Inventory of Beliefs about Wife Beating (IBWB)

Author(s) of Instrument:
Daniel G. Saunders
Ann B. Lynch
Marcia Grayson
Daniel Linz

Key References: Publications related to this instrument

https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/50455/The+Inventory+of+Beliefs+about+Wife+Beating+Saunders+EtAl+SEC.pdf?sequence=1

Additional publications can be found at  

Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

The understanding of the underlying intimate partner violence (or wife beating) is important to understanding that lead to individuals to use violence in their own relationships. The Inventory of Beliefs about Wife Beating (IBWB) is a 31 item scale comprised of five subscales measuring different aspects of beliefs that perpetuate violence against women.

Background and Development: How and why this instrument was developed.

An assessment of the inventory's dimensionality and validity was conducted. Data were collected
from 675 students, 94 residents of a mid-western city, 71 men who batter, and 70 advocates for battered women. Five reliable subscales were created: wife beating is justified, wives gain from beatings, help should be given, offenders should be punished, and the offender is responsible.

**Psychometrics (if applicable):** Any testing of this instrument.

The Saunders, Lynch, Grayson, and Lunz (1987) article describes extensive validity testing, including "known groups" and construct validity.

**Link to Instrument:** Link to the instrument if available.

Long form of 31 items is at  
[https://ssw.umich.edu/sites/default/files/documents/faculty/saunddan/ibwb-long.pdf](https://ssw.umich.edu/sites/default/files/documents/faculty/saunddan/ibwb-long.pdf)

Short version of 11 items is at  

**Submitted by:** Dr. Daniel Saunders submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.
INVENTORY OF BELIEFS ABOUT WIFE BEATING

Instructions
Below are a number of statements about violence toward wives which some people agree with and others disagree with. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. There are no right or wrong answers.
“Beating” is used to mean repeated hitting intended to inflict pain.

1. Social agencies should do more to help battered women.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

2. There is no excuse for a man beating his wife.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

3. Wives try to get beaten by their husbands in order to get sympathy from others.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

4. A woman who constantly refuses to have sex with her husband is asking to be beaten.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

5. Wives could avoid being battered by their husbands if they knew when to stop talking.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

6. Episodes of a man beating his wife are the wife’s fault.
   Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___  Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___
7. Even when women lie to their husbands they do not deserve to get a beating.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

8. Women should be protected by law if their husbands beat them.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

9. Wife-beating should be given a high priority as a social problem by government agencies.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

10. Sometimes it is OK for a man to beat his wife.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

11. Women feel pain and no pleasure when beat-up by their husbands.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

12. A sexually unfaithful wife deserves to be beaten.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

13. Causes of wife-beating are the fault of the husband.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___

14. Battered wives try to get their partners to beat them as a way to get attention from them.

Strongly Agree ___  Agree ___  Slightly Agree ____  Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
Slightly Disagree___ Disagree___  Strongly Disagree ___
15. *Husbands who batter should be responsible for the abuse because they should have foreseen* that it would happen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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16. *If I heard a woman being attacked by her husband, it would be best that I do nothing.*

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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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17. *Battered wives are responsible for their abuse because they intended it to happen.*

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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
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18. *If a wife is beaten by her husband, she should divorce him immediately.*

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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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19. *Husbands who batter are responsible for the abuse because they intended to do it.*

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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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20. *The best way to deal with wife-beating is to arrest the husband.*

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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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21. *Even when a wife’s behavior challenges her husband’s manhood, he’s not justified in beating her.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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22. **How long should a man who has beaten his wife spend in prison or jail? (Circle one):**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>0</th>
<th>1 mo</th>
<th>6 mos</th>
<th>1 yr</th>
<th>3 yr</th>
<th>5 yr</th>
<th>10 yr</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

23. *When a wife is beaten, it is caused by her behavior in the weeks before the battering.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
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24. A wife should move out of the house, if her husband beats her.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

25. Wives who are battered are responsible for the abuse, because they should have foreseen it would happen.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

