

Forms of prevalence of domestic violence and their extent among rural women of Dantiwada taluka

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ABSTRACT

The study was made to assess the forms of prevalence of domestic violence and reasons which trigger the domestic violence against rural women, A representative sample of 120 married rural women was selected from Dantiwada Taluka. Forms of prevalence of domestic violence were studied as dependent variables. Personal, socio- economic and communicational variables were studied as independent variable. A pre-structured interview schedule was used for collecting data. Data were collected by personal interview technique statistical analysis was done by computing frequencies, percentages correlation of coefficient and rank. Major findings revealed that majority of rural women had low level of physical, verbal, emotional and financial violence. First ranked reason perceived by rural women for domestic violence was poverty.

KEY WORDS : Domestic violence, Prevalence, Forms, Extent

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Domestic violence in many cases occurs within the privacy of the home. It is a crime that can remain hidden to the outside world and go unnoticed to all except the survivor. It is a global issue reaching across the national boundaries as well as socio-economic, cultural, racial and class distinctions. Domestic violence has long term negative consequences for survivors even after the abuse has ended. This can translate into lower health status, lower quality of life and higher utilization of health services (Compbell *et al.*, 2002), In India, there is a common pervasive myth that domestic violence is a personal or a private matter between a husband and a wife, or a family matter and no one else should interfere. But fact is that it is a crime, and a crime is never a personal or a private matter (National Family Health Survey, 2006), Most frequently reported forms of violence against women were abusive language, beating, pulling by hairs, forced sex and threatening to divorce (Nair *et al.*, 2000) According to domestic violence act 2005 there are five forms of violence which includes: physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, financial abuse.

Objectives:

To study the personal socio-economic and communicational profile of rural women of Dantiwada Taluka, to find out the forms of domestic violence among

rural women and their extent, to study the reasons which triggers the domestic violence against women and to study the correlation between the socio-economic and communicational profile of rural women and forms of domestic violence among rural women.

This study was conducted in Dantiwada Taluka of Banaskantha district of Gujarat. A representative sample of 120 married rural women was selected, data were collected through personal interview technique. Forms of violence were operationally defined in the terms of physical, verbal, sexual, financial and emotional violence and measured in their different levels *i.e.*, low, medium and high. A pre-structures but open ended interview schedule was developed and used for measurement of dependent and independent variables. Frequency and percentage were calculated to measure the independent variables *i.e.*, personal, socio-economic and communicational characteristics as well as for dependent variables *i.e.*, "Forms of prevalence of domestic violence". Correlation coefficient ('r') values were computed to find out the association between dependent and independent variables.

Personal socio-economic and communicational characteristics of rural women:

Majority of rural women belonged to the young

Sr. No.	Physical	Verbal	Emotional	Financial	Sexual	Med. Family	Income Group	Education
1.	73.33	55.00	56.67	75.83	8.33	22	Low	70
2.	73.33	55.00	56.67	75.83	8.33	30	Medium	70
3.	73.33	55.00	56.67	75.83	8.33	21	High	70
4.	73.33	55.00	56.67	75.83	8.33	23	Other	70

age group (56.6%) and 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 (54.17%) belonged to Other Backward Caste category, about sixty two per cent of rural women (61.67%) were having joint type and fifty five per cent were having medium sized family, majority (60.00%) of rural women were belonged to low income group, fifty five per cent of rural women were engaged in Farming + Farm labour. Results regarding land holding revealed that 37.5 per cent 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%).

Forms of domestic violence and their extent among rural women:

Data were collected on five different forms of domestic violence but even a single respondent had not given positive response on sexual violence so the extent of only four forms of domestic violence was measured and results regarding the same are presented in Table 1.

It is evident from Table 1 that majority of rural women had low level of physical violence (73.33%), verbal violence (55.00%),

emotional violence (56.67%) and financial violence (75.83%) and about nine per cent (8.33%) of rural women had high level of physical violence and only twenty per cent rural women were having high level of verbal violence, about twenty four per cent (23.33%) rural women were having high level of emotional violence Only five per cent of rural women were having high level of financial violence

Reasons which triggers domestic violence against rural women:

First three reasons for rural women facing domestic violence were:

- Poverty
- Cooking/ work not done properly in time
- Drinking and smoking by husband

Association between dependent and independent variables:

Age and caste showed negative and significant association with physical violence and negative but non-significant with verbal, sexual, emotional and financial violence, family size showed positive and significant association with verbal violence and annual income showed negative but significant association with financial violence and education, occupation, land holding, social participation and mass media exposure showed non-significant association with physical, verbal, sexual, emotional and financial violence.

Conclusion:

The findings leads to conclude that except sexual violence all other four forms of domestic violence were prevalent among rural women but majority of rural women were having low level of violence. It is concluded from the findings that the major reasons which triggers domestic violence against rural women were poverty, cooking/work not done properly in time and drinking and smoking by husband.

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