

PERCEIVED CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MARRIED WOMEN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS & PHYSICAL ILLNESS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Domestic violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violation in the world today. Violation not only causes physical injury, it also undermines the social, economic, psychological, spiritual and emotional well being of the victim, the perpetrator and the society as a whole. The Objective: To assess the magnitude and causes of domestic violence with mental illness & physical illness. Material & Methods: The sample of study comprised of 30 women with mental illness and 30 women with physical illness. Mental illness patient diagnosed according to with Axis one psychiatric Disorder DSM IV-TR, who were selected from the Psychiatry OPD and ward of the S.S. Hospital, BHU and physical illness patient suffering from mild to moderate physical illness as per ICD 10 (WHO), were be selected from the Obstetrics and Gynaecolgy OPD and ward of S.S Hospital. The patients were assessed on the structured questionnaire on Domestic Violence. Results – Domestic violence was significantly higher amongst the mental & physical illness women of educated up to graduation/post graduation and house maker women. The study found out the overall domestic violence in mental & physical illness group was 83.3% & 50%. The prevalence of verbal violence was 21% in mental illness and 8% in physical illness, economical violence was 17% & 6%, physical violence was 21% and 3% and sexual violence was 10% in mental illness. Perceived cause of domestic violence in married women with mental illness compared to those with physical illness.

Key words: Domestic violence, Married women, Mental illness, Physical illness, Family Violence

INTRODUCTION

Women are the major and important source of not only a family but the society. A Woman in

addition to the virtue of self effacement and self sacrifice, the feminine role crystallizes a Women's

connection to others and her embeddedness in a multitude of familial relationship.

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse, and intimate partner violence (IPV), is a pattern of behaviour which involves the abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating or within the family (Shipway Lyn.2004).

Definitions and Key Concepts

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as "any 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 in private life." Violence against women in a well recognized public health problem and human right violence of worldwide significance (UNICEF, 2000). The United Nations broadens the definition of violence by including both the physical and psychological harm done towards women, and it includes acts in both private and public life. The Declaration defines violence against women as encompassing, but not limited to, three areas: violence occurring in the family, within the general community, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the State. Acts of omission are also included as a form of violence against women and girls (UNICEF, 2000).

This Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act (2005) recognizes 4 types of domestic violence such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional or economic abuse. For the purposes of this Act, any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it-

- (a) Harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or
- (b) Harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or
- (c) Has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause(a) or clause (b); or
- (d) Otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person .

The common type of violence against women worldwide is "domestic violence" or the physical, emotional and or sexual abuse of women by their intimate partners, which as reported by World Health Organization (1997) ranged from 20% to as high as 50% in 1997. Globally, it has been estimated that 1 women in 3 has been beaten, forced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime (Bachman & Saltzman, 1995) Mental health sequelae to spousal/intimate partner violence are significant and have

long-term health implications. Battered women were found to have more depressive symptoms than other women (Campbell & Lewandowski, 1997). Sexual violence was associated with a higher severity of depressive symptoms and a higher incidence of suicide attempts in the physically/psychologically abused group (Pico-Alfonso, 2006). Physical violence was a major cause of concern among Indian women (Kaur and Garg, 2010).

Domestic violence has been perceived to be manifestations of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Factors contributing to these unequal power relations include: socioeconomic forces, the family institution where power relation are enforced, fear of and control over female sexuality, belief in the inherent superiority of males, and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and children an independent legal and social status UNICEF (2000).

Domestic spousal violence against women in developing countries like India is now beginning to be recognized as a widespread health problem impeding development. However, there is limited work in this area.

There is a dearth of research tools for assessing the magnitude and pattern of domestic violence.

The causes of domestic violence in the women with medical and / psychiatric illness have not been studied well in the Indian population especially in Northern India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a descriptive study, using a quantitative approach performed. The sample comprised of 30 women with mental illness and 30 women with physical illness at a selected from Psychiatric and Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of OPD and ward of Sir Sunder Lal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh over a period of three months. A convenience sample of 60 women with mental illness and Physical illness women was selected. Inclusion criteria for the present study includes: 1) Age group between 16 to 40 years 2) Subjects who were ready to participate for the interview 3) All the Participant were attending the Psychiatry and Obs. & Gynae OPD/Ward of SSH, BHU. 4) Married female. Exclusion criteria includes: 1) Subjects who had Above 40 year 2) some were not ready to participate in the study 3) Unmarried female and Widow Women. The structured questionnaire was used and sample size was 60, where the data was collected through face to face interview, after taking written informed consent. The subjects were given a brief introduction of the purpose of the study. The study protocol was approves by the Ethics committee. The study sample was assessed using the following instruments.

1. Socio-demographic Performa includes age, education status, type of family, occupational status.
2. Domestic violence questionnaire (Indu et al, 2011) The objective of this questionnaire is to know whether there are such experiences in your marital. This tool consisted is total 20 question.

Reliability of tool was 0.86, which showed that the tool was reliable.

3. Global disability scale for assessment of psychiatric disability (IDEAS) (Thara, 1997). This schedule has been standardized on Indian patients and assesses disability on a number of domains.
4. Questionnaire for perceived cause of domestic violence: A cause of domestic violence instruments have been developed for married women.

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in order to analyze the data using SPSS version 16. Demographic variables containing sample characteristic would be analyze using frequency and percentage. The association between domestic violence and demographic variables by chi square test.

