

Rural women and factors affecting domestic violence in Haryana

JATESH KATHPALIA, RASHMI TYAGI¹ AND SUBHASH CHANDER¹

Assistant Scientist, Deptt of Sociology, COBS & H, CCSHAU, Hisar (Haryana) -125004

Abstract

Domestic violence has turned out as a global social problem which is affecting women of every society, community, class or strata. The study was conducted to know the nature and extent of domestic violence along with factors affecting domestic violence against rural women of Kurukshetra District of Haryana State by drawing a total sample of 200 respondents. Frequency, mean score, weighted mean score, rank order and chi-square were applied for statistical analysis. Results revealed that (33%) respondents were facing domestic violence in one form or another i.e physical, emotional, economical or verbal. Factors like Age, caste, occupation and socio-economic status of the respondents were found significantly associated at 5% level of significance with domestic violence problem against rural communities. It is suggested that for the upliftment of the rural women, awareness through campaigns should be spread by media, leaders, family and community members of the society to restrict this malpractice.

Keywords: Domestic violence, physical, verbal, economic, emotional, factors, rural women

Introduction

Evidence of violence can be detected in every society in one form or another (Unesco, 2019; Dondu and Yasemin, 2020; Torazzi et al., 2021). Violence can be witnessed in every society class and strata of the society (Nikolova et al., 2020). The eventuation of violence is equally important as consciousness and perception among the society members (Yalley and Olutayo, 2020). A lot of times violence against women in the society is usually covered by culture and religion (Mshweshwe, 2020). Community's ability gets paralyzed to see domestic violence as violence because people fear to go against the tradition, culture and religion of the community (Mshweshwe, 2020). Violence is meant to be more acceptable and tolerated by the people of the society if its justification is given by culture, religion and traditions. Culture is basic in every society which helps to shape a person's behavior, attitude or an overall personality. So a culture that endorse or support such kind of behavior in the society then it became a social barrier to eradicate such a malpractice exercised by the members of the society. This is so deeply rooted that even the victims or the vulnerable ones also think that it is normal and good to get abused. For example, in

Africa women are dominated by the male members of the society and males are supported by the cultural norms and values. And these men hide under these norms and values to exercise such malpractices against women (SWFP, 2013).

Women are not seen more than any object or thing by the male member of the society who are meant to satisfy their needs without any regard to the fact that women may also have desires or needs as human being. Every time and in everything, patriarchy encouraged male dominance of women (Mshweshwe, 2020). This system altogether made women to accept this precarious status in the society and consider violence as normal. So the women in a society are expected to be timid, shy and should feel inferior (Raval and Walker, 2019; Kambarami, 2006; Chirimuuta, 2006).

Domestic violence is often used by a person on another to take power or to succor control. Generally the power is possessed by men in the society to control women (USA Department of Justice, 2019). Domestic violence can be found in various forms or patterns such as economic deprivations, sexual and emotional dominations and physical exploitations. Sometimes it is found that women are not the part of the justice delivery mechanism especially in rural

¹Assistant Professor, Deptt of Sociology, COBS & H, CCSHAU, Hisar (Haryana) -125004

communities (M'Cormack, 2018; Mule, 2018; Begum and Saha, 2017). Many researchers in their studies have shown that violence against women is much more hazardous than cancer, malaria and road trafficking accidents combined (Heise et al., 1994). Domestic violence is considered as the silent killer of women because women ignorantly endure persistence abuse and violence against them till they fall ill or die. Both at work place and home, violence had been indicating an alarming dimension. Domestic violence deprives women from their basic human rights in a society (DFID, 2007). So, domestic violence becomes the reason to dehumanize women in the society and making them vulnerable to all form of exploitation. Victims of domestic violence are left with frustration and helplessness. In a report according to WHO, 2007 and CLEEN Foundation, 2013, there is a large number of women who have experienced sexual and physical violence from their intimate or close partners.

Most of the women in rural areas are housewives and they are dependent on their husbands for all the financial and material needs. Men here oftenly neglect women's need and if she ask out for anything which is not their legitimate need then she is beaten up as a punishment or may not be given food and money. Rural women had been always clouded by the tradition, culture and family to seize sufferings, malpractices and abuse as their normal part of life. And any attempt to resist these malpractices and abuse are rebuffed by other means of society that may blackmail them or shame them publically in the society. The worst aspect regarding this situation is other fellow women are also involved in punishing and other malpractices. Education which results in financial independent women and awareness regarding their rights is denied in rural areas and prevent women to know too much or to resist against the male dominance into the society (Arisukwu et al., 2021). By keeping in view the situation of women in rural communities of Haryana, this study was designed to fulfill the following objectives: (i) To know the nature and extent of domestic violence against rural women (ii) To delineate the socio economic factors affecting domestic violence against rural women.

