

Violence by Intimate Partners

A study among men from Gujarat

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Abstract

Intimate partner violence refers to physical, emotional, economical and sexual assault by husband on his wife. No matter which country, race, religion, culture, economic status, community or society, women are subjected to different types of violence by their husbands or intimate partners. This study aimed to understand forms and extend of violence men employ upon their wives as well as to comprehend how socio-demographic factors influence men's perpetration of violence against women and to find out its' associations with violence against women in Gujarat, India. A multistage random sampling method was used to select 1600 respondents. Result of this study found that intimate partner violence is prevalent in its all forms in all sites of Gujarat even though there are clear variations in its magnitude within the sites. Findings also revealed significant association between consumption of alcohol and perpetration of violence against women by intimate partners in all study sites.

Keywords: Violence, intimate partners, men, perpetration, Gujarat

INTRODUCTION

Violence by intimate partner is a global public health issue. Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to harmful acts of physical, emotional, economic and sexual abuse and it also includes having controlled behaviors of the dominating partner over the other [1][3][4]. Studies have shown that the most common forms of violence against women are performed by husband or an intimate male partner. Intimate partners or husbands are more likely to perpetrate violence than strangers or those in common group of close relationships. Consequences of men perpetrating violence on women have resulted into serious health problems physically and mentally. Several studies across the world have shown the factors that have resulted into increase of violence against women is due to unequal distribution of power between women and men, within families and communities, the hierarchy system in which women are discriminated since decades and has made women most vulnerable section of the society. In the year 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of violence against Women called on states to promote research, collect data and compile statistics relating to different forms of violence against women and it also encouraged the research on causes, nature and consequences of violence against women and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and redress the issue. [2]

Studies have been conducted around the world by major organizations in different countries to understand the phenomena of men perpetrating violence against women and its root cause that has led women to live in fear and is considered to be the vulnerable group of society. Intimate partner violence includes different forms of harmful acts which lead to serious consequences such as injuries and severe mental and physical health problems. There are major four types of patterns of violence out of which physical assault and emotional assault are highly recorded as compared to economic and sexual abuse. *Physical Abuse* refers to having slapped, choked, pushed, grabbed, shoved, bit wife, and threatened her with an object; *Emotional Abuse* includes having insulted wife in front of others, stopped her from seeing/talking to family or friends, shouted at her, turned family, friends and children against her, denied care and attention and got into relationship with other woman. *Economic Abuse* refers to not allowed wife/partner to work; used her money against her will, operated her bank account without her concern, denied financial freedom and withhold access to resources necessary, thrown her out of the house and *Sexual Abuse* includes having forced sexual intercourse with wife/partner, denied any use of contraceptive method and refused to have sexual intercourse with her. [1][3]

Nature of violence depends upon various factors of why men use violence against women. The factors that came forth through studies which are associated of men perpetrating violence against women are a) *individual factors*: young age, no proper education, experiences of violence and witnessed violence as child, consumption of alcohol and drugs; b) *relationship factors*: dissatisfaction in relationship, dominant nature of men in family, socio-economic conditions, man having multiple partners, difference in education attainment; c) *community-societal factors*: gender inequitable attitudes, low socio-economic status of women, poverty, social acceptance of violence in society and high levels of general violence in society.[1][3][11]

A countless number of women are adversely affected through violence by intimate partners which has led to severe outcomes of the events. Women who experienced physical and sexual violence had serious injuries and health issues and even death, whereas emotional abuse and psychological abuse had long lasting and deeper impact on women that makes a person feel soul dead. Violence can cause severe problems which can lead to low ability to work, taking care of family and contribution towards society and community. [2]

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To have a better understanding on men's use of different forms of violence against intimate partners.
2. To promote evidence based policies and programs to prevent violence against women.

HYPOTHESES

There exists significant association between socio- demographic characteristics of men and their perpetration of violence against women.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Descriptive research design is used in the study as it aims to describe men's perpetration of different types of violence against their female partners and its association with socio- demographic characteristics.

