

THE MONSTROUS PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT IN WOMEN RIGHTS

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Abstract

Conflicts and confrontations contemplate with each other and it is an everlasting phenomenon in the existing scenario. This factor is a long-lasting one and existed throughout the centuries and millenniums along the pages of world history. The result of persistent confrontation and conflicting interests made nations and as well as humans to fight with each other. The end result is nothing more than devastation and chaos. Domestic violence is an “act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result 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 private life”. This research study intended to scrutinize the problem in-depth about the violence against women and Salem district is taken for study. Some 120 respondents were chosen for locating the issue exactly on the basis of simple random sampling method. The prevalence of violence is in descending order as per the age classification with the increase in age, the awareness level of legislative enactments is increasing in the sampling area.

Key Words:

INTRODUCTION

Conflicts and confrontations contemplate with each other and it is an everlasting phenomenon in the existing scenario. This factor is a long-lasting one and existed throughout the centuries and millenniums along the pages of world history. The result of persistent confrontation and conflicting interests made nations and as well as humans to fight with each other. The end result is nothing more than devastation and chaos. Interests conflicts with each other and common interest is a rare phenomenon prioritized. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister upholds that “we must have Self-Interest but that must be an enlightened one”. Violence due to conflicting interests made human community to suffer a lot and even it may go to the extent of annihilation. Understanding the interests and selfless personification is the need of the hour. But that may be the toughest expectation human community ever have had. The world orders’ smallest unit is family and the integration of families form a state. The present world come across a lot of cleavages and misunderstanding in the family system which often ends with fiasco. Our family system is an evolutionary one which could not be exactly dated during antiquity. Illustrations in various literatures gave evidences of violence in families that too by male – chauvinism and as well as feminism.

Violences in various form affects the society on the basis of Caste, Religion, Ethnicity, Territory, Clad, Race so on. The end of all forms of violences are same when we calculate the magnitude and degree. The survival of humanity is entirely hinges upon the priority of common or safe interests which aims at co-existence. The purpose of this piece of research article on the basis of survey method is to focus upon the impact of domestic violences in the society in general and women in particular. The patriarchal form of society knowingly or unknowingly unleash unprecedented miseries upon the weaker gender which this article intends to focus.

Domestic Violence

Marriage is a Social institutional practise which integrates male-female in order to strengthen the fabric of the society and organization informally. The cultural and civilization development should go on par with the technological development which is not at all in the vogue. The social practise nowadays has become a deteriorating one which almost and often ends in failure and other form of inhuman actions. The conflicting interests of co-partners moves them to indulge in inhuman violences which not only affects the married life but also the development of children. Men often enters into “State of Nature” when

interests conflicts with his co-partner. Often the victimised community are none other than the weaker gender i.e., women. In India 70% of the women between 15-49 were affected with rape, beating and other verbal abuses as per UNDP statement on the basis of research survey. Also it states in India, every 33 minutes women are affected with abuses i.e., 35% of physical and 10% sexually.

In 1993, UNDP Elimination of violence against women stated that Domestic violence is an “act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result 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 private life”.

The Webster’s’ dictionary defines the concept as “the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another also a respected habitual pattern of such behaviours”.

Women in the modern world regularly faces a lot of abuses in their married life such as physical, psychological, sexual, economic so on. Among all kind of abuses, psychological one is a more devastating one which tends the weaker sector to opt for suicide. There are more number of dowry deaths in India due to economic reasons. Women not only face this kind of abuse from their partner but also from the hands of In-laws. Because of the domineering role of Bride groom and his family members, women are humiliated, isolated, threatened, intimidated and there is a vast amount of denial of basic rights in the family. The untold stories are large enough and it differs from women to women and families.

The effects of violences are voluminous which normally cannot be shared by the victim. Usually following are considered as effects of the domestic violences; depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, lack of trust, feeling of abandonment, anger, sensitivity to rejection, chronic health problems, sleeping problems, inability to work, poor, relationship, etc. In 1983, in order to prevent violences an act was passed and considered domestic violences as criminal offences as per the Sec.498-A IPC.

As per the above stated section there are four types of actions which are considered as an act of domestic violences. They are as follows:

- a. Conduct that is likely to drive a women to suicide.
- b. Conduct likely to cause grave injury to the life, limb or health of women.

