonte and Gutierrez, 2018; de Felice et al., 2022; Miner, 2022; Page and Jones, 2021), deception (Estrada, Juarez and Pina-Garcia, 2022) and harassment from social media platforms and other sharing tools (Jane, 2017). This violence, which is seen as digital dating violence (Branson and March, 2021; Linares et al., 2021; Reed et al., 2016, 2021; Tello-Navarro and Gomez-Urrutia, 2021), harassment, intimidation and threat, is quite common (Lopez, 2018). The uncertainty of the perpetrator, pretending to be a false identity and finding romantic excuses for his actions make the public desensitized to violence and romanticize the situation.

- Domestic violence, the continuation of violence by spouses, lovers, classmates, colleagues or bosses in digital environments is classified as digital violence as intimate partner violence (Gonzalez-Lienres et al., 2020; Lopez-Cepero, Vallejos-Saldarriaga and Merino-Garcia, 2021). It is seen in the studies that digital environments are used especially for social media partner surveillance and monitoring (Page and Jones, 2021; Ozumerzifon, Ross, Brinza, Gibney and Garber, 2022; Viveiros and Bonomi, 2022). Whether the partner is online, following their messages, knowing the passwords for social media platforms are indicators of this situation (Schokkenbroek, Van Ouytsel, Hardyns and Ponnet, 2021; Garcia et al., 2021; Schrag et al., 2022). For example, at home, the mother's phone is in everyone's hands, and anyone can read all her private correspondence (Dragiewicz, Woodlock, Salter and Harris, 2022).

- Studies on digital/virtual violence and women in the literature are gathered in the types of "communities targeting violence" and "culturally justified violence against women". This shows that digital violence has been examined more culturally and socially. Particularly through social media, we have seen



polarization, gender discrimination (Matorel and Casadiego, 2017), transforming public spaces and workplaces into gender-based ones, defending the patriarchal structure and making reactionary masculine discourses (Rodriguez and Hernandez, 2018; Alvares, 2018; Crone, de Graaf, Stevenson, Nyambura and Johnson, 2018; Bali, Omer, Abdulridha and Ahmad, 2021; Garcia-Mingo and Blanco, 2021). Practices that belittle women, filters, anti-feminist discourses (Clark, 2016; Gillett, 2021), humiliation of women's rights (Guevara, Atienza-Barthelemy, Gonzalez and Robles, 2021; Labantu, 2021), discourses that women's place is in the home appear in research (Jane, 2017; Williams, 2021; Estrada et al., 2022). Many women's rights defenders lack the technical skills, resources and knowledge to use information and communication technologies as a tool of resistance and empowerment (Fascendini and Fiaolava, 2011).

- The use of images of women and girls, and the dissemination of videos and texts in digital media appear in the form of abuse (Alvares, 2018; Ferris and Allard, 2016; Henry and Flynn, 2019; Lopez, 2017; Lopez, 2018; Mayet, 2017, Rodo, 2019; Zauner, 2021). Women are exposed to violence, especially with the spread of posts about women's birth, abortion (Duarte, de Moraes, Andrade, 2018; Lopez, 2018; Ferreira et al., 2021), sexual intercourse or private moments on social media (McCaughey and Cermele, 2022). These posts, which can be easily viewed on the Internet, are not only violence to the victims, but also set an example for new cases of violence (Mott and Cockayne, 2021; Reyes-Sosa, Martinez-Cueva and Mondragon, 2022) It justifies violence against women. The visuals target women. It facilitates the labeling of women by society.

- Digital media mediate rape of women by impersonating them, hiring or arranging fake meetings (Estrada et al., 2022; Kimber, McTavish, Vanstone, Stewart and MacMillan, 2021). Romanticizing sexual assaults and rape (Kaur, 2017), talking openly on social media can desensitize people to violence (Keller, Mendes, Ringrose, 2018; Tranchese and Sugiura, 2021). Again, the use of images of women, especially close partners, as a means of revenge is considered as revenge pornography (Linares et al., 2021; Pavon-Benitez, Romo-Aviles and Gomez, 2021; Tranchese and Sugiura, 2021; Vilic, 2019). Many women may remain silent against violence, as their relationship images will reach social media or their relatives after intercourse.