Universe, Sample & Sampling Frame

The sampling frame comprises of men in the age group of 18 to 50 years from Gujarat state. A multistage random sampling method is used to select the talukas, villages and households from which 1600 respondents are selected. Multiple study sites were chosen in order to represent a range of gender equity and development indices. The chosen sites include Ahmedabad with low gender equality and high development indices, both higher gender equality and indices, the Dangs with high gender equality and low development indices and Banaskantha with both low gender equality and development indices.

Tools of Data Collection

Detailed interview schedule covering demographical variables issued to collect the demographical variables of the respondents. Following standardized tool is to assess level of violence perpetrated by intimate partners on women.

Intimate Partner Violence Scale: list of questions are asked to the respondents which are prepared with the help of "Margolin's Domestic Conflict Scale" or "Conflict Inventory" (Margolin, G.B. Burman, R.S. John and M.O. Brien, *The Domestic Conflict Instrument, Los Angeles University of Southern California, 1990*) and Straus's "Conflict Tactics Scales." (Straus M.A. Measuring Intra Family Conflict and Violence: The Conflict Tactics Scales, *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41(1979): 75-88)

FINDINGS

Aim of this study was to find out the prevalence of violence against women by their intimate male partners. It included four indicators viz. Physical abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse and sexual abuse. Findings of the study have shown that intimate partner violence is prevalent in all sites of Gujarat even though there are clear variations in the level of perpetration of violence within the sites of Gujarat. Socio- demographic variables undertaken for the study of the male respondents included age, education, occupation, income, age at marriage, type of marriage, type of family, no. of siblings, sisters and brothers, consumption of a drink containing alcohol and consumption of no. of drinks in one occasion. Partner oriented details included age, occupation, income and education.

Table 1: Showing perpetrations of patterns of violence by intimate partners

Physical Abuse	Never		Ever	
	N	%	N	%
Slapped your wife / partner.	763	47.70	837	52.30
Thrown or tried to throw something other which could harm her.	1002	62.60	598	37.40
Chocked or strangled her.	1426	89.10	174	10.90
Pushed, grabbed or shoved your wife/partner.	1382	86.40	218	13.60
Kicked, bit or hit your wife/partner with a first or something else.	1423	88.90	177	11.10
Threatened your partner with a knife or any other object or actually injured her with something like that.	1471	91.90	129	8.10

Proportion of men who reported having perpetrated physical, emotional, economical and sexual violence in their lifetime differed with patterns of violence. While (52.30 percent) of respondents reported of having slapped their wives (37.40 percent) admitted of having thrown or tried to throw something at their spouses that could have harmed her and (13.60) percent reported of having pushed, grabbed or shoved their wives.

Emotional Abuse	Never		Ever	
	N	%	N	%
Damaged a household item or some part of the home out of danger.	1247	79.50	328	20.50
Insulted or shamed your partner in front of other.	1241	77.60	359	22.40
Tried to stop your partner from seeing/talking to family or friends.	1149	71.80	451	28.20
Frightened your partner by shouting, yelling, screaming or staring at her.	965	60.30	635	39.70
Got annoyed if dinner / house work or any other work was not done by your wife/partner.	1165	72.80	435	27.20
Tried to turn family, friends or children against your partner.	1427	89.20	173	10.80
Denied care and attention to your wife/partner and got into relations with other woman.	1421	88.80	179	11.20

Proportion of respondents reported perpetration of emotional abuse Varied with forms of emotional abuse while (39.70 percent) responded of frightening their wives by shouting, yelling, screaming or staring at their wives and (28.20 percent) responded of having stopped their wives from seeing and talking to friends and family whereas (27.20 percent) reported of getting annoyed when dinner/house work/ or any other work left incomplete by their wives.