26. A husband has no right to beat this wife even if she breaks agreements she has made with him.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

27. Occasional violence by a husband toward his wife can help maintain the marriage.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

28. A wife doesn’t deserve a beating even if she keeps reminding her husband of his weak points.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

29. Most wives secretly desire to be beaten by their husbands.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

30. If I heard a woman being attacked by her husband, I would call the police.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

31. It would do some wives some good to be beaten by their husbands.

   Strongly Agree ___   Agree ___   Slightly Agree ____   Neither Agree Nor Disagree___
   Slightly Disagree___   Disagree___   Strongly Disagree ___

Scales:  WJ: 2,4,5,6,7,10,12,21,26,27,28,31; WG: 3,11,14,17,23,25,29; HG: 1,8,9,16,30;  OP: 18,19,20,22;  OR: 13,15,19,20
INVENTORY OF BELIEFS ABOUT WIFE BEATING
Short Form

Instructions

Below are a number of statements about violence toward wives that some people agree with and others disagree with. Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement by placing a check after one of the levels of agreement. There are no right or wrong answers. "Beating" is used to mean repeated hitting intended to inflict pain.

1. Wives could avoid being battered by their husbands if they knew when to stop talking.

   Strongly Agree__   Agree__   Slightly Agree__   Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
   Slightly disagree__ Disagree__ Strongly Disagree__

2. A wife doesn't deserve a beating even if she keeps reminding her husband of his weak points.

   Strongly Agree__   Agree__   Slightly Agree__   Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
   Slightly disagree__ Disagree__ Strongly Disagree__

3. A woman who constantly refuses to have sex with her husband is asking to be beaten.

   Strongly Agree__   Agree__   Slightly Agree__   Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
   Slightly disagree__ Disagree__ Strongly Disagree__

4. Episodes of a man beating his wife are the wife's fault.

   Strongly Agree__   Agree__   Slightly Agree__   Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
   Slightly disagree__ Disagree__ Strongly Disagree__

5. A sexually unfaithful wife deserves to be beaten.

   Strongly Agree__   Agree__   Slightly Agree__   Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
   Slightly disagree__ Disagree__ Strongly Disagree__
6. A husband has no right to beat his wife even if she breaks agreements she has made with him.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

7. Occasional violence by a husband toward his wife can help maintain the marriage.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

8. Even if a wife's behavior challenges her husband's manhood, he's not justified in beating her.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

9. Social agencies should do more to help battered women.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

10. Women should be protected by law if their husbands beat them.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

11. Wife-beating should be given a high priority as a social problem by government agencies.

Strongly Agree__  Agree__  Slightly Agree__  Neither Agree Nor Disagree__
Slightly disagree__  Disagree__  Strongly Disagree__

Scoring Instructions: The Inventory of Beliefs About Wife-Beating

To derive a score from each sub-scale:

1) Assign the following values for the items below which do NOT have an ‘R’:

- Strongly agree = 1
- Agree = 2
- Slightly agree = 3
- Neither agree nor disagree = 4
- Slightly disagree = 5
- Disagree = 6
- Strongly disagree = 7

2) For items marked with an ‘R’, use reverse scoring as follows:

- Strongly agree = 7
- Agree = 6
- Slightly agree = 5
- Neither agree nor disagree = 4
- Slightly disagree = 3
- Disagree = 2
- Strongly disagree = 1

3) Add the values of each of the subscales show below.

**Long Form:**

Wife-beating is Justified: 2 4R 5R 6R 7 10R 12R 21 26 27R 28 31R

Wives Gain from Abuse: 3R 11 14R 17R 23R 25R 29R

Help Should Be Given: 1R 8R 9R 16 30R

Take Immediate Action: 18R 19R 20R 22 24R

Offender Is Responsible: 13R 15R 19R 20R

**Short Form:**

Wife-beating is Justified: 1R 2 3R 4R 5R 6 7R 8

Help Should Be Given: 9R 10R 11R