



THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION OF WOMEN ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN DELHI

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a widespread epidemic that does not respect racial, religious, or even gender discrimination. Researchers and professionals have gained more knowledge about the epidemic over time, and they are now aware of various risk factors that could raise someone's likelihood of becoming a victim of domestic abuse. Though being a woman is itself one of the major risk factors for domestic violence. However, lack of education, income, or occupations are another important risk factors linked to domestic violence. The present study examined the impact of education and occupation in connection with domestic violence in Delhi. Results show that level of education and occupation play a positive role in the life women by reducing the extent of domestic violence to which they are exposed.

KEY WORDS

Risk factor, occupation, gender discrimination, domestic violence, education attainment

INTRODUCTION

Around the world, at least 20% of women have experienced physical or sexual abuse at the hands of a man. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence against women is a priority issue in the realms of health and human rights (WHO, 1997). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence against women is a top concern in the sectors of health and human rights. In the US, almost 2.1 million women per year experience physical abuse and/or rape. 1.5 million of these assaults or rapes are committed by intimate relationships, including spouses, friends, and partners of different or same sex.

According to a criminal justice survey, 900,000 American women reported being physically or sexually attacked by their intimate relationships in 1998, down from 1.1 million in 1993. Lifetime estimates range from 5 percent to 51 percent, with 25 percent to 35 percent being the most common range.

Nearly a third of all female homicides and a quarter of major physical assaults on women are caused by domestic violence. When one partner tries to dominate or control the other either physically or psychologically, domestic violence results. The medical profession is increasingly acknowledging family violence, and domestic violence in particular, as a severe, ongoing problem with negative health effects. International congresses, seminars, and meetings all around the world have centred on this understanding and the need to find enduring answers.

Understanding the risk variables has proven useful in the effort to pinpoint those people who are more vulnerable than others. These characteristics are not meant to define who or what domestic abuse victims are or are not. According to research, women are more likely than men to become victims of domestic abuse. This is not to say that males cannot be victims; it only means that women experience victimisation more frequently than do men. According to a 2003 study by T. Lane published in the journal *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, women are more likely than men to experience both emotional and physical abuse. According to this study, some risk variables are associated with physical abuse, while others are associated with emotional or verbal abuse. One of the risk factors connected to physical violence was education. This is not to say that the victim cannot experience both types of abuse; it merely means that when the risk factor for education is present, physical violence is more likely to happen (Lane 2003).

The primary focus of this research study will be on education as a risk factor for domestic violence. The lack of education of the victim and in turn in the low income and occupation, are all examples of educational risk factors. Risk variables can occasionally interact with one another, as is the case with income, position, and educational attainment. Education has additionally been mentioned as a protective factor.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study mainly focuses on the following objective considering the need of the research topic: To find out the impact of education and occupation on domestic violence against women in Delhi.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was exploratory in nature. Fifty women were selected as sample from the universe. A well-designed questionnaire was given to the participants to identify the impact of their education level as well as their occupation on domestic violence faced by them from other family members. The questionnaire was appropriately tested for its reliability and validity was used to know about the effect of education and occupation on the extent of domestic violence. The study will be based on mainly primary data collected through field survey. In order to collect data in grass root level purposive sampling had been adopted.

Snowball sampling method was carried out with the help of key informant like ASHA worker, NGOs working in the area of. Total 50 respondent, ever-married between the age group of 18-45 years had been interviewed and tried to collect the data regarding their educational and occupational status. The data collected and processed with the help of simple statistical technique such as percentage.

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

PRIMARY DATA

The primary data were collected from the interviews of women population. The field survey was conducted with the help of structured interview schedules containing questions pertained to the objective of the study.

SECONDARY DATA

The secondary data and the review literature was compiled from published, documented and internet sources as well as survey reports like WHO reports, NFHS report, Census report, NCRB report etc.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Followings are the tables depicting the recorded data to analyse and conclude the result:

Table 1
Distribution of respondents according to the age group

Age group of Respondents (in years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 20	06	12.00
21-25	11	22.00
26-30	12	24.00
31-35	10	20.00
36-40	06	12.00
41-45	05	10.00
Total	50	100

Table 1 shows a total of 50 respondents ranging their age from 16 to 45 years. According to the table, majority of the respondents lies between the age of 21-30 years of which 22 per cent are in the age group of 21-25 years while 24 per cent respondents are in the age group of 26-30 years. Respondents below the age of 20 years are 12 percent. There are 20 per cent respondents in the age group of 31-35 years, 12 per cent in the age group of 36-40 years while 10 per cent in the age group of 41-45 years. It is clear from the table that women in the young age i.e., up to the age of 35 years (78 per cent) are more prone to domestic violence.

Although the remaining 22 per cent respondents constituting 11 respondents between the age of 36 to 45 years is also significant showing the vulnerability of women even in their older age.