Economic Abuse	Nver		Ever	
	N	%	N	%
Prevented your partner from getting a job /getting herself engaged in any activities so that can earn money.	631	39.40	969	60.60
Used her money without her permission and against her with.	754	47.10	846	52.90
Controlled/operated her bank account, ATM card without her knowledge and permission.	881	55.10	719	44.90
Denied financial freedom and withhold access to resources necessary to maintain health and dignity like food, dress, medicine and necessary household items.	1012	63.30	588	36.80
Thrown wife/partner out of house.	1027	64.20	573	35.80

Magnitude of respondents reported having economic violence also differ with its forms (60.60 percent) reported that respondents prevented wives from getting a job/getting herself engaged in any activities so that they can earn money whereas (52.90 percent) of men admitted that they used their wives money without their permission and against their will followed by (44.90 percent) reported of having controlled or operated their wives bank account/ ATM without their consent.

Sexual Abuse	Never		Eever	
	N	%	N	%
Forced your wife/partner to have sex with you, when she did not want to, because you felt that being your wife/partner she should agree.	1140	73.10	460	28.80
Raped your wife/partner when she was not ready sex with you.	1505	94.10	95	5.90
Did not allow your wife/partner to use any contraceptive method.	952	59.50	648	50.50
Made your wife/partner to do some sexually act when you knew she did not like to do.	1499	93.70	101	6.30
Refused to have sex with wife/partner or denied her sexual rights as a way of hurting her.	1472	92.00	128	8.00

Men reported of having more use of physical, emotional and economic abuse as compared to *sexual abuse*. (50.50 percent) responded of not allowing their wives to use any contraceptive methods and (28.80 percent) of men reported of having forced sex with their wives when they didn't want as they believed it is the duty of a wife to agree to have sex with her husband whenever he demands.

Table 2: Showing levels of forms of violence

Level	Physical Violence	Emotional Violence	Economic Violence	Sexual Violence
	%	%	%	%
Low	45.30	52.80	36.20	57.40
Moderate	34.10	25.10	44.30	35.50
High	20.60	22.10	19.50	9.80

The above mentioned table shows more than one-fifth (20.60 percent) of the respondents reported high level physical violence the proportion of respondents agreed perpetration of emotional violence was (22.10 percent); economical violence (19.50 percent) and sexual violence (9.80 percent). At the same time the proportion of respondents reported physical and emotional violence at moderate level (34.10 percent) and (25.10 percent) respectively while a comparatively large proportion (44.30 percent) and (35.50 percent) admitted perpetration of economic and sexual violence and their intimate partners respectively. Findings of this study clearly established high prevalence of physical abuse followed by emotional, economic and sexual abuses.

Table 3: Showing levels of IPV in sites of Gujarat

Level	District			
	<i>Gandhinagar</i>	<i>Dang</i>	<i>Banaskantha</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
	%	%	%	%
Low	14.00	31.00	40.00	21.00
Moderate	52.20	41.40	34.10	63.20
High	52.20	27.60	25.90	15.80

Table III clearly shows that IPV is prevalent in all sites of Gujarat even though there are clear variations in the level of perpetration of violence within the sites of Gujarat. The largest proportion (52.20 percent) of perpetration of intimate partner violence in high level is reported from Gandhinagar and the lowest proportion (15.80 percent) is reported from Ahmedabad and around a little more one-fourth Dang (27.60 percent) and Banaskantha (25.90 percent) reported to high level perpetration of IPV. Men perpetrate violence against partners throughout the sites even though the prevalence of violence against their intimate partners varies significantly within different sites.

