



A COMMUNITY BASED CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN DWELLING IN URBAN SLUM-TAMIL NADU.

Dr.Murali.R

Prof and HOD-Dept of Community Medicine –CHRI.

Dr.Munish.N

PG –III yr Dept of Community Medicine –CHRI. Co-Author

ABSTRACT

Aim: To study the domestic violence experienced by the married women in an urban slum located in Tamil Nadu.

Objectives:

- 1) To measure the magnitude of domestic violence among married women in urban slum.
- 2) To study the causes for domestic violence among them.
- 3) To determine the forms of domestic violence experienced by them.
- 4) To evaluate the reasons for tolerating the domestic violence.
- 5) To know the steps taken by the victims to stop domestic violence.

Methodology:

Study design: Cross-sectional study

Study setting: Urban Slum-Tamil Nadu

Study Subjects: Urban Slum married women in the age group of 15 to 55.

Study sample: stratified simple random sampling

Sample size: With the data from NFHS, prevalence of domestic violence is 37.2 from which the sample size was calculated as 125.

Study tool: Questionnaire based study.

The data collected were tabulated and analyzed using spss software.

KEYWORDS :

Introduction:

In developing country like India where women are suffering due to insecurity, lack of education, social inequality, and inadequate respect it is important to study the magnitude of domestic violence experience by the female partner in married life. In India it is evident from various studies that intimate partner violence is a public health problem. This type of violence affects the women physically and mentally. According to World health organization domestic violence is defined as "range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by the current or former male partners." This study highlights about the causes for domestic violence and the reaction of intimate partner against violence. In Indian setup women are very conservative and the fail to report or rather they are unaware of the law enforcement policies available against this type of violence against women.[1]

Methodology:

This study was conducted in the urban slum located in Tamil Nadu coastal area. The families living in the colony are stratified and selected randomly for the study. Married women in the age group of 15-55(n=126) were included in the study. A questionnaire was given to each woman who complained of domestic violence in their house after obtaining consent. Woman who are not willing to participate and who didn't know how to read or write are excluded from the study. The collected data was tabulated and studied using spss software.

Results:

Baseline characteristics:

1)Age	N=126	%
15-25	55	44
26-35	34	26
36-45	21	17
46-55	16	13
2)Education		
Illiterate	18	14
Primary school	29	23
Middle school	49	39
Higher secondary	12	9.8

Diploma/UG	10	7.9
Postgraduate	8	6.3
3)Occupation		
Housewife	57	45
Unskilled worker	32	25
Semi-skilled worker	23	19
Skilled worker	14	11
4)married years		
<1 year	27	21.4
1-5 years	54	43
>5 years	45	36
5)Religion		
Hindu	53	42
Christian	43	34
Muslim	30	24
Others	0	0
6)Type of family		
Nuclear family	94	75
Joint family	32	25

From this study it is evident that 44% of the victims were in the age group of 15-25, followed by 26% of the victims belongs to the age group of 26-35, whereas only 17% of the victims reflects the age group of 36-45 and the remaining 13% were in the age group of 46-55%. When seeing the educational status of the victims' maximum i.e. 39% of the victims possessed an educational qualification up to middle class followed by 23%. While studying the working status of the women it is observed that 45% of the victims were housewife followed by unskilled worker constituting to 25%. When seeing the married life time of the victims most of the victims are in the time span of 1-5 years and finally most of the victims i.e. 75% of the victims were dwelling in the nuclear type of family.

Causes for domestic violence:

Causes	N=100	%
Alcoholic husband	59	47
Dowry	19	15
Extra marital affairs of husband	8	6.3

Children related issues	9	7.1
Economic deficiency	14	11.1
Working women	10	8
Neighborhood	7	5.5

On seeing the causes for domestic violence 47% nearly half of the victims were suffering due to alcoholic habit of the husband followed by dowry and economic deficiency in the family contributing to 15% and 11.1% respectively.

