

# Prevalence of domestic violence and its extent among rural women of Dantiwada Taluka

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## ABSTRACT

To assess the prevalence and extent of prevalence of domestic violence and perpetrator of violence against rural women, a representative sample of 120 married rural women was selected from the Dantiwada Taluka of Banaskantha district. Extent of prevalence of domestic violence was studied as dependent variable. Statistical analysis was done by computing frequencies, percentages, range and correlation of coefficient. Majority of rural women showed prevalence of domestic violence but low extent of prevalence of domestic violence and majority of rural women expressed husband as the main perpetrator of domestic violence against them. Age and caste showed negative and significant association with overall extent of domestic violence.

**KEY WORDS :** Domestic violence, Prevalence, Extent, Perpetrator

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## INTRODUCTION

Most prevalent form of violence against women worldwide is domestic violence. Domestic violence is a global issue reaching across national boundaries as well as socio-economic, cultural, racial and class distinctions. Domestic violence against women is a major contributor to the ill health of women which causes more death and disability in the age group of 15-44 years than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined (Kounteya, 2007). It diminishes the overall quality of human life, women exposed to abuse during pregnancy had an increased risk of miscarriage and abortion compared with non-abused women (Webster, 1996). Women in abusive relationship are at an increased risk of being killed by a current or ex-partner and nearly three in five of all female deaths in Australia occur due to domestic violence (Mozos, 1999).

This study will be useful to empower women to fight violence against them, this study was planned with following objectives: to study the personal socio-economic and communicational profile of rural women of Dantiwada Taluka, to assess the prevalence of domestic violence and its extent among rural women, to find out the perpetrator of domestic violence against rural women and to study

the correlation between the socio-economic and communicational profile of rural women and extent of prevalence of domestic violence against rural women.

## METHODS

The study was conducted in Dantiwada Taluka of Banaskantha district. A representative sample of 120 married rural women was selected from the list of village families. A proportionate random sample was taken for this purpose.

For measurement of independent variables *i.e.*, education, caste, family type, family size, family income, occupation and land holding, pre-structured but open ended interview schedule was developed. Mass media exposure and social participation was measured by using the tool developed by Bhati (1985) and Kulshrestha (1980), respectively. Extent of prevalence of domestic violence was studied as dependent variable and measured in the different levels *i.e.*, high, medium and low. Frequency and percentage were calculated to measure the independent variable as well as for dependent variable. Correlation coefficient ('r') values were computed to find out the association between dependent and independent variables,

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For measurement of dependent variables and independent variables an interview schedule consisting of questions covering all the aspects was developed and used.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

### Personal socio-economic and communicational characteristics of rural women:

Majority of rural women belonged to the young age group (56.6%), only few were educated up to secondary level and majority of rural women were illiterate (60.00%). The results regarding socio-economic characteristics revealed that about fifty five per cent of rural women belonged to Other Backward Caste category, about sixty two per cent of rural women were having joint type and fifty five per cent were having medium sized family. Majority (60.00%) of rural women belonged to low income group, fifty five per cent of rural women were engaged in Farming + Farm labour. Results regarding land holding revealed that maximum numbers (37.5%) of rural women were landless, majority of rural women (58.33%) had medium level of mass media exposure and low level of social participation (70.83%).

### Prevalence and extent of the prevalence of domestic violence among rural women:

It is evident from Table 1 that majority (59.17%) of rural women expressed that they were suffering form of domestic violence. Maximum number (46.67%) of rural women had low extent of violence and about nineteen per cent (18.33%) of rural women had high extent of prevalence of domestic violence.

A.	Prevalence of domestic violence	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Prevalent	71	59.17
2.	Non-prevalent	49	40.83
Total		120	100.00
B.	Extent of prevalence of domestic violence	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low	56	46.67
2.	Medium	42	35.00
3.	High	22	18.33
Total		120	100.00

### Perpetrator of domestic violence against rural women:

Maximum numbers of rural women (36.67%) expressed husband as perpetrator of domestic violence

and only few rural women (11.67%) expressed mother-in-law as perpetrator of violence.

### Correlation between dependent and independent variables:

It can be inferred from Table 2 that age and caste showed negative and significant correlation with overall extent of domestic violence, whereas family type, family size had positive but non-significant, correlation. Education, annual income, occupation, land holding, social participation and mass media exposure had negative but non-significant correlation with extent of domestic violence.

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Dependent variable
		Overall extent of prevalence of domestic violence (Y <sub>6</sub> )
		Co-efficient of correlation "r" value
1.	Age (X <sub>1</sub> )	-0.2135*
2.	Education (X <sub>2</sub> )	-0.1217 <sup>NS</sup>
3.	Caste (X <sub>3</sub> )	-0.2345*
4.	Family type (X <sub>4</sub> )	0.0384 <sup>NS</sup>
5.	Family size (X <sub>5</sub> )	0.1611 <sup>NS</sup>
6.	Social participation (X <sub>6</sub> )	-0.0985 <sup>NS</sup>
7.	Family annual income (X <sub>7</sub> )	-0.1637 <sup>NS</sup>
8.	Land holding (X <sub>8</sub> )	-0.1732 <sup>NS</sup>
9.	Occupation (X <sub>9</sub> )	-0.0860 <sup>NS</sup>
10.	Mass media exposure (X <sub>10</sub> )	-0.0388 <sup>NS</sup>

NS = Non-significant

\* and \*\* indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

The findings of the study lead to conclude that domestic violence was prevalent among rural women but its extent was low and main perpetrator of domestic violence was husband.

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