

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Assessment of determinants of domestic violence among females

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ABSTRACT

Background: Domestic violence is any act, omission, commission, or behavior of actual and threatened physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, or financial abuse. The present study was conducted to assess determinants of domestic violence. **Materials & Methods:** 210 females were given a semi-structured questionnaire for interviewers was created using the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. The answer was noted. **Results:** Age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 68, 5-9 years in 92, >10 years in 20. Dowry was asked and given in 94, asked and not given in 40, not asked but given in 34 and neither asked nor given in 12. Choice of husband by self in 36, parents in 84 and relatives in 60. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$). Physical violence was seen in 138, emotional abuse in 40 and sexual abuse in 32 cases. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$). **Conclusion:** Effective measures should be done to prevent domestic violence since it is prevalent among women.

Key words: Determinants, Domestic violence, Women

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INTRODUCTION

The Indian Penal Code 498 A has classified domestic abuse as a criminal offense since 1983. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, passed in India, defines "domestic violence" as any act, omission, commission, or behavior of actual and threatened physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, or financial abuse.¹ This term would also include harassment of the woman or her family members through illegal dowry demands.

Using physical force against someone, denying them access to enough food, water, clothing, shelter, or rest, or treating them inhumanely are all examples of physical abuse. When someone engages in forcible sexual contact, it is referred to as sexual abuse.²

When someone who knows they have a sexually transmitted disease engages in aggressive sexual contact with another person without informing them beforehand, this is referred to as sexual abuse. Economic abuse is threatening to withhold financial resources or preventing someone from using property in which they have a material interest or legal claim.³ Any behavior that causes someone else to feel

continuously unhappy, miserable, embarrassed, terrified, nervous, or worthless is considered emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse.⁴

Domestic abuse has many negative health effects, especially for women and children. Some are emotional or psychological in character and can occasionally lead to poor health. Pregnancy-related physical abuse among women is linked to both maternal and neonatal.⁵ The present study was conducted to assess determinants of domestic violence.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The present study was conducted among 210 females. A written consent was obtained from all subjects.

Demographic profile was recorded. A semi-structured questionnaire for interviewers was created using the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. The answer was noted. Result thus obtained were tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis. P value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

Table I Assessment of parameters

Parameters	Variables	Number	P value
Age difference between women and husband	0-4 years	89	0.95
	5-9 years	86	
	>10 years	35	
Dowry	Asked and given	107	0.05
	Asked and not given	43	
	Not asked but given	35	
	Neither asked nor given	25	
Choice of husband	Self	23	0.02
	Parents	125	
	Relatives	62	

Table I, graph I shows that age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 89, 5-9 years in 86, >10 years in 35. Dowry was asked and given in 107, asked and not given in 43, not asked but given in 35 and neither asked nor given in 25. Choice of husband by self in 23, parents in 125 and relatives in 62. The difference was significant (P<0.05).