Methodology

The Study was conducted in rural areas of Kurukshetra district of Haryana state. From this district, Pehowa Block was selected randomly. Data were collected from 200 women respondents of Bherian,

Kamoda, Thana, Bakhli, Neemwala, Pehowa, Guldhera, Malikpur, Bhatt Majra, Jursi Kalan, Asampur and Harigarh Bhorakh villages of the same block. Out of which 66 rural women (33%) reported domestic violence they had faced in their lives, further 18,52,38 and 29 rural women reported facing domestic violence in different forms i.e. physical, verbal, economic abuse and emotional abuse respectively. Interview. Schedule was prepared to collect the data. Data were analyzed and tabulated to draw the inferences. Frequency, mean score, weighted mean score, rank order and chi-square was applied for statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Nature and extent of domestic violence reported by respondents

Analysis depicted (Table 1) the nature and extent of physical violence in which beating got first rank followed by slapping/pushing/twisting arm (rank II) and starvation (rank III). Regarding verbal violence, anger got first rank with weighted mean score 2.09 followed by screaming rage (rank II).

Economic violence reported includes husband taking away money forcefully earned by respondents or gifted by parents/relatives (rank I) followed by non-payment of other bills such as electricity, medical fee, education fee etc. (rank II). Ignoring and dismissing (rank I) and constant criticism (rank II) by husband were the ways of emotional violence followed by preventing them to meet their relatives and family members (rank III).

Socio-economic variables and Problem of domestic violence faced by respondents

Factors like Age, caste, occupation and socio-economic status of the respondents were found significantly associated at 5% level of significance with domestic violence problem (Table 2)

Analysis revealed that a sizeable number of the respondents (48.14%) who belonged to middle age group faced domestic violence frequently whereas 48 per cent respondents belonging to young age group also faced domestic violence frequently. Frequent violence was reported by general caste (52.18%), scheduled caste (46.70%) and backward classes (46.40%).

Data revealed that majority of the respondents who were homemakers and laborers (34.85% and 25.76% respectively) had faced domestic violence on frequently basis. On the other hand, 13.64 and 7.57 of the respondents who were farmers and students respectively faced low level of domestic violence.

Table 1: Nature and extent of domestic violence reported by respondents

Nature of domestic violence	Extent of domestic violence					
	Frequently(3)	Seldom(2)	Rarely(1)	WMS	Mean Score	Rank
Physical violence/abuse (n=18)						
Slapping/Pushing/Twisting arm	5	7	6	35	1.94	II
Beating	6	8	4	38	2.11	I
Starvation	3	6	9	30	1.66	III
Verbally violence/abuse (n=52)						
Aggressive	17	23	12	109	2.09	I
Taunting	15	20	17	102	1.96	III
Insulting	14	21	15	99	1.90	IV
Screaming rage	16	21	15	105	2.01	II
Economic violence/abuse (n=29)						
Husband taking away money forcefully	7	17	5	60	2.06	I
Forcing to go out of house	3	19	7	54	1.86	IV
Selling/disposing stridhan or any other valuable without information	6	15	8	56	1.93	III
Non-payment of other bills such as electricity, medical fee, education fee etc.	8	14	7	59	2.03	II
Nature of emotional violence/abuse (n=38)						
Ignoring or dismissing	12	19	7	81	2.13	I
Constant criticism	9	21	8	77	2.02	II
Preventing from meeting family members or relatives	7	19	12	71	1.86	III

Responses were multiple

Table 2: Relationship between socio-economic variables and domestic violence faced by rural women (N=66)

Variables	Frequently	Seldom	Rarely	Total
Age (years)				
up to 25	12(48.0)	9(36.0)	4(16.0)	25(37.88)
25-35	13(48.14)	7(25.93)	7(25.93)	27(40.90)
above 35	7(50.0)	4(28.57)	3(21.43)	14(21.22)
Total	32 (48.48)	20(30.30)	14 (21.22)	66 (100)
$\chi^2 = 5.99^*a$				
Caste				
General	12(52.18)	6(26.08)	5(21.74)	23(34.85)
Backward classes	13(46.40)	8(28.60)	7(25.00)	28(42.42)
Scheduled castes	7(46.70)	6(40.00)	2(13.30)	15(22.73)
$\chi^2 = 6.99^*$				
Occupation of the respondent				
Homemaker	11(47.82)	7(30.44)	5(21.74)	23(34.85)
Labour	7(41.6)	6(35.8)	4(23.5)	17(25.76)
Farming	4(44.43)	3(33.33)	2(22.24)	9(13.64)
Business(small scale enterprise)/Service	8(66.66)	2(16.67)	2(16.67)	12(18.18)
Student	2(40.0)	2(40.0)	1(20.0)	5(7.57)
$\chi^2 = 10.01^*$				
Socio Economic Status				
Low (12-18)	20(60.60)	5(15.15)	8(24.25)	33(50.0)
Medium 19-24)	9(36.0)	12(48.0)	4(16.0)	25(37.9)
High (25-31)	3(37.5)	3(37.5)	2(25.0)	8(12.1)
$\chi^2 = 6.12^*$				

Figures in the parenthesis denote percentage, * Significant at 5 per cent level

Family Type, Family size, income, mass media exposure and social participation were not found significantly associated with domestic violence.

Suggestions

Education is the only way through which domestic violence against women can be restricted in the society. There should be more governmental free of cost and compulsory educational programs for empowering the rural women. Awareness programmes or campaigns should be intensified through mass-media, family, leaders and community for the women so that they can be fully aware of their rights. There is a need to aware the women regarding their status in the society. It was also suggested that gender sensitization and awareness generation programmes on domestic violence should become a part of the school and college/university curriculum.

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