



Knowledge About Domestic Violence Act for Women

KEYWORDS

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INTRODUCTION:

Domestic/family violence is a widespread major public health and human rights violation issue that runs across ethnocultural affiliations and economic status. Relative to the actual incidence of family violence, use of services is low, and delayed for years after onset withing in india. Domestic violence was recognized as a criminal offence in India in 1983. The offence chargeable under section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code that relates to domestic violence is any act of cruelty by a husband (or his family) towards his wife. However, until recently, there was no separate civil law addressing the specific complexities associated with domestic violence, including the embedded nature of violence within familial networks, the need for protection and maintenance of abused women, and the fact that punishment and imprisonment for the husband may not be the best resolution in every case.

According to the United Nations the General Assembly in 1993 adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women which defined violence against women, (VAW) as any "act of gender-based violence that results in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Whether occurring in public or in private life.

REVIW OF LITERATURE:

Bui, Hoan N.(2001) The present study examines the contacts of Vietnamese American women with the criminal justice system as victims and offenders of intimate violence. Data obtained from in-depth interviews with thirty four abused women in the core sample, a survey of 440 Vietnamese Americans, and interviews with eleven Vietnamese Americans working in various social and legal service agencies and the media shows that various structural, cultural, and organizational forces have simultaneously affected the experiences of Vietnamese-American women with the criminal justice system when they are involved in intimate violence.

Vietnamese-American abused women, like the general Vietnamese-American population, are supportive of government interventions to stop the problem of intimate violence. However, socioeconomic conditions, language barriers, immigration status, fear of reprisal, Vietnamese family traditions, and insensitive treatments of criminal justice officials often prevent women from reporting abuse incidents to the police and participating in the criminal justice process as witnesses. On the other hand, financial and emotional support provided by victim's advocate, legal service, and welfare service agencies can facilitate women use of the criminal justice approach to deal with intimate violence. Organizational structure and culture of the criminal

court also affect the experiences with the criminal justice system of abused women who were charged with a domestic offense.

Smith, Alisa (2001) This article reports the findings from an exploratory survey of battered women's views about mandatory arrest, mandatory reporting by doctors and nurses, no-drop policies, confidentiality laws, privilege laws, court-victim advocate programs, and specialized domestic violence courts. Although there was general support for the adoption of these laws, some variation based on demographic and situational circumstance was found. These findings raise questions about the universalistic nature of policies developed to address the problem of domestic violence. Battered women are not a homogeneous group, and public policy may be better designed to accommodate the individual needs of the victims.

Erez, Edna; King, Tammy-A.(2000) In the last two decades, most states in the US have passed laws to protect battered women and enhance their access to the criminal justice system. Preliminary examinations suggest that the reforms have had a limited success on abused women's use of the law. This study examines the ways in which prosecuting and defense attorneys perceive and describe the dynamics of battering as they play out in court, and presents attorneys' views of prosecuting, defending, and adjudicating cases of violence against women. Attorneys' views on the defenses commonly used in court and other issues of concern to reformers of domestic violence laws are also discussed. The study suggests that attorneys' accounts portray the woman-battering cases that reach the justice system as 'common couple violence' rather than 'patriarchal terrorism. Results indicate that the legal profession, charged with the prosecution and adjudication of domestic violence, resorts to gender stereotypes to excuse, minimize, or tolerate violence against women. Similarly, legal professionals evaluate relevant criminal justice policy according to men's views of battering. The implications of the results for combating woman battering through law reform are discussed.

OBJECTIVES:

Status of woman reflects the thought and feeling of the community. There fore the aim of the study is to.

To understand the awareness and knowledge about family (domestic) violence as subject.

HYPOTHESIS:

Knowledge of Domestic (family) violence Act: It is every Indians right to know the laws of the land because it helps every individual to be a good citizen. But unfortunately due to high illiteracy among Indian man, kept them away

from acquiring awareness and knowledge of any basic concept. Hence many of the women in India still believe that wife battering is a part and parcel of married life. But the women who got exposed to the electronic media they feel in other way round.

STUDY AREA:

it was felt that primary data collection was required and hence a city of Gulbarga was selected. Logically Gulbarga district has been selected as the study area because it is one of the backward districts in the Hyderabad Karnataka (Kalyan Karnataka) region in terms of development. Moreover, this district had the credit of having more diversified and heterogeneous population belong to backward castes, tribes and minorities which suits accurately to undertake the present kind of research.

STUDY SAMPLE SIZES:

Pertain to 700 hundred ever married women from Gulbarga City i.e. the north part of Karnataka State. Further this representative sample size belong to 28 wards out of 55. And were selected 25 respondents from each sample ward in order to fulfill the requirements of efficiency representativeness and reliability.

DATA ANALYSIS:

After knowing the respondent's level of awareness and knowledge about the concept of family violence and on recently established D.V.A 2005 at a pariprial level based on the simple frequency, Percentage distribution analysis. It will become so important to go further, a step ahead to understand who are the women who have only heard and who were those women who were acquired knowledge about recently passed law which gives protection full to the women otherwise they were totally left unsecured within their family and country, before this.

The concept of domestic violence, family violence or exploitation of women within the four walls by her known people is totally social and debatable issue. Hence research was decided go for a two way cross tabulation analysis to know the significant correlation between the individuals societal background characteristics and the level of knowledge has developed about the domestic violence concept. Further X2 test was also applied to know the level of significant between each independent variable and dependent variable.

