

Awareness of domestic violence : need of hour

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Received: 19.01.2020; Revised: 09.03.2020; Accepted: 23.04.2020

■ **ABSTRACT** : Domestic Violence undoubtedly a human right issue where it is very important to know what actually leads to act of domestic violence. Exploitation of women for demanding more dowry, discrimination of women, alienation of women's self acquired property fraudulently, torture by husband and in-laws, arguing with the partner, refusing to have sex with the partner, neglecting children, going out of home without telling the partner, not cooking properly or on time, indulging in extra marital affairs, not looking after in-laws, cruelty by husband or in-laws mentally or physically, abusing and insulting by using vulgar language, sexual harassment, molestation, immoral traffic, rape, sodomy and all other inhuman acts are some of the most common causes for women stalking and battering. Present study was carried out in order to find out the reasons of Awareness of Domestic Violence: Need of Hour. The sample was comprised with 240 women from the age range of 24-40 years were selected from 3 district headquarter of Rajasthan. Domestic violence awareness scale was developed to see the awareness level of women. Tool was standardized by the investigator through calculated validity and reliability. The tool covers three major aspects on self aspect, family and social aspect and legal aspect of women. The data obtained were analyzed in the light of objectives set for the present investigation. Percentage was calculated for each part. The research finding also indicates that women were less awareness regarding domestic violence and aspect related to it.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Domestic violence, Literate, Llliterate women

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Rathore, Shilpa and Jain, Sneha (2020). Awareness of domestic violence : need of hour. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 15 (1) : 49-53, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/AJHS/15.1/49-53. Copyright@ 2020: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

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Domestic violence is as old as the society is. It is used to establish power and control over a partner in an intimate relationship through a pattern of coercive behaviour in terms of physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, or economic within our homes. It may be frequent or infrequent, severe or subtle. In general it can be stated that domestic violence is increasing in severity and frequency over time. This violence is towards someone who is in a relationship and includes harms or injuries which endangers women's health,

safety, life, limb or wellbeing. Women are always considered as a physically and emotionally weaker than the males in spite of giving so many proofs in almost every field of life affirming that they are no less than men due to their hard work whether at home or working places. Their situation in India is literally pitiable where almost half of the populations are women. Behind closed doors they have always been ill-treated and deprived of their right to life and personal liberty as provided under the constitution of India. It is happening irrespective of

locality means it's common in rural areas, towns, cities and in metropolitans. The voyage is same in all social classes, genders, racial lines and age groups. Most of the times it is a legacy being passed on from one generation to another. But offences against women which reflects the pathetic reality that women are just not safe and secure anywhere. For women, violence is a phenomenon which starts at conception and carries on until she is buried in the grave. In India, pre-birth selection and consequent infanticide is a common occurrence and the preference for a male child widespread. Discrimination can be seen in the access to adequate food, prompt medical facilities, and burden of household work, care of sibling, lack of education and consequent lack of awareness and empowerment and imparting of skills. Adolescent girls face complete withdrawal of the little freedom of mobility, fear of and occurrence of sexual assaults; both within and outside of the family. In India, early marriages and early child bearing further accentuate the girl's vulnerability and cause disastrous consequences on the health of women. For a lot of women, their reproductive years are punctuated with physical, mental and emotional abuse by their husbands. Millions of Indian women face severe harassment due to unfulfilled dowry demands and many are victims of homicide and are even driven to suicide. The deep and inescapable sense of dependency in women leaves no alternative with them but to continue their lives with abusive partners for want of any other choice. Working women constantly need to negotiate their space and face abuse at the workplace too. There is no doubt that domestic violence is probably one of the most endemic forms of violence against women throughout the world.

Objective:

To know the awareness regarding domestic violence.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present study was done within three municipal limits of three districts of Rajasthan in view of ease of operation of the study.