Table 4: Showing levels of patterns of violence in sites of Gujarat

Level	District			
	<i>Gandhinagar</i>	<i>Dang</i>	<i>Banaskantha</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
	%	%	%	%

Physical Violence				
Low	36.60	31.00	41.20	49.20
Moderate	31.70	27.60	31.00	36.00
High	39.80	41.40	27.80	14.80
Emotional Violence				
Low	39.80	37.90	46.20	58.50
Moderate	26.90	10.30	23.50	25.80
High	33.30	51.70	30.30	15.60
Economic Violence				
Low	32.30	75.90	73.80	19.80
Moderate	9.10	10.30	11.90	65.80
High	58.60	13.80	14.30	14.40
Sexual Violence				
Low	36.60	44.80	44.60	62.80
Moderate	52.70	31.00	38.70	31.00
High	10.80	24.10	6.70	6.30

The above given table shows different forms of violence across the study sites of Gujarat. Among all four sites of study, Dang reported highest proportion of all types of violence in high level except economic violence. At the same time highest proportion of high level economic violence is reported from Gandhinagar. It is also been found that Ahmedabad reported the least level of violence of all types compared to other districts.

Table 5: Showing associations between socio- demographic factors and level of IPV in Gujarat

Socio-demographic factors	Significant
	<i>p-value</i>
Age	0.120
Educational Qualification	0.000
Occupation status	0.000
Income	0.000
Type of family	0.000
Area of living	0.000
Educational qualification of partner	0.000
Occupation of partner	0.026
Age of partner	0.000
Type of marriage	0.037

Table 5 shows association between perpetrations of intimate partner violence (IPV) with socio demographic variables of respondents in Gujarat. The Chi-square results, clearly depicts significant associations between age, educational qualification, occupation status, monthly income, type of family, area of living, monthly income of spouse, educational qualification of spouse, occupation of partner, and age at marriage.

DISCUSSION

Intimate partner violence is a global public health issue that threatens a woman's dignity, health and wellbeing and this has been observed since decades. Women have come a long way in gaining equality in all the sectors where they have been discriminated and this fight is still going on in terms of spousal violence or domestic violence. This study provides data on perpetration of violence against women by intimate partners in the study sites of Gujarat. Results of this study suggests that intimate partner violence is prevalent across all sites of Gujarat and it has also shown wide variations in prevalence as well as patterns of violence (Table 3). The variations in patterns and prevalence in violence must be due to the socio- demographic differences which vary in all sites of Gujarat.

World Health Organization (WHO) 2002 stated that 48 population based surveys conducted around the world reported 10 percent to 69 percent of women being physically assaulted by an intimate male partner at some point in their lives.[7] A multi country study by UN suggests that in India 16 percent of women reported physical partner violence ever in their lives.[5] In this study it has been found that physical abuse was more pervasive across all sites of Gujarat in which men reported of having slapped their wives, tried to harm their wives by throwing something at her and have pushed/ grabbed/shoved their wives at least once in their entire lives. The high level of physical violence was more pervasive in sites of Ahmedabad, Banaskantha and Gandhinagar.

“Understanding and addressing violence against women, a multi-country study conducted in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Namibia, Peru, United republic of Tanzania and Serbia reported 20-75 percent of women experienced one or more acts of emotional abuse by their intimate partners. [1] Present study also reported acts of emotional abuse in all sites of Gujarat. Dana Harrington Conner stated, women having insufficient access to material resources are more vulnerable to violence and those women who lack economic resources have increased vulnerability to partner violence.[12] ABS Personal Safety survey carried out in Australia (2012) confirmed lifetime prevalence of economic abuse experienced by women belonging to all age groups and also stated that women are more vulnerable to spousal violence.[13] Present study discovered high level of economic abuse being prevalent in all sites of Gujarat.

On the basis of a multi-country study by United Nations stated that Asia pacific region is having over worlds half of the population and have high records of violence against women. Results have shown that 68 percent of women in Japan reported of having experienced sexual violence while and in eastern India 25 percent reported of having experienced sexual partner violence. [5] WHO's multi-country study reported 6 percent to 59 percent of women have been experiencing sexual assaults by their intimate partners. [1] From the analysis of present study it was found that high level of sexual violence was pervasive in sites of Banaskantha and Gandhinagar. And NISVS report 2010 also revealed that 24.3 percent of women had a significantly higher lifetime prevalence of severe physical violence by an intimate partner, when suggested women are more likely to experience rape and physical violence by an intimate partner. [6]

