

EXTENT AND CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON SLUM WOMEN IN HISAR

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Abstract: Violence against women may take shocking forms from domestic abuse and rape to child marriage and female circumcision. This is an alarming situation. Even after so many efforts by our government especially, in the form of Domestic Violence Act, we are unable to culminate the problem completely. Keeping in view the intensity of the problem, the present study was undertaken with the objectives to study the types and extent of domestic violence against women and to isolate the causes of domestic violence. The study was conducted by selecting 120 women from urban slums of Hisar district of Haryana State. The data regarding personal profile of the respondents revealed that majority of the respondents were middle aged, married, belonging to joint family, illiterate, living in *Kaccha* house with low income. 90.00 per cent of the respondents face abusive language daily. It affects their children and about 90.00 per cent children suffer from fear followed by isolation (80.00%). The data also revealed that 56.60 per cent respondents were taunted for more dowry by husbands (86.60%). Poverty was the main reason told by 86.60 per cent of women.

Keywords: Domestic violence, decision making, women.

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, irrespective of their wealth, race, sexuality and culture. Violence against women may take shocking forms, from domestic abuse and rape to child marriage and female circumcision. Domestic and intimate partner violence involves attacks against women in the home, within the family or within an intimate relationship. There are many forms of violence against women including sexual, physical or emotional abuse. Women are subjected to physical assault such as punching, hitting, kicking, beating, shouting, throwing objects etc., strangling and burning in their homes. A married girl (bride) is fortuneed by her in-laws and husband for not providing/giving enough gifts or cash money to their in-laws by her parents. About 50 cases of dowry per day are registered all over India. Only solution to this problem is encouragement to inter-caste marriages or love marriages.

As per statistics available there has been an alarming rise in the atrocities against women in India. Every 26 minutes a woman is molested, every 34 minutes a rape takes place, every 42 minutes a sexual harassment, incident occurs, every 43 minutes a woman is kidnapped and every 93 minutes a woman is burnt to death over dowry (Aggarwal, 2006). Every day 50 cases of dowry related violence are reported. This is an alarming situation. Even after so many efforts by our Govt. especially in the form of Domestic violence Act we are unable to culminate the problem completely. Above cases are just reflections of violence against women. Keeping in view the intensity of the problem, the present study was undertaken with the objective to study the extent and cause of domestic violence against women.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Haryana state by selecting Hisar district. From Hisar city, 120 women from urban slum area were selected randomly. Ten independent and 3 dependent variables were studied with the help of pretested interview schedule. The data were collected by the researcher herself. Qualitative data were quantified and tabulated to draw meaningful inferences.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data regarding personal profile of the respondents revealed that majority of the respondents were of middle age group (35-45 years), married (83.3%), belonging to joint family (63.0%), illiterate (33.3%), living in *Kaccha* house (60.0%), having low family income (40.0%). Half of the respondents were having no work.

Table 1: Types of Domestic Violence n=120

Sr. No.	Types of Domestic violence	Frequency	%age
1.	Physical Torture	72	60.0
2.	Mental Torture	80	66.0
3.	Abuse	108	90.0
4.	Lack of involvement in decision making	48	40.0
5.	Financial hardship	72	60.0
6.	Forced physical relation	24	20.0
7.	Illicit/Post marital relations of husband	20	16.6

**Multiple responses*

The data in Table 1 revealed that 60.00% of the respondents faced physical torture and 66.00% mental torture. Almost all the respondents were facing violence in the form of listening to abusive language (90.00%) and 40.0 percent of the respondents had lack of involvement in decision making in domestic matters. 20.0 percent of the respondents faced forced physical relations whereas the husbands' of 16.6 percent respondents had illicit/ post marital relations. The form of domestic violence commonly found against women were slapping, kicking, tearing hair, pushing and pulling, hitting with an object, attempting to strangle and threatening (Ahuja, 1998).

Table 2: Frequency of Domestic Violence n=120

Sr. No.	Extent	Frequency	%age
1.	Daily	50	41.6
2.	Weekly	32	26.6
3.	Fortnightly	80	66.0
4.	Annually	20	16.6

**Multiple responses*

41.6 percent respondents suffered from domestic violence daily, 26.6 % faced it weekly and 66.0 percent suffered fortnightly.

Table 3: Effect of Domestic Violence on Children n=120

Sr. No.	Effect	Frequency	%age
1.	Isolation	96	80.0
2.	Abusing to adults	20	16.6
3.	Fear	108	90.0
4.	Negligence	40	33.3

**Multiple responses*

Table 3 depicts the effect of domestic violence on children. After observing domestic violence on their mother's at home, the children of all the respondents suffer from fear(90.0%) followed by isolation(80.0%) and negligence (33.3%). Mosac (1992) reported that children from variant families have more behavior problem, they had less social interaction, increased feeling of anxiety, aggression and less use of adaptive behavior. 16.6 percent of children started abusing adults as an effect of domestic violence. Nair (1997) and Celine (2003) reported that children who witness domestic violence have more physical and mental problems and are more likely to be adaptive as adults.

Table 4: Nature of Domestic Violence n=120

Sr. No.	Nature	Frequency	%age
1.	Battered(by Husband)	64	53.3
2.	Battered(by other Family members)	40	33.3
3.	Taunt for more dowry	68	56.6
4.	Refused to give share in property	20	16.6
5.	Taunting for not giving birth to male child	16	13.3

**Multiple responses*

Table 4 revealed that 53.3 percent respondents were battered by husband followed by 33.3 percent battering by other family members. A study conducted by the International Centre of Research on Women interviewed 10,000 victims of domestic violence in several cities of India and found that over 70 per cent victims of domestic violence were accused of infidelity by their husbands (Statesman, 2002). Slightly more than half of the respondents were being taunted for bringing more dowry. 16.6 percent respondents faced domestic violence in the form of refusal of share in the property of in-laws after the death of their husband and 13.3 percent faced taunting for not giving birth to male child. Dyson and Moore (1983) concluded that in developing societies where exclusively sons inherent agricultural land, women are more likely to be culturally developed.

Table 5: Responsible Person for Domestic Violence n=120

Sr. No.	Responsible person	Frequency	%age
1.	Husband	104	86.6
2.	Mother-in-law	68	56.6
3.	Father-in-law	52	43.3
4.	Sister-in-law	16	13.3
5.	Relatives	40	33.3

**Multiple responses*

The above table reveals that 86.6 percent respondents agreed that their husband is the main person responsible for domestic violence followed by 56.6 percent respondents who faced violence through their mother-in-law and 43.3 percent through father-in-law whereas only 13.3 percent respondents faced violence through distant relatives. Chaudhary *et al.* (2009) stated that typical stressors were marital conflicts with In-laws and guardians.

Table 6: Causes of Domestic Violence n=120

Sr. No.	Causes	Frequency	%age
1.	Dowry	60	50.0
2.	Economic dependency	20	16.6
3.	Physical attractiveness(beauty)	36	30.0
4.	Poverty	104	86.6
5.	Illiteracy	12	10.0
6.	Alcoholism	72	60.00

**Multiple responses*

It is revealed from the table 6 that the major cause of domestic violence was poverty (80%) followed by alcoholism (60.00%), dowry (50%), physical attractiveness (30%), economic dependency (16.6%) and illiteracy (10.0%). Celine (2003) states that alcoholism and economic crisis were the most common causes of domestic violence

IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above study that 90.00 per cent women face domestic violence in the form of abuse daily by their husbands in the form of taunts for more dowry. The main cause of domestic violence was poverty and it affects on respondents children was that they also remain fearful.

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