- c. Harassment with the purpose of forcing the women or her relative to give some property.
- d. Harassment because the women or her relative is unable to yield to demands for more money or does not give some property. The punishment for breaching the law is up to 3 years of imprisonment and fine.

Besides of these legal measures and the assurances in fundamental rights of the Indian constitution, domestic violences are still mushrooming due to various reasons.

This research study intended to scrutinize the problem in-depth about the violence against women and Salem district is taken for study. Some 120 respondents were chosen for locating the issue exactly on the basis of simple random sampling method. Women victims were divided on the basis of Age, Area. The research intended to identify the prevalence of domestic violence and also to check the awareness of legislative acts and causes.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 illustrates about the Age wise respondents’ classification. 40 respondents were chosen in the (18 - 28) age category and 40 each from (29-38) and (39-49) respectively. (See table 1)

Table – 1

Age	18 – 28	29 – 39	40 – 50	Total
	40 (33.3%)	40 (33.3%)	40 (33.3%)	120 (100%)

In order to identify the degree of the issue, rural and urban areas of Salem were divided and 60 is was chosen. (See table 2)

Table – 2

Area	Rural	Urban	Total
	60 (50%)	60 (50%)	120 (100%)

Age wise classification for the question of prevalence of domestic violence among the age category 4.1% of the women opted for low level and 29.1% of the women respondents come across high level of violences like Battering, raping, beating and other form of heinous violences. (See table 3)

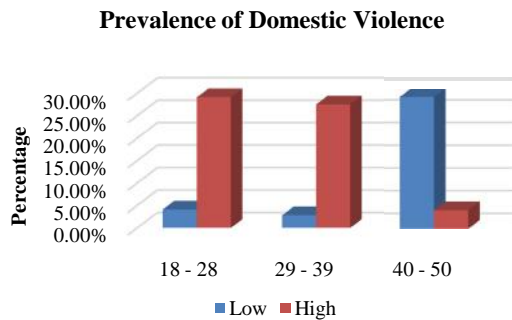
Table – 3

Discussive queries	18 – 28		29 – 39		40 – 50		Total
	L	H	L	H	L	H	
Prevalence of Domestic Violence	5 (4.1%)	35 (29.1%)	7 (5.8%)	33 (27.5%)	35 (29.1%)	5 (4.1%)	120 (100%)
Awareness of law	5 (4.1%)	35 (29.1%)	4 (3.3%)	36 (30.0%)	3 (2.5%)	37 (30.8%)	120 (100%)
Monetary Causes	5 (4.1%)	35 (29.1%)	4 (3.3%)	36 (30.0%)	19 (15.8%)	21 (17.5%)	120 (100%)
Total	40		40		40		120

Among the age category of (29-39), 5.8% of the women respondents come across low level of violence and majority i.e., 27.5% of them come across high level of violence.

In the age group of (40-50), there is significantly low level of domestic violence i.e., 29.1% of the respondents come across low level and 4.1% of them opted for high level. (See table 4)

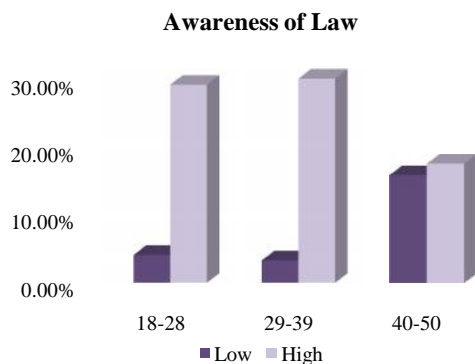
Table – 4



For the question of awareness of domestic violence acts under the age group of (18-28), 4.1% of them opted for low level and 29.1% of the respondents were aware of rules and legislative measures, related to domestic crimes.

Under the age group of (29-39), 3.3% of the respondents were less aware and 30% of them are highly aware of legislations of domestic violence. Under the age group of (40-50), 2.5% of them are less aware and majority i.e., 30.8% of the women respondents are highly aware of laws. The increase of age significantly increases the awareness of law among respondents (See table 5)

Table – 5



For the query of economic or “Monetary” as the cause of domestic violence, under the age group of (18-28). 4.1% opined low level and 29.1% of them responded that pecuniary is the cause of all domestic violence.

