A prospective study to find the prevalence of domestic violence against married females of rural India

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INTRODUCTION

Starting from Vedic age to twenty first century, women have never been given equal freedom as of males. It is always the women who have to be on the tight rope, subject to inequality and looked down as an inferior sex. The aim and objective of the study was to estimate the prevalence of domestic violence.

METHODS: 776 married females were selected by systematic random sampling from the field practice area under primary health care. Prior a pilot study was carried out among 25 married class IV female workers. A predesigned and pretested questionnaire was used and all the confidentiality was maintained. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS 21 software.

RESULTS: Average age of the respondents was 28.13 years with range 18 to 56 years. Overall 96% respondents were literate, whereas literacy rate in rural population in parent district was 67.8%. Majority number of respondents were housewives i.e. 58.37%.

CONCLUSIONS: Various sociodemographic factors like age of the women, education of women and perpetrator, age at marriage of women, and the socio-economic status shows inverse relationship with occurrence of domestic violence. More economic empowerment, along with higher education, may provide women with the ground of awareness protesting platform eventually promoting protective factors against domestic violence.

KEYWORDS: Domestic violence, Women, Education
The definition states that domestic violence “can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender”, and can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional, economic and psychological abuse.4

Aim and objective:

The aim and objective of the study was to find the prevalence of domestic violence.

METHODS

A cross sectional study was carried out and among four subcentres from the primary health care under the filed practice area of Ayaan Medical College, Hyderabad, one subcentre was selected by simple random sampling. From this subcentre one village was selected by lottery method and the study was conducted in Kanakamamidi village for a period of 1 year i.e. from September 2018 to September 2019.

Systematic random sampling method was used to select the house to be included in the study. Every 2nd house was interviewed. Simple random sampling was used to select an individual for the study among eligible family members.

Inclusion criteria

Married female and willing to participate were included in this study.

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria were unmarried female.

Ethical clearance was taken from college and informed consent was taken from the participant in the language she understands. Thus total 776 married females were studied. Prior a pilot study was carried out among 25 married class IV female workers. A predesigned and pretested questionnaire was used and data was collected by conducting personal face to face interview and all the confidentiality was maintained. standard questions related to socio demographic factors, environmental conditions, addiction among family members, family size and so on, were interviewed in details. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS 21 software.

Operational definition

Domestic violence: It is defined as any act of violence of physical, sexual, emotional or social violence against a person within or beyond the confines of home.5

Definition of injury: Any harm whatever illegally caused to any person in body, mind, reputation or property (as per section 44 of IPC).5

RESULTS

Average age of the respondents was 28.13±11.68 years, range 18 to 56 years.

Figure 1: Age of the respondents.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>32.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher secondary</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>17.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>30.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>16.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows respondents education were, overall 96% respondents were literate

Majority number of respondents were housewives i.e. 58.37%, while 31.18% doing job, 4.51% working as farmer, 3.22% brick kiln worker, 2.44% worked as maid and only 0.25% respondents were working as tailor.

Figure 2: Income per month of the respondents.
Figure 2 shows income per month of females were majority 58.37% had no income.

![Figure 2: Income per month of females.](image)

Figure 3 shows respondents according to dowry or bride price payment in marriage (n=776).

![Figure 3: Respondents according to dowry or bride price payment.](image)

Figure 3 shows respondents those gave dowry or bride in marriage, were majority 84.14% had given it.

Table 2: Respondents according to any dispute at the time of marriage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any dispute</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>97.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows that majority 97.93% females had dispute at the time of marriage.

![Table 2: Respondents and the knowledge about domestic violence act.](image)

Table 3: Respondents and the knowledge about domestic violence act.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>64.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>35.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

Mean age in present study was 28.13±11.68 ranging from 18 to 56 years and majority 72.55% being in age group of 16 to 30 years, whereas in study by Foo et al rural study found 35.6% female victims fall in the age group 21-30 yrs. Similar findings were seen by Dave et al. Bott et al, Jejeebhoy et al did a Global review and found that domestic violence is associated with lack of education. The study by Dalal et al demonstrated that economic empowerment; along with higher education was an effective protection for domestic violence. Educated households are less likely to experience stress due to poverty. As 96% respondents were educated, out of them 58% were housewife, it means that respondents had had no permission to work. Gelles (Rhode Island) also identified unemployment and poverty as predictors of domestic violence. The study by Sinha et al observed higher per capita income, presence of social support and property to be protective against domestic violence. Women in rural areas are more likely to report dowry demand than women in urban areas (57 and 33 percent respectively). A similar pattern is reported for new dowry demands raised after marriage. A study by WHO showed that the proportion of women who ever suffered physical violence by male partner ranged from 13% in Japan to 61% in provincial Peru. Japan also had the lowest level of sexual violence at 6%, with the highest figure of 59% being reported in Ethiopia. In a study conducted in Kerala by Saradamoni, the prevalence of lifetime physical and psychological violence was found to be 35.7% and 64.9% respectively.

CONCLUSION

Various sociodemographic factors like age of the women, education of women and perpetrator, age at marriage of women, and the socio-economic status shows inverse relationship with occurrence of domestic violence. More economic empowerment, along with higher education, may provide women with the ground of awareness protesting platform and consultative machinery eventually promoting the protective factors against domestic violence. Formation of acts does not make any difference; they must reach to the needful. For this strengthening of the peripheral educational centers is very necessary.
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Conflict of interest: None declared
Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

REFERENCES


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