

RURAL WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF HARYANA

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Abstract

Violence against women is a common happening in most societies whether the violence is physical or mental. People often think of domestic violence only in terms of the black eyes and harms that can be seen. In reality, domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that abusive men use to control their intimate partners. Domestic violence, however, is neither random nor disorganized. It is a complex pattern of gradually frequent and harmful physical, sexual, psychological, or the threat of such abuse, behaviors that frighten, intimidate, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society. This research paper conducts to know the nature, extent and type of domestic violence and factors affecting of domestic violence against rural women. The study was conducted among 200 women in rural area of Karnal district of Haryana State through survey method. Out of two hundred respondents more than one-third of respondents (38%) faced domestic violence in various forms. Analysis depicted that nature and extent of violence, slapping/pushing /twisting arm got first rank. Age, occupation of the respondent, mass media exposure and socio economic status significantly associated with domestic violence faced by women.

Index terms: Women, domestic, violence, physical, sexual, psychological

Introduction

Domestic Violence is a phenomenon affecting many societies directly and indirectly around the world, and somehow, after many years of research not a single definition describes this phenomenon effectively yet. Defining domestic violence can be very difficult, as it is a broad term used to describe a range of behaviours and has a multiplicity of meanings to different people in different contexts (Burton, 2008). Domestic violence usually begins as an isolated abusive incident, however, when the abuse is repeated and becomes a constantly abuse, it is defined as “battering” (McCue, 2008). Some women with the most harmful and repeatedly violent partners correctly perceived a high risk of further assault but felt there was nothing they could do to escape or contain the violence (Gondolf & Beeman 2003, Heckert & Gondolf 2004)

Violence against women is a common happening in most societies whether the violence is physical or mental. People often think of domestic violence only in terms of the black eyes and harms that can be seen. In reality, domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that abusive men use to control their intimate partners. Domestic violence, however, is neither random nor disorganized. It is a complex pattern of gradually frequent and harmful physical, sexual, psychological, or the threat of such abuse, behaviors that frighten, intimidate, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society. Women have always been considered to be the

weaker sex. Right from the later Vedic age to the 21st century, Indian women have never experienced the freedom that men have. They have always been subjected to inequality. The subordinate status of women combined with patriarchal ideologies is a major cause of domestic violence. Waghmode *et al.* (2013) found that violence against women is endemic in India. The reason is women in the country are highly vulnerable because of poor quality of life indicated by rampant poverty, lack of education, high under five mortality, poor health status, high fertility rate and high maternal mortality rate.

According to 'United Nation Population Fund Report', around two-third of married Indian women are victims of Domestic Violence attacks. To protect women against Domestic Violence, the Parliament passed 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' According to this act, any woman who has been subjected to domestic violence can file a complaint to the police officer, protection officer or the magistrate in the form of 'Domestic Incident Report', which is similar to an FIR. However, this act is not enough. In light of the increasing instances of domestic violence against women, the government needs to take more stringent measures to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence against women. Keeping in view this context the present study was designed with the following objective:

- To know the nature, extent and type of domestic violence against rural women.
- To study the factors affecting domestic violence.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Karnal district of Haryana state. From this district, Asandh block was selected. Three villages namely, Rahada, Salwan and Kheri Sarf Ali were drawn from the selected block. Two hundred respondents were selected randomly for the purpose of the study. Interview Schedule was prepared to collect the desired information as per objectives of the experiment. Data were analyzed and tabulated to draw the inferences. The data thus, collected were computed, tabulated and analyzed using frequency, percentage and chi-square test.

