



Socio-Personal Factors Responsible For Domestic Violence Among Women: A Cross Sectional Study In Punjab

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Abstract:

The rise in domestic violence against women in India, especially in the pandemic and post-pandemic period, is an alarming issue that needs immediate attention. The dominant explanation for this emerging trend is structural inequality, internalized patriarchy, and misogyny. Previous studies have shown that factors such as the patriarchy of society, the hierarchy of relationships, the perception of women as housewives, child bearers and caregivers and the lower sex, the existence of norms that encourage violence in society, the existence of a model of violence. domestic violence in families is influenced by instability in relationships, excessive male power, poverty, preference for male offspring, alcohol and drug abuse by the male partner, and economic imbalance. This study attempted to identify the relationship between socio-personal factors and domestic violence against women. The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between the education level, caste, age, household income, family type and nature of marriage of the victims.

Keywords: patriarchy, domestic violence; marital violence; physical violence; emotional violence; social violence; economic violence; sexual violence; socio-personal factors

1. Introduction:

Domestic violence in Indian households remains an open secret and a pervasive problem that violates women's basic human rights. It continues to dominate Indian households. In 2022, over 6900 complaints were filed under the category of "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence". The number of cases has increased especially during and after the pandemic period. As per NFHS – 5, 29.3% married Indian women between the ages of 18-49 years have faced domestic violence/or sexual violence. 3.1% of pregnant women between the ages of 18-49 have experienced physical violence during any pregnancy.

There are several factors that contribute to domestic violence among married women in India. These include gender socialisation, which makes men appear dominant and women appear inactive. It allows men to take the leadership role and women to confine themselves to household duties. This has led to men assuming the status of standard-bearers and women being defined as oppressed. This reduces women to the four walls of the household and limits their participation in the outside

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world. This goes as far as restricting their mobility and often not allowing them to work outside the household to limit their financial independence.

The data reflects the grim reality that domestic violence remains a serious problem in India despite strict laws to protect women. Internalised patriarchy, misogyny and violence continue to shape the daily lives of Indian women. In this context, this paper examines the socio-personal factors responsible for domestic violence among women.

2. Objective:

The objective of the study was to ascertain the relationship between domestic violence and socio-personal and economic characteristics.

3. Materials and Methods:

A cross-sectional structured study was undertaken by interviewing 220 female victims of domestic violence in the age group of 18-55 years residing across seven districts of Punjab, with the help of a pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire. Data was analysed statistically by simple proportions and tests of significance (Chi-square test).

4. Results:

4.1 Relationship of domestic violence with socio-personal variables

4.1.1 Association of domestic violence and educational levels

A significant association was reported between domestic violence and education levels of the respondents, as showcased in Table 1.

Across all types of violence reported, domestic violence victims who had attained educational levels up to the medium level, were found to be more susceptible to different types of violence. Comparing all types of violence, as reported in Table – 11, physical violence had a significant association at 5% level of significance with educational levels of women respondents ($\chi^2 = 14.099$), followed by sexual violence ($\chi^2 = 3.719$) and social violence ($\chi^2 = 0.974$).

Table 1: Association of domestic violence with educational levels of the respondents

Types of Violence	Educational levels of the respondent			Chi square (χ^2)
	Low	Medium	High	
Physical Violence ($n=179$)	42(23)	104(59)	33(18)	14.099*
Emotional Violence($n=216$)	44(20)	122(56)	50(24)	0.076
Social Violence($n=207$)	41(20)	118(57)	48(23)	0.974*
Economic Violence ($n=214$)	44(21)	121(56)	49(23)	0.362
Sexual Violence ($n=182$)	40(22)	104(57)	38(21)	3.719*

**Significant at 5% level of significance*

Except emotional and economic violence all other types of violence had association with educational level of the respondents. It can be concluded that education plays an important role with context to domestic violence. Women who are less educated are often less aware of their rights and may not have the skills or resources to seek help. This can make them more vulnerable to domestic violence (Gupta, 2017).

