

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Evaluation of domestic violence and its determinants among females

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Domestic violence against women is universal phenomenon that persists in all countries of the world and a major contributor of ill health of women. The present study was conducted to assess cases of domestic violence and its determinants among females. **Materials & Methods:** 280 females were provided with asemi structured questionnairebased on the WHO multi-country study on women'shealth and domestic violence against women. All subjects were asked to fill it. The response was recorded. **Results:** Age group 20-30 years had 80, 30-40 years had 130 and 40-50 years had 70 subjects. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$). Age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 100, 5-9 years in 125, >10 years in 55 couples. Choice of husband by self in 60, parents in 170 and relatives in 50. Dowry was asked and given in 85, asked and not given in 45, not asked but given in 110 and neither asked not given in 40. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$). Physical violence was seen in 150, emotional abuse in 60 and sexual abuse in 70 cases. The difference was significant ($p < 0.05$). **Conclusion:** There was high number of domestic violence among females. Most commonly physical violence was observed.

Key words: Domestic violence, Physical violence, Women

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INTRODUCTION

Violence is defined by the world health organization (WHO) as intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development or deprivation.¹ Domestic violence against women is universal phenomenon that persists in all countries of the world and a major contributor of ill health of women.² The perpetrators are often well known to their victims. The health social, sexual, reproductive health and wellbeing of millions of individuals and families is adversely affected by violence. There are numerous health consequences of domestic violence particularly against women and children. Some are psychological or emotional in nature and may sometimes result in ill-health. For women, physical violence during pregnancy is associated with maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.³ Various socio-cultural factors such as gender inequality, women's education, economic dependency, and women's acceptance of the violation are associated with DV. The Victims of DV tend to use health care services frequently.⁴ Common

presentations include headache, myalgia, disturbed sleep pattern, anxiety and depression. Primary care physicians are the first point of contact for these women. The role of physician is multiple: to identify victims from the community, to assess their safety, to provide medical care, to elicit and address the root cause, and to notify the case and bring legal measures to deal with the problem in order to prevent further violence.⁵ The present study was conducted to assess cases of domestic violence and its determinants among females.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The present study was conducted among 280 females. All females gave their written consent for the participation in the study.

Demographic profile was recorded. Asemi structured questionnaire was prepared based on the WHO multi-country study on women'shealth and domestic violence against women. All subjects were asked to fill it. The response was recorded. Result thus obtained were tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis. P value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

Table I Age wise distribution

Age group (Years)	Number	P value
20-30	80	0.031
30-40	130	

40-50	70	
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Table I shows that age group 20-30 years had 80, 30-40 years had 130 and 40-50 years had 70 subjects. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$).

Table II Assessment of parameters

Parameters	Variables	Number	P value
Age difference between women and husband	0-4 years	100	0.01
	5-9 years	125	
	>10 years	55	
Choice of husband	Self	60	0.05
	Parents	170	
	Relatives	50	
Dowry	Asked and given	85	0.04
	Asked and not given	45	
	Not asked but given	110	
	Neither asked nor given	40	

Table II, graph I shows that age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 100, 5-9 years in 125, >10 years in 55 couples. Choice of husband by self in 60, parents in 170 and relatives in 50. Dowry was asked and given in 85, asked and not given in 45, not asked but given in 110 and neither asked not given in 40. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$).

