Research Paper

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Prevalence and Determinants of Domestic Violence Against Women by An Intimate Partner in Gujarat

Medical Science

KEYWORDS : Domestic violence, Intimate partner violence, Married women, Anand district, Risk factors

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ABSTRACT

Background Domestic violence is the most under-reported crime in the any country. This paper tries to provide data regarding prevalence of verbal, physical, and sexual violence and potential determinants of domestic violence against married women residing in Anand district, Gujarat. Methods This was an analytical cross-sectional study involving 400 married women of 15-49 years of age conducted in Petlad block of Anand district. The multistage sampling including probability proportionate to size sampling method was used. Results The prevalence of DV was found 52%. Women who belonged to large family, unemployed, have husband who is addicted with alcohol or tobacco, not highly educated were proved as significant risk factors for the occurrence of DV against women by their husband. Conclusions This result will serve as a benchmark for future comparisons and planning of effective intervention against occurrence of domestic violence against married women by their husband in Gujarat.

Introduction

Domestic violence (DV) is an enveloping infringement of women's human rights and has been challenging to social advances because of its "hidden" nature. DV is a problem in every country of the world, but it is almost universally under-reported. [1] Intimate partner violence is one of most common form of DV. [2] It is present in almost all societies. [2] It is a revelation of male power juxtaposed against the lesser power of women. Husbands usually believe that they have an absolute right over the sexuality of their wives. [1] DV by spouse is associated with adverse physical [3] especially reproductive morbidity [4, 5] as well as psychological consequences in women. [6, 7] The prevalence of DV ranges from 6 to 60% in India. [8] However, considering diversity of social and cultural contexts, there is much variation in prevalence and risk factors of DV across the states in different settings. [9 - 14] Most of the Indian studies are related to physical violence & sexual violence ignoring psychological violence. [9 - 13, 15, 16] Though, there are many studies conducted in different regions of India but due to complexity of associated risk factors, knowledge regarding potential determinant for the DV is limited particularly for Gujarat. This study tries to estimate the prevalence of emotional, physical, and sexual violence and potential risk factors associated with intimate partner violence in Anand district Thus, this article can also serve as a benchmark for future comparisons and planning of effective intervention.

Material & Methods

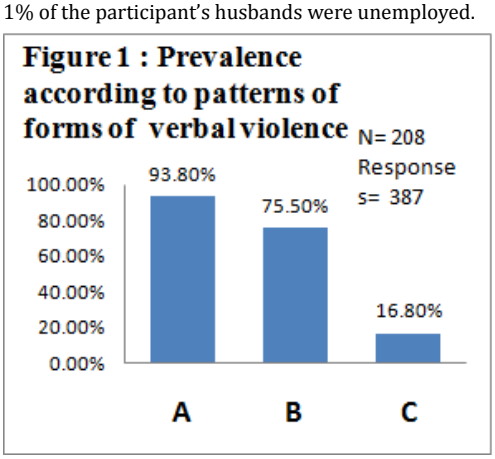
This study is a cross-sectional descriptive study conducted in four villages and five urban slums of Petlad block of Anand district, Gujarat. Currently married women in the age group of 15-49 yrs who have minimum active marriage life of one year were included in the study. Unmarried, separated, divorced, widow, and physically and mentally unfit were excluded. Based on prevalence of domestic violence in India, which is 35% according National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 3 survey [8] and considering 5% absolute permissible error and non- response rate as 10%, sample size turned out was 400. The multistage sampling strategy was used. Each 200 participants were selected from rural and urban area. In first stage, sample size from individual village and non-migratory urban slums was determined considering "Probability Proportional to Size" (PPS). For the selection of participants from selected households, a systematic random sampling was followed. For rural setting, each village was divided into four quadrants to get representative sample after determining sample to be drawn from that particular village by PPS. Pretested questionnaire adopted from NFHS-3 was used for data collection. [8] This questionnaire was pilot tested for glance of face validity and reliability and modified accordingly. A personal interview was conducted by the author after taking informed consent. When more than one eligible woman was available in a household, the woman who had got married the recently was selected. The privacy was maintained during interview. The term DV used in article refers to any violence against woman by her husband, which had occurred within preceding 12 months in any form of DV such as Emotional, physical, or sexual violence.