4.1.2 Association of domestic violence and age

Significant association was reported between domestic violence and age of the respondents, as showcased in Table 2. As could be seen in the table below that younger age respondent tends to face more violence as compared to the respondents who are in medium and old age.

Table 2: Association of domestic violence with age of the respondents across locale

Types of violence	Age group			Chi square (χ^2)
	Young age	Middle Age	Old age	
Physical Violence (n=179)	99(55)	78(45)	2(1)	11.354*
Emotional Violence (n=216)	115(53)	95(44)	6(3)	0.150
Social Violence (n=207)	107(52)	94(45)	6(3)	1.637*
Economic Violence (n=214)	113(53)	95(44)	6(3)	0.554
Sexual Violence (n=182)	109(60)	65(37)	5(3)	26.554*

***Significant at 5% level of significance**

The table summarizes that age has significant association with sexual violence ($\chi^2 = 26.554$) and physical violence ($\chi^2 = 11.354$). There is a need to teach our girls from young age to deal with situation through proper guidance and support. They should be appropriately socialised, trained for self-defence and develop a strong sense of self, to take care of their wellbeing.

Indicators from NFHS -4 data states that women in the 25–34 years (31%) and 35–49 (32.4%) years, age groups faced higher marital violence compared with women aged 15–19 years (23.7%), overall. It can be concluded that with age group, the form of domestic violence may differ, but it prevails. A significant association though, has been seen with physical, social and sexual violence.

4.1.3 Association of domestic violence with caste of the respondents

Significant association was seen between the caste of the respondents and different types of domestic violence. All kinds of violence were found to be associated with caste, having strongest association with economic violence ($\chi^2=10.183$), followed by physical($\chi^2=8.107$) and sexual violence($\chi^2=5.060$), as reported in Table 3.

Table 3: Association of domestic violence with age of the respondents across locale

Types of violence	Caste			Chi square (χ^2)
	General	Scheduled caste	Other backward classes	
Overall				
Physical Violence (n=179)	92(51)	67(38)	20(11)	8.107*
Emotional Violence (n=216)	118(55)	73(34)	25(12)	3.273*
Social Violence (n=207)	117(56)	68(33)	22(11)	2.504*
Economic Violence (n=214)	119(56)	73(34)	22(10)	10.183*
Sexual Violence (n=182)	95(52)	66(36)	21(12)	5.060*

Chowdhury, *et al* (2022) cited that in India, 37.3% women who belonged to scheduled caste reportedly experienced domestic violence in comparison to their counterparts who belonged to general caste group (24.2%). Physical violence was most prevalent form of domestic violence in both groups, followed by emotional and sexual violence. The prevalence of physical violence among scheduled caste women was one and half times higher than women of general caste. Similar gap in the prevalence of intimate partner violence was noticed in case of emotional and sexual violence. Sexual violence was reported by 6.6% scheduled caste women and 4.6% general caste women.

4.1.4 Association of domestic violence with income of the household

Table 4 shows the association of the different forms of violence with the income levels of the respondents. More than 90 per cent of the respondents in the low-income group reported to have faced one or the other forms of violence.

Table 4: Association of domestic violence with income of the household

Types of violence	Income Group			Chi square (χ^2)
	Low-income group	Middle income group	High income group	
Physical Violence ($n=179$)	167(93)	2(1)	10(6)	.630*
Emotional Violence($n=216$)	200(93)	3(1)	13(6)	.320
Social Violence($n=207$)	191(93)	3(1)	13(6)	1.084*
Economic Violence ($n=214$)	200(94)	3(1)	11(5)	8.387*
Sexual Violence ($n=182$)	169(93)	3(2)	10(5)	.935*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

It can be concluded that economic violence ($\chi^2=8.387$) is more prevalent in low-income group respondents. It can also be seen that low-income group is also associated with social ($\chi^2=1.084$), physical ($\chi^2=.630$) and sexual violence ($\chi^2=0.935$). Increasing the income and making the women economically self-dependent can help in combating domestic violence.

