

A Study on Domestic Violence And Its Impact on Women

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Abstract:

Cases of domestic violence are in the top most places in the list of crimes against women in the Millennium City. (Snehil Sinha, Hindustan Times, 2013). Domestic violence can happen to anybody and anybody can easily be the victim, but the complexity of that is always exempted, ignored, or denied.

Women constitute almost half of the society in India; they are continually abused, disadvantaged and underprivileged and also deprived of respect, rights and personal independence ensured in the constitution of India. Women are considered as physically and emotionally weaker than men. However, in the present situation women have achieved and proved themselves to be equal and that they are no lesser than men. Many women are being tortured, beaten, and killed behind closed doors across ethnicity, cultures and age groups. In that context where domestic violence on women appears.

***Domestic Violence** is defined in the national literature as: "Several behavioural patterns from a family member against other family members, which directly/indirectly impose emotional, verbal, physical, or sexual hurt". The severity of domestic violence is wider and the impact of the same on women is dangerous.*

The main objectives of the paper are to understand the concept and to analyse the impact factors on women. The paper highlights the part of research study of the author and the sample size was 300 women victims of domestic violence, purposive sampling method was used to collect data and interview schedule method was adopted to gather data. Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis was carried out to find out the results.

In this regard the researcher had attempted to understand the severity of impact of domestic violence on women victims.

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Introduction:

Violence against women is not a new phenomenon in India. Indian women are bound by heritage tolerate all the sufferings, violations, abuses both in public, and domestic. They are subjected to physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and economical violence too. There is a rise these atrocities on women, and women are exposed to different forms of violence such as feticide, infanticide, medical negligence, child marriages, bride burning, sexual abuse of girl child, forced marriages, rapes, prostitution, sexual harassment at home, work places etcetera due to which women are considered as a commodity and treated brutally in the society.

‘Domestic Violence’ is the word used to define this issue of violence inside the closed doors. This particular violence type is connected with the person with whom we are in a close relationship; it may be a wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, grandparent or any other family member and it may be male or female atrocities over another male or female. There is no ‘typical victim’ for that matter; anybody can easily become a victim of this vicious circle. As mentioned above this domestic violence has different forms. Any form of **‘Domestic Violence’** for that matter is very dangerous and devastating, it harms almost every aspect of women’s life, be it her health, life, wellbeing, safety, comfort, whether it may be psychological or bodily injury. In addition to this, it may be through physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. According to ‘United Nation Population Fund Report’, about, two-third of married Indian women are victims of **Domestic Violence** and 70 percent of married women in India are aged between 15 and 49 are victims of thrashing, rape or forced sex. Above 55 percent of women put up with Domestic Violence, particularly in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P., and other northern states.

Domestic violence is a matter of human rights and at the same time it is very much necessary to understand what actually leads to domestic violence. Some common reasons for women beating are: violating women for the purpose of dowry, to exhibit discrimination against women, separating women from her inherent or earned property, quarrelling with her for no particular reason, torture by husband and in-laws, rejecting to have sex with the partner, going out of home without informing the partner, ignoring children, having extra marital affairs, malice by husband or in-laws mentally or physically, harming and abusing through vulgar language, molestation, sexual harassment, immoral traffic, sodomy and all other merciless acts. On the whole, we can say domestic violence takes place due to lack of understanding between the couple as well as among family members.

The impact of Domestic violence impacts the victim and the victim’s family as well. Many studies have revealed that domestic violence affects women’s

productivity along with almost every aspect of life i.e., as a fact the assaulted women will always remain emotionally disturbed and become silent after the incidence. Sometimes the victim will also think of suicide and this is one of the cruellest consequence and such incidents are increasing by the day. The impact of such incidents of violence has a negative impact on a working woman naturally loses their interest in work if they are employed and this results in reduced efficiency or hamper their work life. The life of children of such households affected by Domestic Violence are also impacted, since the children when they come to know of their mother's misery and difficulties turn out to be silent, reserved, and express support to their mother. In many cases, violence will lead to distance of a spouse from their partner and their sexual life is disturbed. Now-a-day's there is an increase in such incidents which negates the family by creating a large gap between the couple which destroys the future of the children.

Specific Objectives of the study:

In this study, the researcher is intended to examine the following:

1. To study the general profile of the respondents.
2. To know the types of Domestic Violence experienced by domestic violence victims
3. To understand and analyze the impact of Domestic Violence

Concept and definitions of Domestic Violence

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” As stated by The ‘United Nations’ about domestic violence against women.

Physical Violence:

Domestic violence is very brutal, crucial and deteriorates the progress of all developed, developing and under developed countries across the globe, as discussed in previous pages the problem now is cutting all the edges irrespective of particulars. Ex: colour, caste, creed, environment, region, religion. There is no typical victim under domestic violence; anybody can be a victim of that.