In order to be a more livable and sustainable society, violence against women should be tried to be prevented, not hidden. The silence of women and their removal from the public sphere is a disadvantage for countries. The struggle for this should be carried out not only on the basis of individuals or groups, but with a common consciousness with all the resources of the country. The aim for this struggle is to prevent gender discrimination and to expand the living spaces of women. Numerous studies can be found in the literature



under the title of combating violence against women. Measures and means of struggle can be seen. Here, we would like to list a few solutions to the issue of digital violence and how to combat it digitally;

- Video training programs can be created to change gender-based beliefs (Jimenez-Rodriguez et al., 2021; Choi et al., 2022). With these trainings, stereotypical prejudices about women in all segments of the public can be combated.

- In the in-service trainings given to public and private sector employees, online trainings can be organized to raise awareness of violence against women and digital violence. Examples of persistent stalking and harassment of working women by their colleagues, bosses and customers can be shared.

- Hashtags(#) supporting women can be opened. Awareness of violence against women can be created on frequently used social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook (Clark, 2016; Crone et al., 2018; Garcia-Mingo and Blanco, 2021).

- Legal digital platforms can be created where women who are subjected to violence, afraid and threatened can organize. By increasing the number of these platforms, women and girls can be taught.

- Online maltreatment training for women and girls can be provided (Kimber et al., 2021). In particular, women and girls in the shadows, who are bad for economic development, can be tried to be reached.

- Digital storytelling can be used to break down stereotypes about women and empower women (Hlalele and Brexa, 2015; Taher, 2020; Labantu, 2021; Yamile, 2021).

- Finally, the number of emergency call mobile applications that inform violence against women by government and legal institutions can be increased. For example, in Turkey, it is possible for women who have installed the "KADES Support to Women" application on their phones to call the police with a single tap on their phones. With these applications developed according to location tracking, women can be made to feel safe.

## **LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

This study is a systematic literature study, it is not based on any application and this is the most important limitation of the research. Examining real cases in the field and in practice often yields more accurate results. However, this research reveals some gaps in the literature on digital violence and women, and this may provide an idea for future research. First, digital violence against women is heavily influenced



by society and culture. Societies and cultures that marginalize and place women as second class can enable digital violence. It may be appropriate for studies on this subject to focus on methods of struggle. Second, older women, those with disabilities, immigrants, indigenous and ethnic minorities, and poor women may experience more digital violence. For this reason, studies can be carried out to increase the awareness of these disadvantaged groups about accessing and using technology and knowing their rights. Third, there are few studies focused solely on stalking, impersonation, hacking, revenge pornography, surveillance, and control. Working in these areas can contribute to the literature.

Another limitation of this study is that it does not cover the entire literature. This situation is very difficult in terms of time and to miss the essence of the subject. In order to be up-to-date, it has been limited with criteria such as the first twenty journals and publishers for the last years. In future studies, a comparison can be made between past studies and recent studies. Differences can be revealed with time series analysis. For example, the Covid-19 factor could be considered as a mediating variable in future research. The direction of studies may change after the pandemic.

The number of studies that determine the demographic characteristics of people who use digital violence should be increased. Likewise, the demographic characteristics of the victim should be determined. Thus, measures to prevent digital violence can be increased. Because the type of digital violence may vary for school-age, young girls and women in different positions. What are the factors that push people to use digital violence? A need, pleasure, illness, revenge, or other psychological problem? Interdisciplinary studies are very critical in this regard. The number of studies on working women should be increased, especially in order to strengthen the place of women in working life and in the public sphere. Digital violence can be a mobbing tool, a glass ceiling barrier. It can be used by colleagues or managers to intimidate and intimidate female employees. For this reason, it can be examined in studies in the legal field and awareness of women's digital rights can be increased.

Undoubtedly, the number of women and girls who experience violence and remain silent is too high to be ignored, but there are no figures to prove this. Silence can serve digital violence. For this reason, the number of studies on violence against women and digital violence should be increased in order for women to take the place they deserve and to create more egalitarian, free and happy societies. Universities, non-governmental organizations and government organizations protecting women should develop joint projects, and women should be protected in digital environments. There has been talk lately that the metaverse and virtual life will be inevitable. So, I think it's up to us to construct a world where men and women are equal in the metaverse world and there is no violence.

## YAZAR BEYANI / AUTHOR STATEMENT

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