Forms of Domestic violence:

Slapping	32	25
Dragging	6	5
Pushing	8	6.3
Hitting in the wall	12	9.5
Beating with belt	8	6.3
Burning with cigarettes	15	12
Stamping	14	11.1
Kicking	31	24.6

When coming to the forms of domestic violence slapping and kicking were the most common causes of domestic violence contributing to 25% and 24.6% respectively followed by stamping and hitting in the wall. Another significant form of violence is burning with cigarettes constituting for about 12%.

Reasons for tolerating domestic violence:

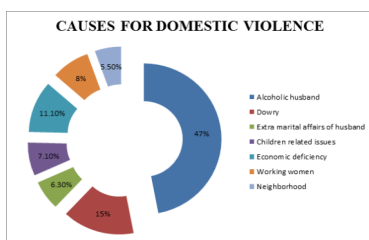
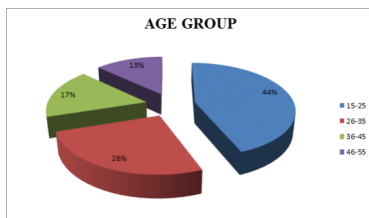
For the sake of children	45	36
Lack of shelter	14	11.1
Fear of society	26	21
Lack of awareness	15	12
Fear of divorce	26	21

While studying the reasons for tolerating domestic violence it was found that 36% of the mothers were tolerating for the sake of their children followed by fear of society /social stigma and then the fear of divorce constituting for about 21%.

Response of the victims:

Cry loudly	38	30.1
Running out of house	12	9.5
Beat the children	11	8.7
Complaining to neighbors	14	11.1
Goes to parents	18	14.2
Tolerates everything	23	18.2
Fight back	10	8

On seeing the response of the victims for this type of domestic violence it was found that 30.1% of the victims cried out loudly followed by 18.2% of the victims tolerated everything happened to them and only 11.1 of the victims complained to the neighbors. It was also noted that none of the victim went to the law enforcement agency.



Discussion:

In a study conducted by Abhik Sinha et al, portrayed that alcohol addiction of husband has contributed to the domestic violence in 60% of the cases whereas in our study 47% of the husbands were alcoholic. When seeing the type of family, joint family has contributed to violence in 48% of the cases whereas in this current study more violence is noted in nuclear type of family. While seeing the extramarital affairs, the contribution by it was about 6.30% in this study whereas in the study by Abhik Sinha et al, it was slightly higher to about 11.6%[1]. The same author while mentioning about the employment status of the women contributing to domestic violence, unemployed women has suffered more domestic violence accounting for 54% whereas in our study the percentage is only 8%. In another study by Shahina Begum et al alcoholic habit of the husband was the cause for domestic violence in 37.1% of the cases whereas in our case it is higher accounting for 47%. Then on seeing the type of domestic violence 16.7% of the victims reported that they were slapped by their husbands in the study by Shahina Begum whereas in our study the same type of violence is experienced by 25% of the victims[2]. Whereas in the study by Prateek S Shrivastava the violence like slapping was experience by 75% of the victims. Another important problem leading to domestic violence is through dowry related problems. In a study it was portrayed that 11.6% of the victims experienced domestic violence because of dowry related problem whereas in our study it was seen in 15% of the victims[3]. In another study by Prasanth R. Kokiwar told that 25% of the victims refused to bring dowry which was much higher than our study. On seeing the response of the victims to domestic violence 45% of the victims fought back while 31.8% of the victims showed no reaction whereas in our study only 18.2% of the victims tolerated everything.[4]

Summary and conclusion:

From this study it is evident that the female partners are suffering a lot physically, mentally and socially due to bad character of the husbands and their habit of alcoholism. The major factor which contributed to the domestic violence was alcoholic habit of the male partner for which de-addiction camps or centers should be opened in places where addicted people are more. The female partners should be educated on the preventive measures as well as the actions to be taken in places of domestic violence. Awareness should be created among them through mass campaigns on the aspects of law enforcement, availability of separate female police station to complaint such violence against women.

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