Table-1.1: Percentage distribution of the respondents by current age and knowledge about domestic violence Act

Current Age of respondents (years)	Knowledge about Domestic Violence Act		
	Yes	No.	Total
15 to 24	(31) 26.3%	(164) 28.2%	(195) 27.9%
25 to 34	(64) 54.2%	(133) 53.8%	(377) 53.9%
35 and above	(23) 19.5%	(105) 18.0%	(128) 18.3%
Total	(118) 100.0%	(582) 100.0%	(700) 100.0%

$\chi^2 = 245$ Significant at 0.885.

The above table-1.1 indicates that the level of knowledge about domestic violence found to be more among those women (53.9%) who were in the middle age group i.e.

25 to 34 year. Compared to the counter parts either who were younger to them or for bit older to them i.e. (27.9% and 18.3 percent respectively) the X2 value also indicates that there exists a co-relationship between current age of respondent and the level of knowledge they acquired but statistically it is not significant.

Table-1.2 Percentage distribution of respondents by education and knowledge about family (Domestic) Violence Act

Education of Respondents	Knowledge about Domestic Violence Act		
	Yes	No.	Total
Illiterate	(4) 3.4%	(74) 12.7%	(78) 11.1%
Upto Secondary $\leq X$	(111) 94.1%	(366) 62.9%	(477) 68.1%
Above Secondary $\geq X$	(3) 2.5%	(142) 24.4%	(145) 20.7%
Total	(118) 100.0%	(582) 100.0%	(700) 100.0%

$\chi^2 = 44.279$. sig .000

The table-1.2 reveals about the impact of education level in enhancing the knowledge about the existing domestic violence Act. As knowledge was found to be more among those women who have got educated up to the pre-university level or graduate level (68.1%, and 20.7 percent respectively) in comparison to the women who remained illiterate i.e. 11.1 percent. The X2 – value too strongly suggest that there is a significant correlation between educational level of individual and their knowledge upgrading capacity. Based on the X2 significant level it can be conclude that as the educational level increases the knowledge gaining capacity will also goes up. It means education remained to be detrimental factor in information gathering process.

Table-1.3: Percentage distribution of respondents by occupation and knowledge about family (Domestic) Violence Act

Occupation of respondents	Knowledge about Domestic Violence Act		
	Yes	No.	Total
House wife	(78) 66.1%	(295) 50.7%	(373) 53.3%
Organised sector employee	(28) 23.7%	(238) 40.9%	(266) 38.0%
Un-Organised sector employee	(12) 10.2%	(49) 8.4%	(61) 8.7%
Total	(118) 100.0%	(585) 100.0%	(700) 100.0%

$\chi^2 = 12.326$. sig..002.

The above mentioned table-1.3 deals with economic status of respondent and their knowledge about domestic violence Act. The cross classification analysis shows that knowledge about family violence found to be more among those women who happened to be house wives i.e. 53.3 percent. In comparison to their counterparts who were engaged either in organized sector or un-organized sector. The c^2 value also suggests that there is no significant correlation between the work force participation and knowledge acquiring process.

Table-1.4: Percentage distribution of respondents by Religion and knowledge about family (Domestic) Violence Act

Religion of respondents	Knowledge about Domestic Violence Act		
	Yes	No.	Total
Hindu	(100) 84.7%	(402) 69.1%	(502) 71.7%
Muslim	(5) 4.2%	(95) 16.3%	(100) 14.3%
Others	(13) 11.0%	(85) 14.6%	(98) 14.0%
Total	(118) 100.0%	(582) 100.0%	(700) 100.0%

 $\chi^2 = 14.294$

sig.001

The above mentioned table-1.4 explains about the correlation between the religion of respondents and their knowledge about the existing law of domestic violence. However, the cross classification analysis indicates that level of knowledge was found to be more, among Hindu respondents than that of their counter parts Muslim respondents i.e. (84.7%/s 4.2 percent respectively). Further, the reasonably (11.0%) moderate level of knowledge about the existing act of domestic violence was seen among other religious women i.e. Christian, Buddhist and Jains than that of the Muslim women. Based on the percentage distribution the X2 value suggest that there is inter-correlation between religion and knowledge of respondent about domestic violence act. But when try to measure it statistically the significant level found to be poor. And that forced to conclude that the variation seen among the respondents knowledge with their religious background is not always possible to generalized in a positive note.

Table-1.5: Percentage distribution of the respondents by Type of family and knowledge about family (domestic) violence Act

Type of family	Knowledge about Domestic Violence Act		
	Yes	No.	Total
Joint family	(115) 97.5%	(488) 83.8%	(603) 86.1%
Nuclear family	(3) 2.5%	(94) 16.2%	(97) 13.9%
Total	(118) 100.0%	(582) 100.0%	(700) 100.0%

 $\chi^2 = 15.221$

sig.00

The table-1.5 explains the impact of family type and level of knowledge the respondents were accumulated about domestic violence act. Out of total 700 respondents 86.1% staying in Joint family system and remaining 13.9% were living in nuclear family. Hence, the knowledge was found to be more among those women who were residing in Joint family system than that of nuclear family system. Moreover, the highly significant X2 value did suggest that there exists a strong co-relationship between caste of respondents and level of knowledge they have developed regarding newly passed family violence law.

CONCLUSION:

Further, a logistic regression was applied to determine the effect of each factor on awareness and knowledge by controlling the effect of the other variables. The results from logistic regression showed that knowledge of family violence was affected by a few predictor variables, like education, occupation of couples, and type of family. For example, the odds of knowledge (the ratio of women having knowledge to those who did not have the knowledge) of domestic violence was two times higher among working women compared to the non-working women. Again, the odds of knowledge was 1.5 times higher among women who were staying in joint family system to those who had staying in nuclear family structure. Caste of respondent and current age of wife have shown a significant effect on

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