Tool and its description:

In order to explore the self, family and society, legal awareness of women a scale was developed by investigator and standardized by calculating validity and

reliability of the scale. Scale development process involve making a list of total 55 items related to different aspects of a measurable set of attributes associated with domestic violence by reviewing reference material namely the literature available books, journals and various other sources.

Procedure of data collection:

Present investigation, data was collected to explore the awareness regarding domestic violence. Women were contacted personally to get their willingness and suitable time for collecting the information and were requested to fill the performa with regard to their age, family type, number of children, occupation, age at marriage, duration of marriage, monthly income and family economic status as per the delimitations of research work. The subjects selected on the basis of preliminary survey were contacted personally by the investigator according to their convenience for data collection. Data and time of visits were finalized with each respondent. Initially rapport was established with the respondents and the purpose of the visit was explained. They were informed about importance and objectives of the study in the beginning of administration of the tool.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Awareness regarding domestic violence:

Increasing awareness on domestic violence can help victims to find professional counselling and prevent more people from getting hurt. Expressing how far this issue reaches may involve educating the community about different types of domestic violence, participating in organizations in campaigns against domestic violence and speaking out against acts of violence.

Awareness level of women related to domestic violence:

Domestic violence continues to be a serious social threat and it is everybody's business, because it doesn't just impinge on victims at their homes but also affect overall personality of victim. Closing our eyes to this tragedy would further threaten our culture. So, it is essential issue to create awareness in the society for

wellbeing.

Fig. 1 portrays the overall awareness level of women in domestic violence. Majority of women (53.75%) were having less awareness of domestic violence (aspects included as- self aspect, family and social aspect and legal aspect) while 40 per cent been least aware. Only 6.25 per cent women were having average awareness regarding domestic violence. It can be concluded that beside cultural practices there are many important social, political, and economic factors which affect women's lives. These include poverty, inequalities, new articulations of patriarchies in specific regions and the legacies of colonialism and racism. WHO report (2013) revealed that Africa, eastern Mediterranean and South East Asian countries are advanced in physical/sexual violence with intimate partner. America is next higher region. Prevalence of violence is low in Europe and western pacific regions due to high income and sensitivity in society.



Fig. 1 : Percentage distributions of women about overall awareness level regarding Domestic violence

Awareness level of women in self aspect:

The home is often equated with a sanctuary, a place where individuals seek love, safety, security and shelter. For some women, the home is a place that imperils lives and breeds some of the most drastic forms of violence perpetrated against girls and women. Violence is usually committed by males who are or who have been in positions of trust, intimacy and power e.g. husbands, fathers, fathers-in law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons or other male relatives so it's very essential for women to know her fundamental rights.

It is clearly depicted from the Fig. 2 that majority (77.91%) of women were having low awareness related to their self aspect (Aspects includes as- self education,

motivation in life, social scenario, lack of general awareness). Remaining 22.08 per cent were having medium level of awareness about with self aspect. Self awareness helps women sources to their own energy and the initiators of their own action. Instead of freezing in the face of assault, they learn to mobilize our thoughts, assess the situation, make a judgment about the level of danger, choose the response they wish to make and then make it. Crawford *et al.* (2019) asserted unique perspectives of women who have experienced abuse in order to gain an understanding of their experiences, their perceived identity, sense of self and resilience. Findings indicated that the abusers were amongst their ongoing relationship. The study further stated that women were able to utilize resources that increased their resilience. They were determined for normal life, prioritizing their own identity through the assumption of new roles.