Results

Types of domestic violence reported by respondents

Regarding the domestic violence faced by the respondents, out of two hundred respondents more than one-third of respondents (38%) faced domestic violence in various forms (Table-1). Further analysis revealed that out of 76 respondents who faced domestic violence, 96.05 per cent faced emotional violence and verbal violence each. The respondents also reported physical violence (61.84%) and economic violence (42.10%) occurring with them. Nearly one-third of the respondents (31.57 %) were also facing sexual violence. Overwhelming majority of the respondents reported that domestic violence was inflicted by husband (100 %), mother-in-law (53.94%) and father-in-law (18.42 %). Similarly 21.05 per cent faced domestic violence

by other members in the family. One in four of all alcohol-related violence, and one third to one half of all violent crime were reported by women. More than three in four of those disclosing domestic violence were women (Kershaw et al 2000, Simmons 2002, Budd 2003, Povey & Allen 2003). Repeat victimization rates are higher than for any other type of crime (Kershaw *et al.* 2000).

Near about two-third of the respondents (59.21%) reported domestic violence occurred after 6 months of marriage. Rest reported violence between 3-6 months (26.31%) and within 3 months (14.47%). Regarding nature of husband cent percent of the respondents reported their husband to be of angry nature. Also, 89.47 percent considered drinking/drug addiction to be the major problem after anger. Rest 56.57 per cent and 38.15 per cent reported their husband were into gambling and unfaithful, respectively. Maximum number of respondents (39.47%) tolerated and remained silent while 38.15 per cent cried during the violence and only 21.05% slapped back. Majority of victims (64.48%) reported the problem to family whereas 14.48 per cent women reported to none, to panchayat 13.15% and 6.58 per cent reported to police. Rest 1.31 per cent took case to court

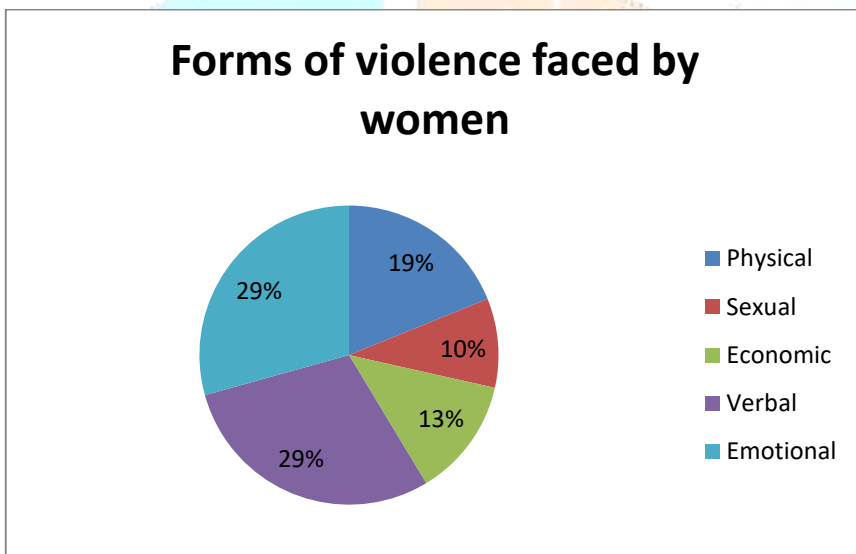


Fig: Different form of violence faced by women

Nature and extent of domestic violence reported by respondents

Analysis depicted in table-2 that nature and extent of violence, slapping/pushing /twisting arm (rank I) were frequent (53.19 %) found to be type of physical violence occurring with respondents followed by beating (rank II) and starvation (rank III). Most of the respondents regarding verbal violence/abuse reported were becoming angry seldom (53.42 %). Taunting (rank II) and screaming rage (rank III) were the different forms of verbal violence. Economic violence reported included husband taking away money forcefully earned by respondents (rank I) and even food, clothes medicines were not provided by the husband (59.37%). More than one-third of the respondents (39.72 %) reported ignoring and dismissing and constant criticism (rank II) by husband were the ways of emotional violence followed by preventing them to meet their relatives and

family members (rank III), respectively. In other situations, the tension building stage is more overt, but still subtle. It may not involve the sort of physical violence mentioned earlier, directed at the woman, pets, or inanimate objects (Weiss, 2000; McCue, 2008). Instead it can be more verbal; emotional, or covert. For example, the abuser may accuse his partner of having an affair, which can serve as a means to later "punish" her (Matthews, 2004; Weiss, 2000).