As denoted in many definitions physical violence is nothing but abusing wife by beating, thrashing, pulling hair, hitting with sharp objects, punching, burning her skin with flaming objects, and sometimes leading her till murder.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence which is considered and treated as a matter of shy and confident

has to be changed; this attitude has been developed mainly in Indian context because of its socialization process and orthodox feelings. Abusing wife by enforcing sexual acts on her, ex: forcing for coercive, unwanted sex, force to have sex when she is ill or pregnant, using her as an objects in sexual activities, dominating in such activities calling her in sexual names, forcing to dress up in sexual ways etc.

Verbal and Emotional Violence

Type of Verbal violence was predominantly more in Indian circumstances as notified and recognized everywhere, but this study has proved that along with this type, emotional and economical violence are also at higher end in Indian context. Verbal abuse includes, using vulgar or bad language for wife, constantly using some statements like 'you are useless' 'you are brute' 'my mother always do best things to me than you'. Apart from this, it also includes laugh at her for silly reason, dishonour her, rudely calling her name and ridicule specially with regard to not having a child or a male child.

Emotional violence, a very dangerous one that impedes development of women victims is used to humiliate, degrade, control, and to punish a spouse. Though emotional violence differs from physical violence but the end result of both are same, in most of the cases wives may change their tastes, attitude and behaviour for the sake of their partner's happiness.

Economic Violence

One of the important and frequently used forms of violence by Indian men on their women is that of economic type. India is more pronounced for violating spouse and her parents for dowry and related demands, there are so many legal actions and protective measures were taken due to the same, but still the problem appears in different forms, later the sociologists and psychiatrists identified, there is no one particular type of violence on women, we can identify many abuses on women in a married or domestic relationships which are associated with economic violence type.

Results and Analysis:

Table 1: Frequency and percentage responses of physical violence statements on the physical wellbeing and result of fisher exact test.

How this domestic violence impact on your physical wellbeing?	Statements on Physical violence			
	Can't remember	Never	Sometimes	Always
Not sure	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Not at all	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
A bit	19(52.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	(1.1%)
Partly	17(47.2%)	0(0%)	2(2.6%)	(1.1%)
Totally	0(0%)	2(100%)	74(97.4%)	182(97.8%)
Total	36(100%)	2(100%)	76(100%)	186(100%)

P<0.001**, Significant, Fisher Exact test

In case of the statement on “Were you punched, slapped, grabbed, pushed & kicked by your husband” and impact of physical violence is considered, a significant difference was observed (p=0.001), of 300 respondents, majority (186) were indicated they were ‘always’ the victims of punching, slapping, grabbing, pushing & kicking by their husband ,76 of them indicated ‘sometimes’ 36 of them indicated can’t remember and only 2 respondents were indicated ‘never’, when the impact of physical violence is considered, majority (258) of them indicated they were totally impacted from physical violence, 21 of them indicated partly impacted and 21 of them indicated they were impacted a bit. The chi-square test has proved the significance between the variables, where we say, physical violence will totally affects the well being of victims.

Table - 2: Frequency and percentage responses of sexual violence statements on the sexual wellbeing and result of fisher exact test.

How does domestic violence impact your sexual wellbeing?	Statements on Sexual violence			
	Can't remember	Never	Sometimes	Always
Not sure	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Not at all	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
A bit	19(55.9%)	28(52.8%)	1(0.6%)	1(1.9%)
Partly	15(44.1%)	23(43.4%)	3(1.9%)	0(0%)
Totally	0(0%)	2(3.8%)	157(97.5%)	51(98.1%)
Total	34(100%)	53(100%)	161(100%)	52(100%)

P<0.001**, Significant, Fisher Exact test

A significant difference (p=0.001) was observed between the statement on “Were you forced for coercive/ unwanted/acts to traffic from your husband” and

impact of sexual violence, of the 300 respondents more than half of the respondents (161) indicated ‘sometimes’ they were forced for coercive/unwanted sex by their husbands, 52 of them indicated they were ‘always’ forced, 53 of them indicated ‘never’ and 34 of them indicated they ‘can’t remember’. When the impact of sexual violence is considered, majority (210) of the respondents indicated they were ‘totally’ impacted from sexual violence, 41 of them indicated ‘partly’ and 49 of them indicated they were impacted ‘a bit’, the fisher exact test has proved the significant difference, in other words we can say that sexual violence majorly impacts the well being of victims of sexual violence.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage responses of emotional violence statements on the emotional wellbeing and result of fisher exact test.

How does domestic violence impact your emotional wellbeing	Statements on Emotional violence			
	Can't remember	Never	Sometimes	Always
Not sure	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Not at all	16(41%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(0.8%)
A bit	14(35.9%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(1.2%)
Partly	9(23.1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(0.4%)
Totally	0(0%)	1(100%)	13(100%)	241(97.6%)
Total	39(100%)	1(100%)	13(100%)	247(100%)

P<0.001**, Significant, Chi-Square test

When the association between the statement on “Were you insulted, put down purposefully, expect to take permission while going out, and not allowed to talk to others from your husband /his relatives” and impact of emotional violence is verified, a significant difference (p=0.001) was observed. Of 300 respondents majority (255) of them indicated they were ‘always’ the victims of said statement , 39 of them indicated ‘can’t remember’, 13 of them indicated ‘sometimes’ and only 1 of them indicated ‘never’. With respect to the impact of emotional violence, 255 of the respondents indicated they were ‘totally’ impacted from this, 10 of them indicated ‘partly’, 17 of them indicated they were impacted ‘a bit’, the chi-square test has proved the significance between the variables, in different words the victims were totally impacted due to emotional violence.