The present study aimed at finding patterns and prevalence of spousal violence in Gujarat and to investigate what causes perpetration of violence against women and what necessary preventive measures can be taken to protect those women who are deprived from their rights. In this study it has been observed that there is a significant association between socio-demographic factors and perpetration of violence by men against women. Findings revealed that socio- demographic factors are highly influential for men perpetrating spousal violence. Responsible factors such as respondent's age, education qualification, occupation, income, consumption of alcohol, area of living and having number of siblings, number of brothers and sisters as well as age, educational qualification, income and occupation of partners are found to be highly influential on intimate partner violence in study sites of Gujarat.

Researchers studying on the same issue confirmed that socio-demographic factors are strongly associated for men perpetrating violence against women and this problem has been reported in high-income countries as well as low income countries. It has been suggested that there has been increasing

number of researches being conducted on violence against women in both developed and developing countries since late 1980's. [14] Perpetration of violence against women is a phenomenon that has been seen since decades in every corner of the world for which women and world known organizations have been fighting for their rights, dignity and self-respect.

Similarly results were found from, "The effect of intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women on health" stated women reported of having experienced intimate partner violence belonging to the age group of 31 to 50 years (40.90 percent), who had secondary education (40.90 percent) and no paid work (60.20 percent) which concluded that young women experienced partner violence and also who were less educated and had no paid work. [15]

A study titled "Physical Spousal Violence against Women in India Some Risk Factors" investigated same issue revealed that women living in rural areas reported perpetration of physical violence beating, hitting and kicking etc. Further it was stated women who experienced low level of physical violence came from higher socio-economic families whereas women who had low level of education experienced high level of physical abuse. Women having high level of income and occupation status compared to their husbands had a higher risk factor to experience partner violence and women whose husband's consumed alcohol on the regular basis were at a greater risk of physical violence. [11] Findings of the present study also confirmed associations between consumption of alcohol, spouse income, spouse occupation and spouse education with IPV.

Findings of this study recognizes connections between area of living and IPV which is being corroborated by Michelle J. Hindin and Linda S. Adair (2002), as their study states that intimate partner violence is more common in urban areas. Their findings like families comprising of fewer assets, young married couples and women whose husbands were less educated experienced spousal violence are also confirmed by the present study. [14] [16]

The association found between income of partner and perpetration of IPV in the present study is been supported by an IMAGES study which reported that women who earned more than 50 percent of the household income experienced partner violence than those who earned less. [16] A Nigerian study reported that women, who are employed, more educated, young and with alcoholic husbands are at risk of perpetration of violence by their intimate partners compared to those who are unemployed, less educated, elder and with non- alcoholic husbands. [17] Findings of this study too found associations between IPV and age, education and alcoholism of respondents.

CONCLUSION

Results of this study portrayed the prevalence of perpetration of different forms of violence by intimate partners on their spouse in all sites of Gujarat. Evidence from this study shows that intimate partner violence is prevalent in all sites of Gujarat even though there are clear variations in the level of perpetration of violence within the sites of Gujarat. When Dang reported major proportion of high level physical, emotional and sexual abuse, economic abuse of same enormity has been found in Gandhinagar. The proportion of all types of violence reported by Ahmedabad is the least.

Findings of this study have shown that there are significant associations between socio-demographic factors and violence against women by men. Intimate partner violence is found to be associated with socio-economic status like level of education, area of living, consumption of alcohol by men, age at marriage and having more number of siblings. Gender sensitization programs to be included in schools, for young adolescents and at family levels to make them understand about importance of gender equality which will enable them to respect women and treat them equally.

Interventions to be made on building healthy relationships, improving attitudes towards non-violent behaviors and targeting at-risk population or environments in order to directly address risk factors that

can contribute to IPV. [9] Educational and employment opportunities can potentially lead to improvements in various aspects of family life which also includes prevention and reduction of partner violence. [10]

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