Graph I Assessment of parameters

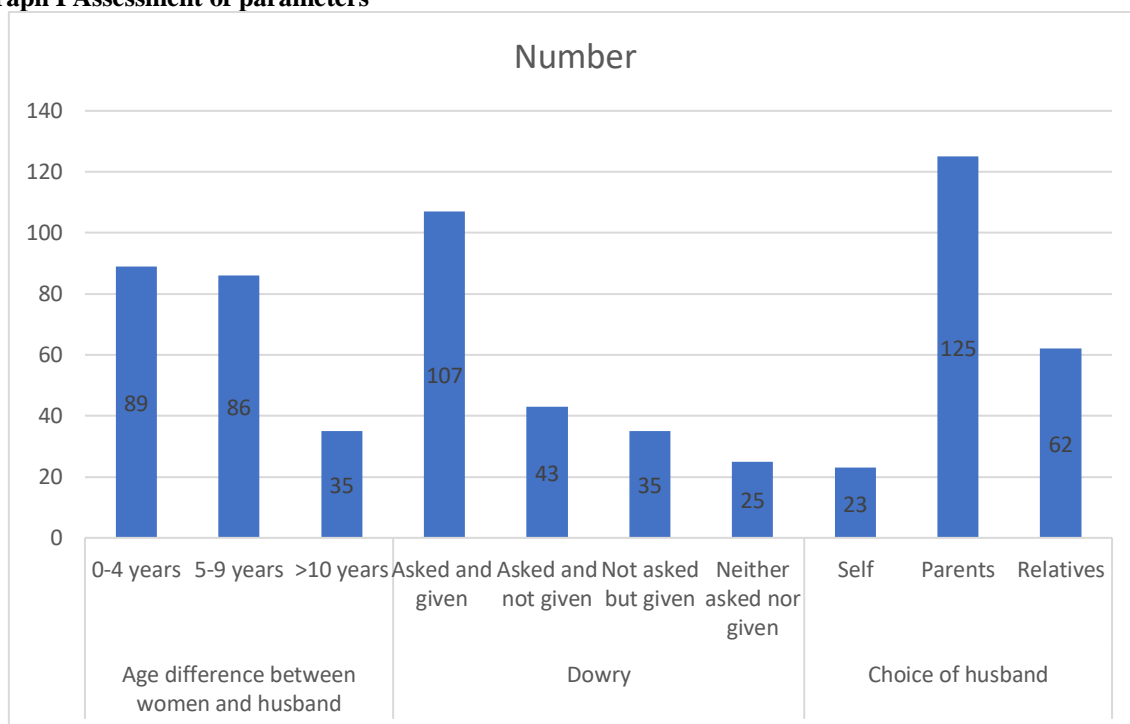


Table II Component of domestic violence

Components	Number	P value
Physical violence	138	0.01
Emotional abuse	40	
Sexual abuse	32	

Table I shows that physical violence was seen in 138, emotional abuse in 40 and sexual abuse in 32 cases. The difference was significant (P<0.05).

DISCUSSION

Using physical force against someone, denying them access to enough food, water, clothing, shelter, or rest, or treating them inhumanely are all examples of physical abuse.⁶ When someone who knows they have a sexually transmitted disease engages in aggressive sexual contact with another person without informing them beforehand, this is referred to as sexual abuse.

Economic abuse is threatening to withhold financial resources or preventing someone from using property in which they have a material interest or legal claim.⁷ Any behavior that causes someone else to feel continuously unhappy, miserable, embarrassed, terrified, nervous, or worthless is considered emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse.⁸The

present study was conducted to assess determinants of domestic violence.

We found that age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 68, 5-9 years in 92, >10 years in 20. Dowry was asked and given in 94, asked and not given in 40, not asked but given in 34 and neither asked not given in 12. Choice of husband by self in 36, parents in 84 and relatives in 60. IPV was substantially more common among working women than among stay-at-home moms, according to a research by Kamat et al.⁹ This results from women's lower social standing, and any deviation from the norm—such as excessive social engagement or any circumstance that jeopardizes the male dominance inside the family—is likely to incite violence.

We observed that physical violence was seen in 138, emotional abuse in 40 and sexual abuse in 32 cases. According to Adjah et al¹⁰, 33.6% of the 1524 married women in the study had ever been the victim of domestic abuse. Women living in urban areas had a 35% chance of ever suffering domestic violence. Women whose husbands had ever witnessed their father beating their mother were 41% more likely to experience domestic violence. Compared to women whose mothers did not beat their father, those whose mothers had ever beaten their father had a threefold higher risk of experiencing marital violence. Compared to women whose husbands had no formal education, women whose husbands had more than a secondary education were 48% less likely to have ever experienced domestic abuse. Domestic violence was 2.5 times as common among women whose spouses drank. Compared to women whose husbands do not drink, those whose husbands do had a 2.5-fold higher risk of experiencing domestic violence.

Ajah L et al¹¹ compared the burden and perception of DV among women living in rural and urban Igbo communities of southeast Nigeria. A total of 836 women who met the eligibility criteria participated in the survey. Of these, 376 were from Okpanku, a rural community, while 460 were from Ogui Nike, an urban community. The prevalence of DV among rural women was significantly higher than that among urban women (97% versus 81%, $P < 0.001$). In particular, the prevalence of physical violence was significantly higher among rural women than among urban women (37.2% versus 23.5%; $P = 0.05$). In contrast, rural and urban women did not differ significantly in the proportions that had experienced psychological or sexual violence. The proportion of women who believed that DV was excusable was

significantly higher among rural dwellers than among urban dwellers (58.5% versus 29.6%; $P = 0.03$).

The limitation of the study is small sample size.

CONCLUSION

Authors concluded that effective measures should be done to prevent domestic violence since it is prevalent among women.

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