Table 4: Frequency and percentage responses of verbal violence statements on the verbal wellbeing and result of fisher exact test.

Impact on social/ verbal wellbeing	Statements on Verbal violence Did your husband ever use vulgar language			
	Can't remember	Never	Sometimes	Always
Not sure	1(5.9%)	1(1.8%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Not at all	6(35.3%)	18(32.7%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
A bit	6(35.3%)	26(47.3%)	0(0%)	2(1%)
Partly	3(17.6%)	10(18.2%)	0(0%)	7(3.6%)
Totally	1(5.9%)	0(0%)	34(100%)	185(95.4%)
Total	17(100%)	55(100%)	34(100%)	194(100%)

P<0.001**, Significant, Chi-Square test

For the statement on “Did your husband ever use vulgar language” and impact of verbal violence is verified and a significant difference (p=0.001) was observed. Of 300 respondents, 194 of them indicated that they were ‘always’ scolded with vulgar language from their husbands, 34 of them indicated ‘sometimes’, 55 of them indicated ‘never’ and only 17 of them indicated ‘can’t remember’, with respect to the impact of verbal violence is considered majority (220) of them indicated they were totally impacted from emotional violence, 20 of them indicated ‘partly’ and 34 of them indicated they were impacted ‘a bit’, the fisher exact test has proved the significance between the above variables, in other words we say the victims were totally impacted from verbal violence.

Table 5: Frequency and percentage responses of economic violence statements on the economic wellbeing and result of fisher exact test.

How does domestic violence impact your economic wellbeing	Statements on Economical violence Were you forced for money, asset, jewels etc from your husband/partner			
	Can't remember	Never	Sometimes	Always
Not sure	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Not at all	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)
A bit	0(0%)	2(9.9%)	0(0%)	4(7.3%)
Partly	0(0%)	29(90.1%)	0(0%)	4(7.3%)
Totally	2(100%)	0(0%)	8 (100%)	251(85.4%)
Total	2(100%)	31(100%)	8 (100%)	259(100%)

P<0.001**, Significant, Fisher Exact test

When the association between the statement on “Were you forced for money, asset, jewels etc from your husband/partner” and impact of economic violence is considered, a significant difference (p=0.001) was observed. Of 300 respondents majority (259)

of them were indicated they were 'always' forced for money and other things from their husbands, 8 of them indicated 'sometimes', 31 of them indicated 'never' and 2 of them indicated 'can't remember'. When it comes to the impact of economic violence, 261 of them indicated 'totally' impacted, 33 of them indicated 'partly' and only 6 of them indicated they were impacted a bit, the fisher exact test has proved significance between the variables, in other words we find economic violence was totally impacting on victims.

Findings

It was observed that the component 'impact of domestic violence' and 'types of domestic violence', statistics have shown strongly significant data, affecting the physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and economic wellbeing of women victims.

Specific Recommendations of the study

- More number of awareness and sensitization programs in terms of legal protection, available services, sources like women help desk, helpline (1091), platforms etc and supportive systems should be given to the society in general, women in particular.
- Long term rehabilitation programs have to be designed. The above mentioned agencies would provide services for victims only for limited time, when they get back to society, they should not reverse to the same environment, the respective government has allocating budget every year under 'Gender Budget' concept, and the fund should flow in right track by designing long term rehabilitative programs by the government.
- Health awareness camps for women, especially with regard to psychological and social health should be given more focus in order to achieving their wellbeing.
- A strict rule should be made in clearing the cases within the stipulated time (6 months for case settlement or 60 days in giving interim relief). Prolonging in case processes may result in developing negative aspects in victims.
- Orientation from family and society about girls and females, their roles and responsibilities should be changed. The government has to take an initiative in incorporating such things in existing syllabus to change the kindest of people in general, of women and girls in particular.
- Social work intervention: we have the standard social work intervention strategies practicing every field of human life. Professional social work can really bring the difference in preventing the problem of domestic violence, hence the functions are Restorative functions, Preventive functions, and Developmental functions.

Conclusion:

Women in India are vulnerable, underprivileged, and constituent the weaker section. Changes in these attitudes are taking place as a positive sign, but this change is not happening at large scale. Even now we can see a majority of women represent the above mentioned categories; very little number of women have benefitted by the changed circumstances with a positive result.

The impact of domestic violence are wide and long lasting, and very difficult to either solve or to find solutions, majority of such impacts are ignored in present society, many studies also focus on the problem statement and the list of affects, looking into the possible solutions would be the great solution.

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