Table 2

Distribution of respondents according to their level of education

Level of Education of Respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	09	18.00
Primary	10	20.00
Secondary	12	24.00
Higher secondary	11	22.00
Graduation/post-graduation	06	12.00
Any professional course	02	4.00
Total	50	100

Majority of the women were found educationally backward as the educational levels were reported to be poor. In the present study 18 per cent of the respondents were illiterate and 20 per cent had only acquire primary education. The illiterate respondents blame poverty as a major cause behind their no-education status. 46 per cent were either matriculate or had attained higher secondary level of education. 12 per cent of respondents had pursued courses of higher education, ranging from graduation to post graduation, only 4 per cent respondents had completed a professional course; however, the profession was teaching and nursing. However, education is not the only deciding factor for domestic violence. The above table shows that women with all the education level mentioned in the table have faced this evil practice., yet a decreasing trend in violence is clearly visible in the table.

Table 3

Distribution of respondents according to their occupation

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage
Homemaker	14	28.00
Labourer/daily wager	16	32.00
Private job	11	22.00
Govt. job	06	12.00
Self employed	03	6.00
Total	50	100

Most of the women were found belonging to labour class or working on daily wages. They belonged to low-income group. The main occupation of their families also was reported to be labour, daily wages etc. Occupation of an individual is closely linked with the level of his/her education and skill expertise. Table 5.13 shows that 32 per cent of the respondents were daily wagers. These included mainly industrial and

domestic workers. 6 per cent were categorized as self-employed. These respondents were working as in tailors, tutors, weavers or beauticians. 22 per cent were engaged generally in private job either in some private firm, multi-national companies or teaching in private schools. 12 per cent of the respondents were government employees, working as clerk, security guard, sweeper, teacher etc. Noticeably 28 per cent of the respondents were home makers having no personal income and totally dependent on their husbands economically.

Table 4

Distribution of respondents according to their Monthly Income

Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Nil	13	26.00
Up to 10,000	20	40.00
10001-20000	12	24.00
20001-30000	03	6.00
Above 30000	02	4.00
Total	50	100

It is clear from the table that majority of the respondents, 40 per cent were found to have a monthly income of below Rs. 10,000. This portion of table included the daily wagers or engaged in any odd jobs. Another 24 per cent of the respondents earning between Rs10001-20000 per month were engaged in any small private or contractual job. 6 per cent of the respondents having monthly income between 20001-30000 were involved in doing any private or government job or were self-employed. Only 4 per cent of the respondents who were self-employed or have a government job earned an income of above Rs 30,000 per month and thus, were in a relatively higher income category. A hard fact revealed through the table that 26 per cent of the respondents had no source of their personal income and hence were completely dependent financially on their husbands or parents. Also, the violence goes on decreasing with increase in income of the respondents although it may be not applicable in all situations.

The table revealed that the respondents having sources of their personal earning not actually dependent on husband were comparatively less victim of domestic violence than the respondents fully dependent on their counterpart for economic purposes. Respondent with no or lower level of education were engaged in jobs with low income and hence were in poor conditions. Some of the respondents, despite of having good education were denied to do the jobs and were dependent on their husbands or parents for financial purposes to fulfil their basic needs.

CONCLUSION

The abuse of women at home has always been a problem. Women were usually seen as being weak, defenceless, and easily exploitable. To assess the situation of domestic abuse against women, a life cycle

perspective is helpful. The prevalence of domestic violence against women is rising in many nations as a result of numerous economic and social causes and India is no exception. Domestic violence takes on different forms and intensity depending on the sociocultural environment and value system. Individual research projects and surveys typically yield greater estimates of violence than official statistics. Women may choose not to disclose domestic violence for a variety of reasons. The majority of domestic violence reports take the form of emotional abuse; however, the kind and frequency of domestic abuse differ depending on socio-cultural factors.

Although economic issues are among the primary causes of domestic violence, other societal factors also have an impact on its character and frequency. The extent of domestic violence varied significantly between working and jobless women. In comparison to women who do not work, have little education, women having a good level of education and/or earning an income looked to receive more authority and higher social status, which in turn appears to lessen the level of domestic abuse they encounter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A multi-sectoral strategy that addresses several levels concurrently is required to close the gap between legislation and its implementation. To effectively prevent and combat gender-based violence, the institutional and legal environment for the protection of women and girls must be improved. Sustainable poverty reduction is only achievable if systematic changes are implemented to give women access to education, health care, and control over economic resources, in addition to reducing gender-based violence. Additionally, this is a requirement for having an equal voice in social and economic decision-making.

It is necessary to improve the abilities of those employed by various organisations. It is imperative that staff members of government and non-governmental organisations with responsibility for combating domestic abuse against women be strengthened. Professionals who work with women who have experienced violence must complete training and development programmes. Gender sensitization components should be included in public awareness campaigns that are well planned and cogently centred on economic and political initiatives. Networks between organisations, between activists, and between state officials must be strengthened in order to achieve this. To stop the current trend of domestic violence against women, a broad awareness campaign involving the neighbourhood, religious leaders, women's organisations, civil societies, NGOs, and other opinion leaders is required.

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