



E-ISSN: 2706-8927

P-ISSN: 2706-8919

www.allstudyjournal.com

IJAAS 2022; 4(4): 105-108

Received: 07-08-2022

Accepted: 12-09-2022

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Domestic violence against rural women in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh: An empirical perspective

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a global issue reaching across national boundaries as well as socio economic, cultural, racial and class distinctions. This paper examines the types of domestic violence and forms of physical violence experienced by the respondents and it elucidates the forms of emotional and sexual violence experienced by the respondents. The paper further analyzes the reasons stated by the respondents those acts as the triggers of domestic violence and it estimates the association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the domestic violence inflicted on them. The present study adopts Descriptive Research design. Both primary and secondary data were analyzed for drawing the conclusive inferences from this study. The sampling area selected for the study is Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The domestic violence principles were limited to three out comes namely physical, emotional and sexual violence. Simple Random sampling technique was applied to draw the sample respondents from the identified sample sources and 120 respondents were selected on random basis. Thus, the sample size of the study is 120. Interview schedule method was applied for recording the responses from the sample respondents. The statistical tools like Percentages and Chi-square test were applied for drawing the inferences from the study. The study finally concludes that there exists a significant association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them.

Keywords: Domestic violence, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse

Introductions

Domestic violence is a global issue reaching across national boundaries as well as socio economic, cultural, racial and class distinctions. This problem is not only widely dispersed geographically, but its incidence is also extensive, making it a typical and accepted behaviour. Women from all kinds of backgrounds are affected by Violence every day. Sometimes, they are attacked by strangers, but most often they are hurt by people who are close to them. Domestic violence against women is a matter of serious public health concern in most of the communities and culture.

According to WHO, Domestic Violence is defined as 'Any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in private or in public life'

WHO reported few factors that are associated with increased risk of experiencing intimate partner violence, which include low educational qualification, exposure to violence between parents, abuse during childhood, attitudes to accept violence and gender inequality. Domestic violence is not considered seriously unless it involves homicide or serious physical injury to the victim. But from medical point of view long standing domestic violence results in more psychological disorders as compared with physical health problems.

Globally, violence within the home is universal across culture, religion, class, and ethnicity. Despite this widespread prevalence, however, such violence is not customarily acknowledged and has remained invisible - a problem thought unworthy of legal or political attention. The social construction of the divide between public and private underlies the hidden nature of domestic violence against women. Legal jurisprudence has historically considered the domain of the house to be within the control and unquestionable authority of the male head of household. Thus, acts of violence against members of the household, whether wife or child, were perceived as discipline, essential for maintaining the rule of authority within the family. Thus, the present research study was conducted against the rural backdrop in Andhra Pradesh.

Review of literature

Naved and Persson (2005) [4], studied the factors associated to domestic violence in rural and urban setup of Bangladesh. It was also revealed that in the urban area, women's being younger than their husband and participating in savings and credit groups increased the risk of abuse, whereas husband's education beyond the sixth grade had a protective effect.

Gershenson *et al.* (2008) [2], study the association between domestic violence and low age pregnancy. Improvement in the social power relationship is required not only to stop spousal violence but also to improve (reduction) the population growth and lowering of HIV infection AIDS like diseases.

Strauss (2012) [5], had reported that frequent alcohol use by the male partner has been found to be associated with increased likelihood of violence in the home. Domestic violence research efforts have begun to identify a variety of factors associated with involvement and protection from domestic violence.

Martin and Xingjuan, (2015) [3], In international studies, stress related factors, such as: poverty, lack of education, lack of financial resources, levels of jealousy, excessive drinking, substance abuse and living in a large family have been associated with increased risk of domestic violence).

Xu, (2018) [7], A number of factors appear to be correlated with domestic violence. These include stress, particularly economic stress, social environment, poor self-esteem of the assailant, and traditional ideas about gender roles. Also, social support appears to be important for the victim in coping with the violence and even in reducing the violence Ceaser (2020), conducted a cross-sectional study, on the epidemiology of violence within the home against women and girls older than 12 years, in the state of Jalisco in Mexico. Among the demographic variables examined, low levels of education and families with seven children or more were associated with domestic violence.