Relationship between socio-economic variables and domestic violence faced by women

It's clear from table-3 that age was significantly associated with domestic violence faced by women. Analysis revealed that about two-third of the respondents (31.58%) who belonged to young age group had faced domestic violence frequently whereas 25 per cent respondents belonging to middle age group faced domestic violence frequently and 28.12 percent faced on daily basis. On the other hand more than fifty percent (52%) respondents from old age group faced low level of domestic violence. As the age increases, level of domestic violence decrease. UK and international community surveys find that youth is a risk factor for domestic violence victimization, with women under 25 being at highest risk of experiencing abuse in the past year (Mirrlees-Black 1999, Rodgers 1994, Walby&Allen 2004).

Significant association between occupation of the respondents and domestic violence faced by women was observed. Data revealed that majority of the respondents who were homemakers and laborers (26.93% and 30% respectively) had faced domestic violence on daily basis. On the other hand, 60 per cent each of the respondents who were into small scale enterprises/ business and service/jobs respectively faced low level of domestic violence. Women with employment and higher socio-economic status have been found to be more likely to leave violent relationships (Saunders 2002).

Mass media exposure of respondents and domestic violence was found significantly associated. Analysis further revealed that respondents with low mass media exposure (25%) had faced domestic violence daily. Contrary to that, respondents with medium mass-media exposure (54.54%) had faced domestic violence seldom because mass-media exposure helps women in gaining knowledge about world and be aware of the laws and changes occurring in the society.

Data revealed significant association between socio economic status of the respondents and domestic violence. It was found that as the socio economic status increases domestic violence decreases. Respondents (64.70%) who had high level of socio economic status faced domestic violence seldom whereas 32 percent respondents having low socio economic status had domestic violence daily in one form or the other. Walby&Myhill(2001b) found several factors relating to a woman's socio-economic status and an increased risk of abuse, such as poverty, inequality between partners, relative isolation and unemployment

Conclusion

This study contributes to the violence literature highlighted on the nature, extent, types and factors victimization of domestic violence. The varying causes which can flash the violence within the four walls of homes need to be analyzed carefully and a wise study of the factors causing the violence may prevent a family to suffer from the menace of domestic violence. A proper societal-legal environment has to be built to make the homes safe and secure for the woman. Finally, research is also needed to determine how best to embed effective practices demonstrated by model projects within mainstream organizational routines, promote collaborative multi-agency endeavor, and equip staff to ensure a consistent, committed approach to identifying and working to reduce domestic violence

Suggestion

- ✓ Measures should be taken to deal severely with the Alcoholics who perpetuate domestic violence.
- ✓ Gender sensitization and awareness generation programmes on domestic violence should become a part of the school and university curriculum.
- ✓ Efforts should be made for the proper and effective enforcement of existing laws related to women.

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Table 1: Types of domestic violence reported by respondents

Sr. No.	Aspects	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Women facing domestic violence	76	38.0
	Forms of violence faced by women		
1.	Physical	47	61.84
2.	Sexual	24	31.57
3.	Economic	32	42.10
4.	Verbal	73	96.05
5.	Emotional	73	96.05
2.	Face domestic violence by		
1.	Husband	76	100.0
2.	Mother in-law	41	53.94
3.	Father in-law	14	18.42
4.	Any other	16	21.05
3.	First violence occurred after marriage		
1.	Within 3 month	11	14.47
2.	3-6 month	20	26.31
3.	Above 6 month	45	59.21
4.	Nature of husband		
1.	Gamble	43	56.57
2.	Drink/drug addiction	68	89.47
3.	Unfaithful	29	38.15
4.	Angry	76	100
5.	Action taken by the respondents		
1.	Repeating abuse	1	1.31
2.	Slapping back	16	21.05
3.	Crying	29	38.15
4.	Remaining silent	30	39.47
6.	Report the problem to		
1.	Family	49	64.48
2.	Panchayat	10	13.15
3.	Police	5	6.58
4.	Court	1	1.31
	None	11	14.48