Data was entered in Epi Info7. The analysis was done in Statistical Programme for Social Science (SPSS) version 17.0. The statistically significant (<0.05) variables found in univariate analysis were included in multivariate binary logistic regression. The study was approved by institutional ethical committee of H. M. Patel institute. The safety and ethical issues were taken care of. [17] DV further categorized into mild, moderate, and severe categories.

Results

Majority of participants (69%) were Hindus. Moreover, 66% of the participants fell in OBC category, while 34% participants were belonging to general caste. 67% families were of joint type. Mean age of the participants was 29.6 years (28.9-30.3) while that of their husbands was 33.3 years (32.5-34.0). 21% of participants were illiterate, while only 7% of participant's husbands were illiterate. Most of the participants were educated up to primary school, while most of the participant's husbands were educated up to high school. As far as occupation is concerned, more than 70% of the participants were housewives. 1% of the participant's husbands were unemployed.

Figure 1 : Prevalence according to patterns of forms of verbal violence

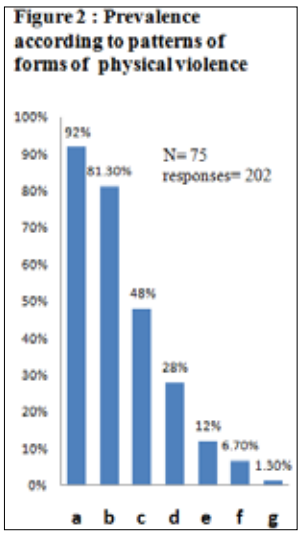


In figure 1

A = Insulted her or make her feel bad about herself or about her family

B = Humiliated her in presence of others

C= Threaten to hurt or harm her or someone close to her



In figure 2
a =Slapped her
b =Pushed her or shake her or thrown something at her
c= Kicked, dragged or beat up her
d =Punched her with fist or with something could hurt her
e =Twist her arm or pulled her hair
f =Threaten or attack her with a knife, gun or any other weapon
g =Tried to choke her or burn her

52% of the participants reported of any form of DV in Anand district. However, prevalence of emotional, physical, and sexual violence was found 52%, 18.8%, and 14.5% respectively. Further elucidating different patterns of DV, insulting wives or telling bad words to them or about their families was the commonest pattern of emotional violence found (figure 1). Slapping followed by pushing & shaking her up were the common patterns of physical violence experienced by women (figure 2). Considering the severity of DV, the proportion of mild, moderate, and severe forms of violence was 100%, 36%, and 27.9 % respectively out of 208 participants where mild category include A,B,C,

moderate include a, b, c, d, e and severe category includes e, f and sexual violence. **[Figure 1 & 2]** 49% of women reported DV within a month followed by 37 % of women experienced it within a week. 45 % and 35 % of women reported physical violence once in 6 and 12 months respectively. More than 70 % of women suffered from sexual violence within a month. 10% of women reported it within week.

Determinants of DV

In table 1, shows that that out of all factors only three factors showed statistically significant relationship with DV. Prevalence of DV was higher in urban slums (57%) as compare to rural area (48%).

Table 1: Socio demographic determinants of DV using univariate binary logistic regression

Factors	Sig	OR	95% C.I. for EXP (B) Lower	Upper
Area of residence Rural Urban	0.072	1.436	0.968	2.129
Religion Hindu Muslim	0.066	1.496	0.974	2.295
Caste General OBC	0.010	1.209	1.047	1.396
Type of family Joint Nuclear	0.191	0.757	0.449	1.149
Size of family 0-2 3-4 5-7 ≥ 8	0.004	1.536	1.152	2.049
Type of marriage Arranged Love	0.971	1.016	0.422	2.449
Child Marriage	0.789	1.056	0.709	1.572
No. of children 0 1-2 3-4 ≥5	0.987	1.487	0.929	2.380
Economic class Class I Class II Class III Class IV Class V	0.013	1.437	1.078	1.916