Graph I Assessment of parameters

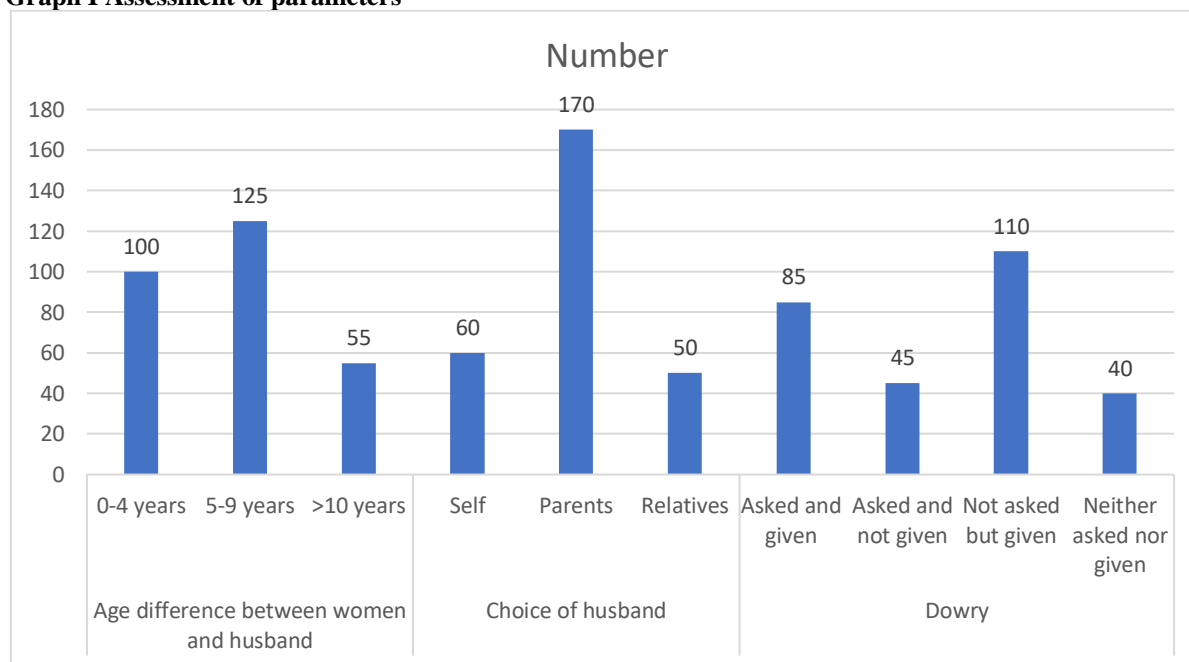


Table II Component of domestic violence

Components	Number	P value
Physical violence	150	0.04
Emotional abuse	60	
Sexual abuse	70	

Table III shows that physical violence was seen in 150, emotional abuse in 60 and sexual abuse in 70 cases. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

Domestic violence has been recognized since 1983 as a criminal offence under Indian Penal Code 498-A.⁶ India passed Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 which defined “Domestic violence” as one which includes any act, omission or commission or conduct of actual abuse or the threat

of abuse that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the woman or her relatives would also be covered under this definition.⁷ Domestic violence against women results physical, sexual, mental harm or suffering to women, including threats, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty

occurring in public or in private life. Violence in the domestic sphere usually perpetrated by husband/intimate partner. It often occurs in life cycle. About 20 to 50 % women experience domestic violence worldwide. Women's successful campaigning raise the profile of the issue of Violence against women recognize women's rights as an indisputable part of universal human rights.⁸The present study was conducted to assess cases of domestic violence and its determinants among females.

We found that age group 20-30 years had 80, 30-40 years had 130 and 40-50 years had 70 subjects. Most of studies reported that domestic violence significantly associated with husband alcohol consumption, khat chewing, family history of violence, partner education, decision making power, residence (rural women more victim of violence), women age less than 18 at first sex or marriage makes victim of violence. Women literacy negatively associated with domestic violence that increases the risk of violence, having extra partner, religion in rare situations.^{9,10}

We observed that age difference between women and husband was 0-4 years in 100, 5-9 years in 125, >10 years in 55 couples. Choice of husband by self in 60, parents in 170 and relatives in 50. Dowry was asked and given in 85, asked and not given in 45, not asked but given in 110 and neither asked not given in 40. Women experienced any form of intimate partner violence associated significantly with age group, lower educational status, khat chewing and the woman's occupational status. Two factors associated with physical violence. Those women who did not believe a wife could do anything if a husband wants a girlfriend were more likely to report physical violence.¹¹ Woman with a controlling partner were more likely to report physical violence. Similarly, two factors associated with sexual violence. Housewives were less likely report sexual violence than working women. Concurrences with physical violence women with controlling partner were more likely report sexual violence than their counterpart.¹²

We found that physical violence was seen in 150, emotional abuse in 60 and sexual abuse in 70 cases. Mahapatro et al¹³ found illiteracy, lower household income, lower caste, and drinking partner were risk factors associated with domestic violence. The study did not find any association of religion, caste, occupation and income of respondents and their husbands with domestic violence.

CONCLUSION

Authors found that there was high number of domestic violence among females. Most commonly physical violence was observed.

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