

THE ROUGH ROAD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

This investigation was undertaken to study the extent of domestic violence experienced by working, non working married women across different regions (rural and urban) and religions (Catholic and Hindus). A total sample of 60 married women between the age group of 21-40 years was selected randomly. Domestic violence scale measured four factors namely Inner thoughts and feelings, Partner's belittling behaviour, Partner's controlling behaviour, Partner's violent behaviour and threat. The obtained data was analysed using two tailed t-test. The results revealed that there was no significant difference in Domestic Violence experienced by married women working, non working, Hindus and Catholics. However, results indicate that there was a significant difference in the Domestic Violence amongst married urban and rural women.

Keywords: domestic violence; married working and non working women; urban and rural; Hindus and Catholics

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is one of the most common crimes against women which is inextricably linked to the perpetuation of patriarchy. Domestic violence refers to violence against women not only in matrimonial homes but also in live-in relationship. Domestic violence is recognized as the significant barrier in the path of women empowerment and also skews the democratic set up of the polity. India has specifically legislated the Domestic Violence Act in 2005 to reduce the violence against women but the same has borne mixed

result as of now (Chowdhary 2013).

Domestic violence is the most serious violation of all basic rights that a woman suffers in her own home at the hands of members within her own family. Apart from serious consequences for the health and well-being of the individual woman, it also serves to maintain the subjugation of women as a class (Brinkerhoff and Lupri 1988).

According to available statistics from around the globe, one out of every three women has experienced violence in an intimate relationship at some point in her life (Visaria 1999). In India, the few studies available indicate that physical abuse of Indian women is quite high, ranging from 22 percent to 60 percent of women surveyed (Rao 1997 and Mahajan 1990 in *ibid.* 1). Not only in India but even globally, violence within the home is universal across culture, religion, class, and ethnicity. Despite this widespread prevalence, however, such violence is not customarily acknowledged and remains invisible as it is assumed to be a problem that is unworthy of legal or political attention.

What sets out domestic violence from other forms of violence against women is that it occurs within the framework of intimate relationships and in a situation of dependency. This makes reporting and access to legal aid and other support services difficult. It is only in the last two decades that the Indian women's movement has contributed to a growing public awareness of violence against women.

Before 2005, there was no actual definition of domestic violence in Indian law. A frequent perception of domestic violence against women is that it is limited to physical harm perpetrated on adult women within a marital relationship. But the definition of domestic violence has been made broad by the Act of 2005 (Chowdhary 2013). This Act defines the expression "domestic violence" to include actual abuse or threat of abuse-physical, sexual,

verbal, emotional or economic violence.

Domestic violence is a violation of the fundamental right that facilitates us to live with dignity, and of the right to equality and equal protection of the law guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. Domestic Violence is in the majority of cases, violence against a woman by the members of her household. It may be the husband, his parents, or siblings or any other resident who can cause physical or mental agony to the woman. But, the most important aspect of this kind of violence is the fact that "it happens behind the closed doors" and is most often denied by the very woman who has been the victim of violence. It is this aspect of the crime that segregates itself from all other kinds of social violence (Farrington 1980).

The present investigation was undertaken to study the extent of domestic violence experienced by working and non-working married women, Hindu and Catholic married women, and Urban and Rural married women. A total sample of sixty married women in the age group of 21-40 years was randomly selected. Domestic Violence Scale measured four factors namely Inner thoughts and feelings, Partner's belittling behaviour, Partner's controlling behaviour and Partner's violent behaviour and threat. The obtained data were analysed using two tailed t-test.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Problem Statement

This study focuses on Domestic Violence amongst working and non-working married women across different regions (rural and urban) and religions (Catholic and Hindus).

2.2 Objectives:

- To study the differences in domestic violence experienced by married working and non-working women.

- To study the differences in domestic violence experienced by married Catholic and Hindu women.
- To study the differences in domestic violence experienced by married urban and rural women.

2.3 Hypothesis:

The below mentioned hypothesis were formulated for the study:

H1- There is a significant difference in domestic violence experienced by married working and non-working women.

H2- There is a significant difference in domestic Violence experienced by married Catholic and Hindu women.

H3- There is a significant difference in domestic violence experienced by married rural and urban women.

2.4 Data Collection Tools:

A domestic violence scale (HelpGuide, n.d.) was administered to the sample. A total sample of 60 married women between the age group of 21-40 years was selected randomly. This study was carried out from July 2016 to December 2016. The questionnaire consists of 24 items. It measures four factors namely Inner thoughts and feelings, Partner's belittling behaviour, Partner's controlling behaviour, Partner's violent behaviour and threat. The scale items were scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Scores ranged from minimum of 1 to a maximum of 30 where higher scores mean greater domestic violence. Each item or statement was scored 5 for strongly agree, 4 for agree, 3 for neutral, 2 for disagree and 1 for strongly disagree. The obtained data was analysed using mean, standard deviation, two tailed t-test.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The study was undertaken to investigate the Domestic Violence amongst married women working, non working, rural, urban,

Catholics and Hindus. The results obtained are as follows:

3.1 H1- There is a significant difference in Domestic Violence experienced by working and non-working married women.

Table 1: The Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value for domestic violence experienced by working and non-working married women.

Status	Mean	SD	t-value
working	2.37	1.53	-0.52
non -working	2.56	1.82	

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 indicates the mean score for working women and non-working married women, which was 2.37 and 2.56 respectively. The Standard Deviation for married working women was 1.53 and for married non-working women was 1.82. The t-value was -0.52, since the t value is less than the critical value which is 2.23 at 0.05 level and 3.17 at 0.01 level of significance, the alternate hypothesis stating that there is a significant difference in the domestic violence experienced by married working and married non working women is not accepted at 5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

3.2 H2 - There is a significant difference in Domestic Violence experienced by married Catholic and Hindu women

Table 2: The Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value for domestic violence experienced by married Catholic and Hindu women.

Community	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Hindus	2.93	2.22	1.75
Catholics	2.23	1.41	

Source: Primary Data

In Table 2, the Mean score, for married Hindu and Catholic women was 2.93 and 2.23 for respectively. The Standard Deviation for the aforementioned groups was 2.23 and 1.41 respectively. The t-value was 1.75. Since the t value is less than the critical value which is 2.23 at 0.05 level and 3.17 at 0.01 level, the alternate hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in domestic violence experienced by married Hindu and Catholic women is rejected at 0.05 and 0.01 level respectively.

3.3 H3 - There is a significant difference in Domestic Violence experienced by married rural and urban women

Table 3: The Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value for domestic violence experienced by married rural and urban women.

Sector	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Rural	1.81	0.46	-8.86
Urban	2.75	2.01	

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 indicates the mean score for married urban and rural women was 1.81 and 2.75 respectively. The Standard Deviation for married rural women was 0.46 and for married Urban was 2.01. Since the t-value was $|8.86|$, which is more than the critical value which is 2.23 at 0.05 level and 3.17 at 0.01 level the alternate hypothesis stating that there will be a difference in domestic violence experienced by married rural and married urban women is accepted at 0.05 and 0.01 level.

4. CONCLUSION:

This current research was conducted to investigate the extent of domestic violence experienced by working and non working married women across different regions and religions. The study did

not indicate significant differences in domestic violence among working and non working married women across different regions and religions, however, domestic violence does exist and there is a need to recognize that it is a significant barrier in the path of women empowerment skewing also the democratic set up of the polity. India has therefore, rightfully legislated Domestic Violence Act in 2005 to reduce the violence against women.

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