Under the age group of (29-39) 3.3% of the respondents opted for low level and 30.0% of them responded positively. In the age group (40-50) it is equal proportion that is 15.8% of them responded for high level. It is observed that increase in the age have significant impact in order to respond for the causes of domestic violence.

Table – 6

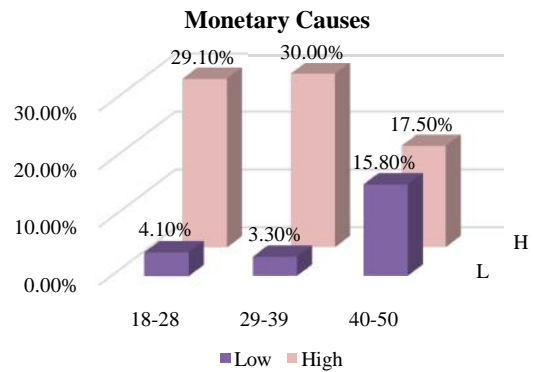


Table – 7 explains about the rural – urban classification by which the research intended to identify the differences of the degree of domestic violence at area level.

Table – 7

Discussive Queries	Rural		Urban		Total
	L	H	L	H	
Prevalence of violence	10 (8.3%)	50 (41.6%)	10 (8.3%)	50 (41.6%)	120 (100%)
Awareness of law	40 (33.3%)	20 (16.6%)	20 (16.6%)	40 (33.3%)	120 (100%)
Monetary Causes	9 (7.5%)	51 (42.5%)	15 (12.5%)	45 (37.5%)	120 (100%)
Total	60		60		120

For the question of prevalence of domestic violence among the rural area respondents 8.3% opined for less level and 41.6% of them responded for high level of violence.

Among urban respondents, 8.3% of them opined low level and 41.6% of the women respondents opted for high level of domestic violence.

Table – 8

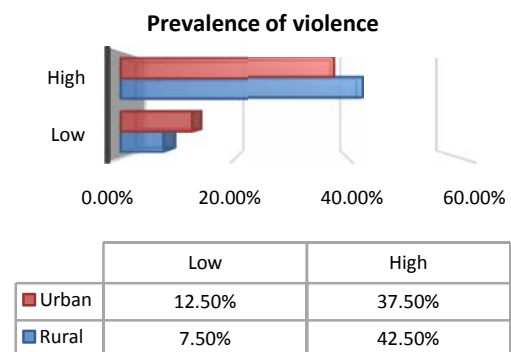


Table – 9

Awareness

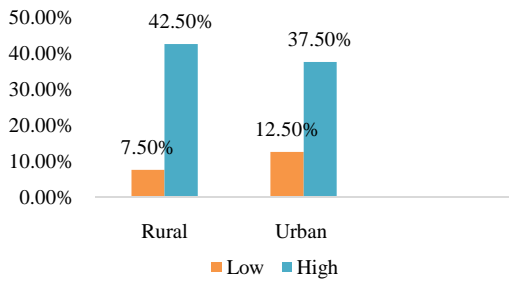
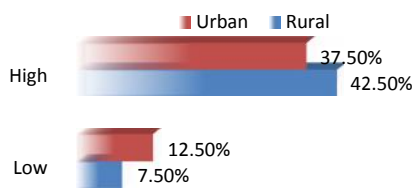


Table – 10

MONETARY CAUSES



For the query of awareness of domestic violence act, 33.3% of the rural respondents opined for low level of awareness and 16.6% of them are highly aware of legislative measures and penalties.

Among the urban respondents, 16.6% of the respondents opted for low awareness and 33.3% of them are highly aware of legal enactments. (Table – 9)

For the question of causes of monetary 7.5% of the rural respondents opted for low level and majority of them responded that domestic violence happens only for extracting money.

Among the urban respondents 12.5% of them opted for low level and 37.5% responded that violence in home happens for money. (See table 10)

Findings

From the above study it is observed that domestic violence is the common cause of concern in the Indian Society. The prevalence of violence is in descending order as per the age classification with the increase in age, the awareness level of legislative enactments is increasing in the sampling area. (See table 3)

It is also observed that rural – urban division doesn't make any significant variation in the happenings of the violence. Regarding the prevalence, awareness and causes of violence, both of the rural and urban respondents opined in the same manner i.e., degree and magnitude of the domestic violence happenings are similar in nature.

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