



## IDENTIFICATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM MOTHERS IN REARING THEIR TODDLER

**Prof. Cicily Joseph**

Research scholar, Malwanchal University, Indore, M.P.

**Dr. Reena Thakur**

Professor, Dept. of Medical Surgical Nursing, Index Nursing College, Indore, M.P.

### ABSTRACT

Parenting plays the most responsible role of all endeavours. The objectives of the present study was to identify the child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mothers of toddler, to identify common behaviours of toddler perceived as difficulties to domestic violence victim mothers and determine the association between selected demographic variables and the level of child rearing difficulties. The research was based on descriptive approach. Total 270 domestic violence victim mothers having toddlers from the community area comes under the sendhwa CH by using convenient sampling. The data collection tools were a selection performa, demographic profile, parenting daily hassle scale (Crnic and Greenberg, 1990) and a Child behaviour inventory. The findings revealed that 64.4% of domestic violence victim mothers under study facing some amount of difficulty in rearing their toddler and the most common difficulties identified were the need to keep a constant eye on where the kids are and what they are doing, Meal-time difficulties -picky eaters, slow eaters, lazy eaters etc and the kids are constantly underfoot and interfering with other chores. The common behaviours of the toddler perceived as difficulty to mothers include refuses to eat food presented (93.3%), has temper tantrums (77%), Cries easily (68%). There was significant association between child rearing difficulties and family status ( $p < .001$ ), number of children in the family ( $p < .05$ ), age of child ( $p < .001$ ), and number of younger siblings.

**KEYWORDS :** domestic violence victim mothers; Rearing; Toddler; Hassel; Chores; temper tantrums

### INTRODUCTION

Toddler period extends from age 1 year to approximately 3 years of age. The word describing the characteristic way they spread their legs and toddle from side to side. During the toddlerhood the child emerges from the total dependency of infancy into beginning independence or autonomy. The toddler who learns to trust the parents during infancy now can use this trust in exploration and investigation of a world beyond the parents' arm.

Rearing include process of caring for children as they grow up. Each child is nursed and reared by a loving and considerate mother. Mother is the primary source of love for the child. Rearing a toddler encompasses meeting nutritional needs, protection, toilet training, managing common age specific behavioural problems like stuttering, thumb sucking, temper tantrums etc.

The transition from an infant to a toddler result in a higher and independent level of functioning. But as always, these transitions themselves create problems in life of toddlers and their caregivers which makes this period aptly called the "terrible twos". So, rearing a toddler requires so many competences from the part of mother. She should be knowledgeable, vigilant, and skilful in rearing their toddler, which is mostly acquired by experience.

Intimate partner violence is a serious, widespread problem affecting millions of women and children. Many children exposed to violence in the home are also victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. Children who witness violence between parents may also be at greater risk of being violent in their future relationships.

Children who witness or are victims of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse are at higher risk for health problems as adults. These can include mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety. They may also include diabetes, obesity, heart disease, poor self-esteem, and other problems.

A number of studies looking at mothers' experiences found that women experiencing domestic violence had a diminished sense of control over their mothering. The loss of control over

mothering was often made worse because of their partners' control of financial and material resources, which left women with few resources to look after their children.

Health professionals are ideally placed to use their contact with victims of domestic violence as opportunities to acknowledge and validate their difficulties and to support relationships between mothers and their children.

### Statement of the problem

A study to identify the difficulties faced by domestic violence victim mothers in rearing their toddler in selected areas of Barwani district.

### Objectives of the study

- To identify the child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mothers of toddler.
- To identify common behaviors of toddler perceived as difficulties to domestic violence victim mothers
- To determine the association between selected demographic variables and level of child rearing difficulties

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Research approach

The present study is aimed to identify the difficulties faced by domestic violence victim mothers in rearing their toddler; hence a descriptive approach is used.

#### Research design

In the present study, to accomplish the objectives, researcher used descriptive survey design for collection and analysis of data.

#### Population

A population is the entire aggregation of cases in which the researcher is interested. In this study, population is domestic violence victim mothers of toddlers.

#### Sample and sampling technique

The study sample were 270 domestic violence victim mothers of toddlers who are residing at the community area under sendhwa CH.

In this study, convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample.

**RESULTS**

**Section-1: Socio-demographic data of the samples were as follows:**

- Majority (61.5%) of mothers comes under the age group of 26-30 years. 34.1% samples belong to <25 years. And only 4.4% mothers come under the age group of 31-35 years.
- According to the religion the samples are distributed to 52.2% Hindu, 46.7% of mothers are Muslims and only 1.1% belongs to Christian.
- According to educational status all of 270 sample have high school or above education that is 30% high school education, 29.3% higher secondary education, 40% have graduation and above and 0.7% have professional education
- Based on occupation most of mothers (230) were house wives 12 mothers are salaried employ 7 mothers from the whole sample were manual labourer, 19 mothers were self employ and only 2 of 270 were professionals
- Majority of samples 69.6% of mothers had a monthly income between Rs 5001-1000/-, 20 %had 3000-5000/-. 4.8% of them had a an income below 3000/-. And only 5.6% of samples had an income of Rs > 10000/-
- Considering the type of family 83.3% of samples belongs to nuclear family and only 16.3% of samples were from joint family.
- Based on the marital status majority of mothers Live with husband (65.6%), Husband working abroad (30.4%), and only 4.1% were Separated.
- Nearly half of mothers have 2 children in their family and 34.4% had one child in their family and only 17.4 % mothers had 3 children in their family
- All most all mothers had their first child with n the 3 years of married life and only 2 samples had children above 3 years.
- Out of 270 samples selected 154 mothers had toddler in the age group of 2-3years and 116 mothers had toddler in the age group of 1-2 years.
- Considering the sex 52.6% of toddlers were males and 47.4% were females
- Out of 270 toddlers 268 were having birth weight between 2.5 kg to 3.5kg only 2 having birth weight below 2.5kg.
- Based on the maturity at the time of birth 98.9% of toddlers were full term babies while the remaining 1.1% were preterm babies.
- Half of the total toddlers were firstborn child and remaining 39.6% and 11.1% were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> born child.
- Nearly 50% of samples having no elder sibling. 39.3% have one elder sibling and only 11.1% having two elder siblings
- Majority of toddler (80.4%) having no younger sibling and the remaining 19.6% having one younger sibling.