Table 2: Nature and extent of domestic violence reported by respondents

Aspects	Extent of domestic violence						
	Nature of physical violence/abuse (n=47)	Daily (4)	Frequently (3)	Seldom (2)	Never (1)	WMS	Mean Score
Slapping/Pushing/Twisting arm	9 (19.14)	25 (53.19)	13(27.65)	0	137	2.91	I
Beating	-	22 (46.80)	15(31.91)	10(21.27)	106	2.25	II
Starvation	-	2 (4.25)	6(12.76)	39(82.97)	57	1.21	III
Nature of verbally violence/abuse (n=73)							
Angry	24(32.87)	10)13.69)	39(53.42)	0	238	3.26	I
Taunting/Angry	35(47.94)	16(21.91)	22(30.13)	0	232	3.17	II
Screaming rage	11(15.06)	42(57.53)	20(27.39)	0	210	2.87	III
Nature of economic violence/abuse (n=32)							
Husband taking away money forcefully which earned by you	-	2(6.25)	14(43.75)	16(50.0)	50	1.56	I
Not providing foods, clothes, medicines etc. for her or children	-	3 (9.37)	10(31.25)	19(59.37)	48	1.50	II
Forcing you to go out of house you live in	-	2(6.25)	5(15.62)	25(78.12)	41	1.28	III
Nature of emotional violence/abuse (n=73)							
Ignoring or dismissing	19 (26.02)	20(27.39)	29(39.72)	15(19.73)	209	2.86	I
Constant criticism	4 (5.47)	22(30.13)	12(16.43)	35(47.94)	141	1.93	II
Preventing you from meeting your family members or relatives	-	5(6.84)	22(30.13)	46(63.01)	105	1.43	III

Table 3: Relationship between socio-economic variables and domestic violence faced by women

Variables	Seldom	Frequently	Daily	Total
Age (years)				
Young (up to 30)	8 (42.10)	6 (31.58)	5 (26.32)	19 (25)
Middle (31-45)	15 (46.87)	8 (25)	9 (28.13)	32 (42.10)
Old (above 46)	13 (52)	9 (36)	3(12)	25 (32.90)
Total	36 (47.37)	23 (30.26)	17 (22.37)	76 (100)
$\chi^2 = 9.48^*$				
Occupation of the respondent				
Homemaker	13 (50)	6 (23.07)	7(26.93)	26 (34.21)
Labour	3 (30)	4 (40)	3 (30)	10 (13.17)
Small scale enterprise	6 (60)	2 (20)	2 (20)	10 (13.17)
Farming	10 (41.67)	10 (41.67)	4 (16.66)	24 (31.57)
Service/Job	3(60)	1 (20)	1 (20)	5 (6.57)
Student	1 (100)	-	-	1 (1.31)
$\chi^2 = 7.81^*$				

Mass media exposure				
Low (up to 9)	22(45.84)	14 (29.16)	12 (25)	48 (63.84)
Medium (10-17)	12 (54.54)	6 (27.28)	4 (18.18)	22 (28.94)
High (above17)	2(33.34)	3 (50)	1 (16.66)	6 (7.89)
$\chi^2 = 9.48^*$				
Socio Economic Status				
Low	12 (48)	5 (20)	8 (32)	25 (32.89)
Medium	13 (38.23)	14 (41.19)	7 (20.58)	34 (44.73)
High	11 (64.70)	4 (23.52)	2 (11.78)	17 (22.36)
$\chi^2 = 10.82^{**}$				