Objectives of study

1. To study the demographic profile of the respondents in the study areas
2. To examine the types of domestic violence and forms of physical violence experienced by the respondents
3. To elucidate the forms of emotional and sexual violence experienced by the respondents
4. To analyze the reasons stated by the respondents those acts as the triggers of domestic violence
5. To estimate the association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the domestic violence inflicted on them

Null hypotheses

Ho1: There exists no significant association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them

Research methodology

The present study adopts Descriptive Research design. Both primary and secondary data were analyzed for drawing the conclusive inferences from this study. The sampling area selected for the study is Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The sample respondents are identified from the district legal counseling centers, women police stations and family courts located at various jurisdictions within the identified study area. The sample respondents comprise the married victims on whom the various forms of domestic violence were inflicted. The domestic violence principles were limited to

three out comes namely physical, emotional and sexual violence.

Simple Random sampling technique was applied to draw the sample respondents from the identified sample sources and 120 respondents were selected on random basis. Thus, the sample size of the study is 120. Interview schedule method was applied for recording the responses from the sample respondents. The statistical tools like Percentages and Chi-square test were applied for drawing the inferences from the study.

Data analysis and interpretation

Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents

Factors	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Age (in years)	20-40	83	69.2
	Above 40	37	30.8
Education qualification	Illiterates	16	13.3
	Primary/ secondary	94	78.3
	Graduates	10	8.4
Occupation	Housewives	54	45.0
	Labour	41	34.2
	Employed	25	20.8
Religion	Hindu	105	87.5
	Muslim	9	7.5
	Christian	6	5.0
Type of Family	Nuclear	104	86.7
	Joint	16	13.3

Source: Primary Data

The table no.1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents. It shows that 69.2% of the respondents are in the age group of 20-40 years and 30.8% of the respondents are in the age group of above 40 years. The table further shows that 13.3% of the respondents are illiterates, 78.3% of the respondents have primary or secondary level of education and 8.4% of the respondents are graduates.

The table further shows that 45% of the respondents are housewives, 34.2% of the respondents are working labour and 20.8% of the respondents are employees as per their occupational status. The table reveals that 87.5% of the respondents are Hindus by their religion, 7.5% of the respondents are Muslims and 5.0% of the respondents are Christians by their religion. The table further denotes that 86.7% of the respondents are living in nuclear type of family structure and 13.3% of the respondents are living in joint type of family structure.

Table 2: Types of Domestic violence experienced by the respondents

Types	Frequency	Percentage
Only Physical violence	33	27.5
Only Emotional violence	22	18.3
Only Sexual violence	4	3.4
Both physical and emotional	31	25.8
Both physical and sexual	7	5.8
Both emotional and sexual	4	3.4
All physical, emotional and sexual violence	19	15.8
Total	120	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table no.2 shows the types of domestic violence experienced by the respondents. It shows that 27.5% of the respondents faced only physical violence, 18.2% of the respondents faced only emotional violence and 3.4% of the

respondents faced only sexual violence. The table further shows that 25.8% of the respondents faced both physical and emotional violence, 5.8% of the respondents faced both physical and sexual violence, 3.4% of the respondents faced both emotional and sexual violence and 15.8% of the respondents faced all the physical, emotional and sexual types of violence.

Table 3: Forms of physical violence experienced by the respondents*

Form	Frequency	Percentage
Slapping	88	73.3
Pushing with force	68	56.7
Hitting	58	48.3
Kicking or dragging or beating	53	44.2
Burning or chocking	35	29.2
Threatening with dire consequences	64	53.3

Source: Primary Data, *Multiple Responses

The table no.3 shows the forms of physical violence experienced by the respondents. It shows that 73.3% of the

respondents had faced slapping, 56.7% of the respondents had faced pushing with force, 48.3% of the respondents had faced hitting, 44.2% of the respondents were kicked or dragged or beaten, 29.2% of the respondents had faced burning or chocking and 53.3% of the respondents were threatened with dire consequences.

Table 4: Forms of emotional violence experienced by the respondents*

Form	Frequency	Percentage
Insulting	91	75.8
Humiliation	64	53.3
Intimidation	59	49.2
Threatening	41	34.2

Source: Primary Data, *Multiple Responses

The Table no. 4 shows the forms of emotional violence experienced by the respondents. It shows that 75.8% of the respondents were insulted, 53.3% of the respondents were humiliated, 49.2% of the respondents were intimidated and 34.2% of the respondents were threatened.