**Section II: Identification of child rearing difficulties**

- The major difficulties identified were , The need to keep a constant eye on where the kids are and what they are doing, Meal-time difficulties -picky eaters, slow eaters, lazy eaters etc, The kids get dirty several times a day requiring changes of clothing, The kids are constantly underfoot, interfering with other chores, Continually cleaning up messes of toys or food, Being nagged, whined at complained, Meal-time difficulties with picky eaters, complaining etc, The kids won't listen or do what they are asked without being nagged, Difficulties in getting kids ready for outings and leaving on time, The kids are hard to manage in public etc
- Out of 270 mothers under study 64.4% reported difficulty in rearing the toddler and the remaining 32.6% reported that low or no difficulty in child rearing.

Identification of child rearing difficulties					
(n=270)					
No	Item	Frequency	Intensity		
1	The need to keep a constant eye on where the kids are and what they are doing	3.44*	0.690	4.23*	0.924

2	Meal-time difficulties -picky eaters, slow eaters, lazy eaters etc	3.42*	0.633	3.76	0.948
3	The kids are constantly underfoot, interfering with other chores	3.35*	0.740	3.42	1.158
4	Cleaning up messes of toys or food	3.27*	0.81	3.48	1.120
5	Being nagged, whined at complained	3.17*	0.834	3.38	1.018
6	The kids get dirty several times a day requiring changes of clothing	3.13*	0.713	3.78	0.902
7	The kids won't listen or do what they are asked without being nagged	3.06*	1.852	3.36	1.95
8	Difficulties in getting kids ready for outings and leaving on time	3.04*	0.841	3.24	1.09
9	The kids are hard to manage in public	3*	0.658	3.47	0.851
10	The kids resist to go to bed at usual bedtime	2.68	0.47	3.04	0.841
11	Difficulties in separating child from parents for a night or day care	2.52	0.963	2.64	1.15
12	The kids demand that you entertain them or play with them	2.48	0.918	2.48	0.872
13	Asking many doubts which cannot be answered properly	2.24	0.779	2.32	20.748
14	The kids have difficulties with friends	2.16	0.49	1.75	0.879
15	The kids interrupt adult conversations or interactions	1.84	0.85	1.88	0.726
16	Sibling arguments or fights require a 'referee'	1.88	1.225	1.96	1.5
17	Having to change your plans because of unprecedented child needs	1.70	0.957	2.44	1.22
18	The kids schedule interferes with meeting your own household needs	1.64	1.11	1.48	1.22
19	Having to run extra errands to meet the kids' needs	1.50	0.564	1.68	0.482
20	Hard to find care givers.	1.21	0.418	1.44	0.204

**Section III: Identification of common behaviour perceived as difficulties**

- The common behaviours of toddler perceived as difficulties by mothers include Refuses to eat food presented (93.3%), Has temper tantrums (77%), Cries easily (67.8%), Refuses to go to bed on time (66.7%), Gets angry when doesn't get own way (60.4%), Easily imitate bad language (55.6%) were most reported while the items Hits parents (9.6%), Lies (5.6%), Fails to finish tasks or projects (4%) were least reported.

**Section IV: Association between level of difficulties and selected demographic variables**

- There is no association between age, education, number of siblings, birth order, occupation, type of family, number of elder siblings and child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mother.
- There exist a significant association between family status and child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mother (  $\chi^2 = 25.03^{**}$ ,  $p = 0.000$ )
- There exist a significant association between number of children in the family and child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mother. (  $\chi^2 = 6.25^*$ ,  $p = 0.044$ )
- There exist a significant association between age of

toddler and child rearing difficulties experienced by domestic violence victim mother. ( $F = 37^{**}$ ,  $p = 0.000$ )

- Considering the number of younger siblings. There exist a significant association between number of younger siblings and child rearing difficulties ( $F = 5.65^{*}$ ,  $p = 0.017$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Parenting plays the most responsible role of all endeavours. The parents especially the mother plays a greater role in successful child rearing. The investigator could recognize that when the child reaches the toddlerhood the higher and independent level of functioning results in more troublesome for their mothers, leads to this situation and hence the present study was undertaken. The findings revealed that 64.4% of domestic violence victim mothers under study facing some amount of difficulty in rearing their toddler and the most common difficulties identified were the need to keep a constant eye on where the kids are and what they are doing, Meal-time difficulties -picky eaters, slow eaters, lazy eaters etc and the kids are constantly underfoot and interfering with other chores. The common behaviours of the toddler perceived as difficulty to mothers include refuses to eat food presented (93.3%), has temper tantrums (77%), Cries easily (68%). There was significant association between child rearing difficulties and family status ( $p < .001$ ), number of children in the family ( $p < .05$ ), age of child ( $p < .001$ ), and number of younger siblings.

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