4.1.5 Association of domestic violence with type of family

Significant association was reported between domestic violence and type of family, as showcased in Table 5.

Data shows that type of family either joint or nuclear is associated with social ($\chi^2=13.590$), physical ($\chi^2=10.557$), sexual ($\chi^2=1.672$) and economic forms of violence ($\chi^2=1.387$). As it could be seen in Table 5, about 62 per cent of the respondents reported to have faced physical violence belonged to a joint family and 38 per cent of such respondents belonged to nuclear family. Similar association could be seen for social and sexual forms of violence where about two fifth of respondents belonged to nuclear family and three fifth belonged to joint family.

Table 5: Association of domestic violence with type of family

Types of violence	Type of family		Chi square (χ^2)
	Nuclear Family	Joint Family	
Overall			
Physical Violence ($n=179$)	68(38)	111(62)	10.557*
Emotional Violence($n=216$)	92(43)	124(57)	1.681*
Social Violence($n=207$)	83(40)	124(60)	13.590*
Economic Violence ($n=214$)	91(43)	123(57)	1.387*
Sexual Violence ($n=182$)	75(41)	107(59)	1.672*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

Ali, *et al* (2018) in their research revealed that the victims, in regards to their husband's family identified their mother- in – law and sister – in – law as the most usual people who instigated problems between husband and wife. The respondents felt that they did this by making complaints to their son/ brother about his wife. These complaints could be viewed as false or true, but either way generated tension between the couple. They further asserted that such complaints could contribute to conflict. These could annoy the husband and, as a result, he could get aggressive and use intimate partner violence to discipline his wife or to rectify her behaviour. All participants, men and women, and even the mothers in law in the sample, elaborated the negative role of mother-in-law and sister-in-law in instigating problems between husband and wife.

It can be concluded that joint families are associated with all kinds of violence, however have a stronger association with physical and social violence. It shows that joint families instead of playing the role of peacemaker are supporting domestic violence in families.

4.1.6 Association of domestic violence with nature of marriage across locale

Table

6 shows nature of marriage had a significant association with all forms of violence. It could be seen that majority of the respondents who have faced different forms of violence were married in an arranged marriage setup. Data shows that there is more prominent association between types of marriage and emotional violence ($\chi^2=6.169$) followed by a stronger association with social violence ($\chi^2=3.884$). Significant association was also reported with economic violence ($\chi^2=2.091$) and sexual violence ($\chi^2=0.874$).

Table 6: Association of domestic violence with nature of marriage across locale

Types of violence	Type of Marriage			Chi square (χ^2)
	Arranged marriage	Love marriage	Love cum Arranged Marriage	
Physical Violence ($n=179$)	158(88)	12(7)	9(5)	.191
Emotional Violence ($n=216$)	193(89)	13(6)	10(5)	6.169*
Social Violence ($n=207$)	184(89)	14(7)	9(4)	3.884*
Economic Violence ($n=214$)	190(89)	14(7)	10(4)	2.091*
Sexual Violence ($n=182$)	162(89)	12(7)	8(4)	.874*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

The percentage of physical violence in love marriage is 32% compared to 24.3% in arranged marriages whereas the emotional violence is 9.6% for love marriage and 6.6% for arranged marriage.

Pal (2015), in their research revealed that the percentage of physical violence in love marriage was 32 percent compared to 24.3 percent in arranged marriages whereas the emotional violence is 9.6 percent for love marriage and 6.6 percent for arranged marriage. A contrast was seen in the result of sexual violence where in comparison to arranged marriages the percentage of violence was less in love marriages that was 19.4 percent than arranged marriage which was 26.2 percent.

Therefore, it can be concluded that violence is prevalent in both marriage setups, however the magnitude of different types of violence may differ.

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