Women belonging to Muslim religions (58%) had higher prevalence of DV compared to of Hindu (49%) religion. The prevalence of DV was higher against women living in joint family (54%) in comparison of the nuclear one (47%). No difference in prevalence of DV was found in relation with the quality of marital status. There was higher prevalence of DV against women having ≥ five children (66%). DV was more prevalent among backward caste who were significantly at greater risk of facing any form of DV [OR 1.20, C.I. 1.04-1.39]. The association of family size and occurrence of DV was found significant [OR 1.53, C.I. 1.15- 2.04]. The women belonged to class IV & V economic class faced significant higher risk of DV as compared to upper economic class based on modified Prasad economic class considering CPI of January 2012, 917 [OR 1.43,C.I.1.07-1.91]. From table 2, it is articulated that DV was comparatively more in women between 15-20 years (67%) and ≥40 years (60%) of age. DV was more common in women whose husbands were of 15- 20 years (75%) and 30 - 35 years (64%) of age group. There were marked difference in prevalence of DV in women educated upto 10th standard (55%) and those having higher secondary education (23%). Similar trend was observed when partner has obtained post-higher secondary education (16%) compared to those who do not (54%). The women who are in employment (41%) were at significant risk of DV than those unemployed (55%) [OR 0.56, C.I.0.35-0.89]

Table 2: Socio demographic determinants of DV using univariate binary logistic regression

Factors (B)	Sig	OR	95% C.I. for EXP Lower	Upper
Age of participants	0.649	0.969	0.846	1.109
Age of husbands 15-20 20-25 25-30 30-35 35-39 >40	0.744	0.978	0.853	1.120
Participant's education	0.014	0.643	0.451	0.917
Husband's education Illiterate Upto10th std Higher secondary >Higher secondary	0.002	0.578	0.410	0.816
Participant's occupation Working Non-working	0.015	0.564	0.355	0.896
Participant's occupation	0.000	0.532	0.382	0.740
Husband's occupation Unemployed Unskilled Semiskilled Skilled	0.062	0.814	0.657	1.010
Husband's addiction	0.000	4.256	2.642	6.857
Alcohol	0.000	6.929	2.858	16.803
Tobacco	0.000	3.407	2.166	5.359
H/O DV among parents	0.080	1.429	0.958	2.130
Spousal income difference Wife earns > husband Both have equal income Husband earns > wife	0.004	2.783	1.390	5.572

If husband was addicted with alcohol or tobacco then there were four times higher risk of abusing their wives [OR 4.25.C.I

2.64-6.85]. Alcoholics husband were seven times more likely to abuse their wives than non-alcoholics. Spousal differences in relation to various factors like age, education, & income in relation with DV were analyzed. Out of those, only spousal income difference showed statistically significant association with episode of DV, where husband was earning more than wife, DV was two times more common in those women [OR 2.78, C.I. 1.39-5.57].

Table 3: Multivariate logistic regression to determine potential determinant associated with DV

Factors (B)	Sig	OR	95% C.I. for EXP	
			Lower	Upper
Caste	0.006	1.258	1.067	1.483
No. of family members	0.041	1.401	1.013	1.936
Economic class	0.487	1.126	0.806	1.573
Participant's education	0.842	1.050	0.648	1.703
Husband's education	0.027	0.605	0.387	0.945
Participant's occupation	0.028	0.619	0.404	0.951
Spousal income difference	0.083	0.461	0.192	1.107
Husband addiction	0.000	4.421	2.674	7.312
Constant	0.646	0.595		

In the table 3, it is elucidated that out of all important factors which gave statistically significant association on appliance of univariate logistic regression with the occurrence of DV after eliminating confounding effect of other factors five factors were found statistically significantly associated with the DV. Women belonging to upper caste, living with small family size, working as skilled worker and having higher educated husband were act as protective factors against experiencing DV. Husband addiction act as a significant aggravating factors for DV against women whether he is addicted with alcohol or tobacco. [OR 4.42, C.I. 2.67-7.31]