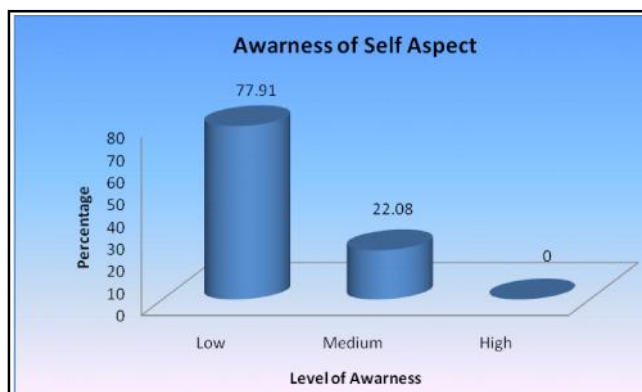


Fig. 2 : Percentage distribution of overall awareness level of women in Self aspect

Awareness level of women in family and social aspects:

Violence is often seen as a private matter, one that families are hesitant to talk about. But researchers discovered that families who have a safe place and opportunity to speak about violence have no reluctance to do so. One of the first requirements in any community mobilization effort is to raise awareness for the problem. If people do not know that family violence exists in their community, if they don't understand it's impact or know where to turn for help, they will be unlikely to get involved or to communicate the unacceptability of violence.

Awareness level of women in legal aspect:

Legal awareness is necessary for all women so that they can positively claim their rights. In several cases of

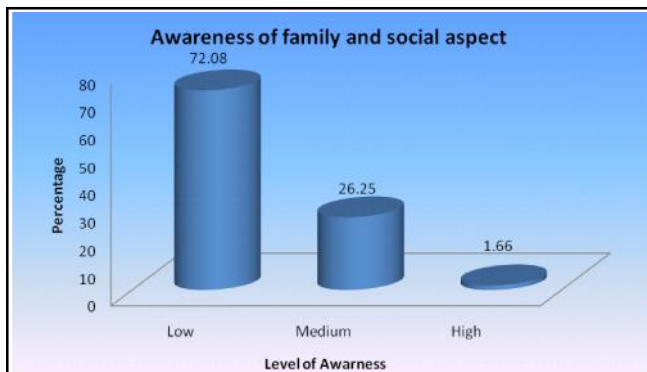


Fig. 3 : Overall awareness level of women in family and social aspects

domestic violence, women are not aware of their rights and do not know how laws can be helpful for them to protect their lives and freedom. It is very important to make women aware of their rights as well as the legal authorities they can use with the help of law.

The overall picture generated from Fig. 4 envisages the awareness level of women with legal aspect. Majority (60.83 %) of women explicated that they were having low awareness level with legal aspects including less education, low societal exposure, lack of self-confidence, absence of trust, less attachment and affection while 37.05 per cent women reported that their awareness with legal aspect was medium. Nadda *et al.* (2018) suggested that there is need to create awareness about the law against domestic violence in the women folk. Not only the awareness about the law would suffice but also the provision of shelter homes and vocational bodies for the victims of domestic violence is equally important.



Fig. 4 : Percentage distribution of overall awareness level of women in legal aspect

Recommendations:

The present investigation is comprehensive enough in it’s scope, also acknowledges and recognizes many dimensions which may become it’s offshoots. Following are some recommendations which pave a path for better social well being: where the future researches can be carried out: Youth should be mobilized for multidimensional aspects of domestic violence. Proper measures should be taken to sensitize families for effective parenting in light of the pros and cons of domestic violence. Awareness should be spread through a range of ways and means to sensitize society for sustainability of our age old institution that is family. Provision of pre marital, marital and post marital guidance and counselling should be made at all levels by the G.O.s and N.G.O.S. Advance research can be done on the basis of locality e.g. rural and urban.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the finding of the present investigation in domestic violence awareness it can be concluded the overall awareness level of women were less. Maximum numbers of literate women were having low awareness level and literate women, respectively fallen in the medium level of awareness in self aspect. Surprisingly in both the group majority of the subject were having low level of awareness related to family and social aspect. Very disheartening to note that in both the group’s majority were having low awareness level regarding legal aspect.

Implications of the study:

This study will enhance the knowledge regarding domestic violence awareness and coping strategies. The findings will pave a path for researcher/ scholars to explore multi dimensional aspects of domestic violence and coping strategies. The study will provide appropriate base for those who are interested in carrying out research related to domestic violence. The findings will serve as a ready reckoner for women, counselors, trainers and community workers working in the field of domestic violence.

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