Table 5: Forms of sexual violence experienced by the respondents*

Form	Frequency	Percentage
Sexual intercourse against her will	29	24.2
Forceful sexual intercourse	54	45.0
Degrading or humiliating sexual acts	48	40.0

Source: Primary Data, *Multiple Responses

The table no. 5 shows the form of sexual violence experienced by the respondents. It shows that 24.2% of the respondents were subjected to sexual intercourse against their will, 45% of the respondents were subjected forceful sexual intercourse and 40% of the respondents had experienced degrading or humiliating sexual acts.

Table 6: Opinion of the respondents on the causes for Domestic Violence*

Form	Frequency	Percentage
Arguments on money matters	68	56.7
Influence of alcohol / drugs	52	43.3
Not attending household chores	41	34.2
Not cooking properly	35	29.2
Dowry matters	64	53.3
Talking to neighbors'	22	18.3
Not having male child	27	22.5
Refusing sex	16	13.3
Not having child	25	20.8

Source: Primary Data, *Multiple Responses

The table no.6 shows the opinion of the respondents on the

causes of domestic violence. It shows that 56.7% of the respondents had opined that arguments on money matters are the causes of domestic violence, 43.3% of the respondents had cited influence of alcohol or drugs, 34.2% of the respondents had cited that not attending household chores as the reason and 29.2% of the respondents had cited that not cooking properly as the reason.

The table further shows that 53.3% of the respondents had opined that dowry matters are the causes for domestic violence, 18.3% of the respondents had cited talking to neighbours as the reason, 22.5% of the respondents had cited not having male child as the reason, 13.3% of the respondents had cited refusing sex and 20.8% of the respondents had opined that not having child is the reason for the domestic violence in their households.

Verification of Hypothesis – Ho1

Ho1: There exists no significant association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them

Test applied: Chi-square test

Table 7: Association between demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them

Factors	Domestic violence in severe form	Domestic violence in mild form	Total	Chi-square test
Age (in years)	20-40	31	52	$\chi^2=2.24$ p=0.05
	Above 40	13	24	
Education qualification	Illiterates	9	7	$\chi^2=18.26$ p<0.05
	Primary/ secondary	56	38	
	Gradates	8	2	
Occupation	Housewives	38	16	$\chi^2=18.74$ p<0.05
	Working women	48	18	
Religion	Hindu	23	82	$\chi^2=2.36$ P=0.48
	Muslim	4	5	
	Christian	2	4	

Type of Family	Joint	78	26	104	$\chi^2=12.92$ P<0.05
	Nuclear	12	4	16	

Source: Computed

The Table no. 7 shows the association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the domestic violence inflicted on them. The Chi-square test result shows that the factors of educational qualification, occupation and type of family are statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the proposed null hypothesis (Ho1) is rejected. Thus, it can be inferred from the study that there exists a significant association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them

Conclusion

The present study examines the prevalence of domestic violence on the rural women in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The study examines the demographic profile of the respondents in the study area and it was found that majority of the respondents were in the age category of 20-40 years and a major proportion of them are having their educational qualification up to primary or secondary level of school education. The study further shows that majority of them are housewives by their livelihood and a major chunk of the respondents are living in nuclear type of family structure.

The study depicts that majority of the respondents in the study area had experienced both physical and emotional types of domestic violence and it further denotes that majority of the respondents had faced slapping or kicking or dragging or beating forms of physical violence from the perpetrators of domestic violence. The study further shows that majority of the respondents in the study area had faced insulting and humiliation forms of emotional violence and a major proportion of the respondents had experienced sexual violence in the form of forceful sexual intercourse.

The study shows that majority of the respondents had opined that money or dowry matters and influence of alcohol or drugs act as the main causes of domestic violence in the households. The study further estimates the association between demographic profile of the respondents and the forms of domestic violence inflicted on them. The result shows that majority of the respondents in the study area had experienced the severe forms of domestic violence. The study finally concludes that there exists a significant association between the demographic factors of the respondents and the form of domestic violence inflicted on them

Suggestions

1. The law protecting agencies and the non - governmental organizations shall educate and communicate the society especially the rural community about the ill effects of domestic violence and the importance of existing laws and legislations for the protection of women against violent acts.
2. More emphasis shall be laid on the female education in order to make them self-reliance through skills development, capacity building by the involvement of various panchayats and mahila mandals at the rural level. These steps will socio-economically empower the rural women community and safeguards them.

3. Legislative amendments shall be made for the prevention of alcohol or usage of drugs in the society as these activities will certainly push them into poverty and economic loss.

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