Discussion

In our study, 52% of women reported any form of violence. Emotional violence was the commonest form of DV faced by women, while there was no single case of only physical or sexual violence. The prevalence of DV of this study is comparable to prevalence of DV was found in a study conducted in eastern states of India, where 56% of women reported DV. Prevalence of different forms of DV is also comparable except in case of sexual violence. [12] Gujarat state report of NFHS-3 showed that 33% of women reported DV, where prevalence of physical violence was 25%. [18] The recent study conducted in India, 39% of women reported DV. In above study, prevalence of emotional violence was higher than physical and sexual violence, which support our findings. [14] The some studies [14, 18] included any family member as perpetrator. Experience of DV was considered ever in lifetime. [12,18] NFHS 3 state report showed 33% of women experienced severe injury as result of physical or sexual violence. [18] In contrary to this, none of the women experienced severe injury due to DV in our study, which required medical care urgently. This could be due to very low prevalence or under reporting of severe DV in Anand district. In present study, DV was found higher in women residing in urban slum area, but this difference was not statistically significant. Similar result is shown in study conducted in eastern part of India. [12] Contrary to this, Gujarat NFHS-3 did not observe any difference in the prevalence of DV pertinent to area of residence. [18] Muslim women were significantly at higher risk of facing DV as compare to Hindus in studies by Mahapatro M et al. [14], NFHS-3 report of Gujarat [18] and Gaikwad V et al. [19] In our study, this difference was not found statistically significant.

Our study found that women belonging to lower cast were at more risk facing DV. Similar result also reported by other studies.[12,14] Mahapatro M et al. concluded that risk of occurrence of DV increases with the increase in number of family members. [14] The similar finding is reported by our study. Gaikwad V et al found that women belonged to joint family were at more risk of facing DV.[19] One study[12] reported, women of higher age group and other study[19] reported women of younger age were more prone to DV. The women of 21 to 35 years age group were at greater risk of facing DV compared to lower age group. [14] In present study, no significant association of DV was found with the participant's age. A study by Mahapatro M et al. [14] concluded that participants having arranged marriage had a higher risk of facing DV. The few studies found that DV decreased with the increase in years of marital life. [14, 19] They also showed an inverse relationship between DV and age of marriage of participants. [19] In contradict to this, the our study showed that there was no relation found in the occurrence of DV in relation to any type of marriage. This study found significant association between DV and level of education in participants as well as participant's occupation. Similarly, most of the other studies also showed the results where participant's education and occupation was proven as protective factors against DV. [12,18,19] Similar finding was noted in study conducted by Mahapatro M et al.[14] in relation to participant's education but it was not the same for participant's occupation. It was observed that DV was higher in employed women as compared to housewives, also seen in NFHS-3 study. [20] In present study and study conducted by Mahapatro M et al. [14] DV was common in unskilled worker as compared to semiskilled or skilled worker. In the present study identified that husband's education as a protective factor for DV against wife. The study conducted in Bangalore also noted similar finding. [19] In this study, there was significant association found between occurrence of DV and economic class of women. The similar findings were noted in studies conducted by Gaikwad V et al. [19], Babu B V et al. [12] and Mahapatro M et al. [14] In present study, alcohol as well as tobacco addiction in husband were found as significant risk factors for occurrence of DV. Similar finding was reported in other studies but in relation with the alcohol only.[14,18,19] Considering disparities between husband and wife earning status, NFHS-3[20] showed higher DV when husband is unemployed or wife is earning more than husband, but our study contradicts this finding.

Limitations

The study's cross-sectional design precluded our establishing a causal role of factors leading to the occurrence of DV. Being a sensitive issue, possibility of response bias is there even though privacy has been maintained. Qualitative methods can help to solve this problem but it could not include due to feasibility issue. Lack of evidence reflects inaccuracy in determining age, age at the time of marriage and family income in study. The occurrence of DV and its factors of DV in the couples with comparatively longer married life may not be reflected well in this study due to selection criteria for households having more than one married couple. Complexity in operational definition and associated risk factors of DV may pose a limitation in comparing the results of different studies.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Emotional violence acts as "gateway" that paves a way for more severe forms of violence such as physical and sexual violence as found in this study and women reported emotional and sexual violence experience more frequently as compare to physical violence. It explains that community especially women should display zero tolerance towards any form of DV. The strong policies and programmes aimed at improving woman's economic status because lack of economic options forces many women to stay in an abusive relationship. We should also strengthen the implementation of existing policies, which prohibit the use of alcohol and tobacco (Gutkha) by people as in Gujarat.

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