RESULTS

A total 60 women were interviewed.

Table 1: The demographic characteristics.

Table 1a. Socio-demographic characteristic of the sample						
Variable	Mental illness Group (N=30)			Physical illness Group (N=30)		
	Mean	SD	Range	Mean	SD	Range
Age at marriage	18.8	4.1	19.0 (10-29)	18.1	3.4	12 (10-22)
Age now	31.6	6.1	19.0 (21-40)	31.0	6.8	18 (22-40)

The demographic characteristic of sample are shown in Table 1a. The mean age of women with mental and physical illness at the time of marriage was 18.8 ± 4.1 & 18.1 ± 3.4 years. At the time of interview mean age of women with mental and physical illness was 31.6 ± 6.1 & 31.0 ± 6.8 .

Table 1b. Socio-demographic characteristic of the sample				
Variable	Mental illness Group (N=30)		Physical illness Group (N=30)	
	N	%	N	%
Religion				
Hindu	30	100	30	100
Domicile				
Rural	19	63.3	20	66.7
Urban	11	36.7	10	33.3
Type of Family				
Nuclear	10	33.3	6	20
Joint	20	66.7	24	80
Education of the women				
Illiterate	04	13.3	04	13.3
Primary	04	13.3	03	10.0
Middle	06	20.0	00	00.0
High school	02	06.7	06	20.0
Intermediate/Diploma	05	16.7	06	20.0
Graduation/Post graduation	09	30.0	08	26.7
Profession or honours	00	00.0	03	10.0
Occupation of the women				
Professional	00	00.0	4	13.3
semi-skilled worker	1	03.3	00	00.0
housewife/household	29	96.7	26	86.7
Socioeconomic status				
Upper class	3	10.0	00	00.0
Upper middle class	13	43.3	14	46.7
Lower middle class	10	33.3	09	30.0
Upper lower class	04	13.3	07	23.3

Table 2. Prevalence of domestic violence against women with mental and physical illness.

Table 2: Prevalence of domestic violence		
Patient Group	Illness Group (Mental & Physical) (N=60)	
	N	%
Overall domestic violence	40	66.7
Non domestic violence	20	33.3

All participants mental & physical illness women were Hindu. Majority of women with mental and

The study found out the overall prevalence of domestic violence against women was 40(66.7%) (Table:2)

physical illness belong to joint families and were supported by their family members. Majority 30.0% of women with mental illness ha

physical illness came from rural background. Most of the participants 80% of women with

graduation/post graduation. Conversely majority 26.7% of women with physical illness had graduation/post graduation. Most of the participants were housewife and were belong to Upper Middle class (Table:1b).

Table 3. Assessment of domestic violence in mental illness and physical illness women.

Table 3: Assessment of domestic violence				
Domestic Violence	Mental illness Group(N=30)		Physical illness Group(N=30)	
	N	%	N	%
Present	25	83.3	15	50.0
Absent	5	16.7	15	50.0
Table 3: Assessment of domestic violence				
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Absent	5	16.7	15	50.0

Data represented in Table 3 showed the distribution of domestic violence among women with mental and physical illness. The domestic

violence present in married women with mental illness was 25 (83.3%) and physical illness was 15(50.0%).

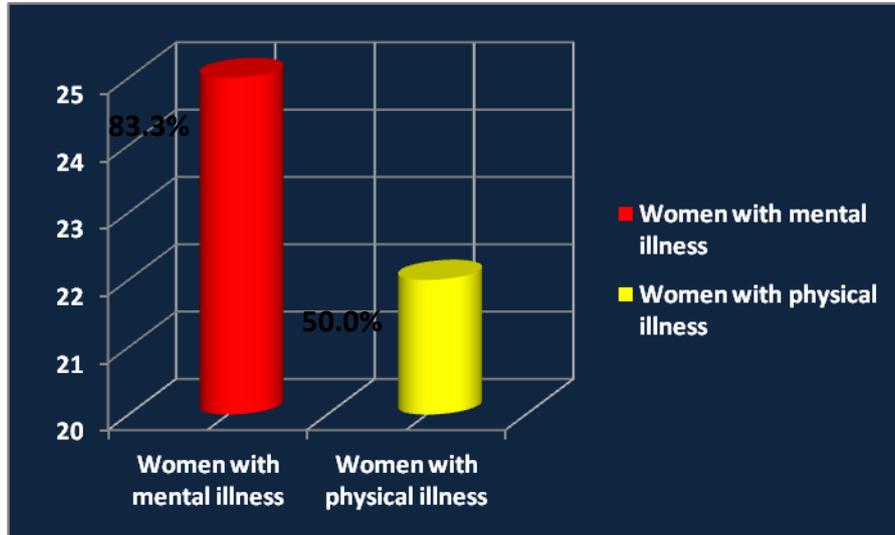


Figure no. 1 bar diagram showing percentage distribution of subject according to domestic violence against women with mental and physical illness.

Table.4 Types of domestic violence against women with mental and physical illness

Variables	Mental illness Group(N=25)		Physical illness Group(N=15)	
	N	%	N	%
Emotional /Verbal violence	21	84.0	8	53.3
Physical violence	21	84.0	3	20.0
Economical violence	17	68.0	6	40.0
Sexual violence	10	40.0	0	00.0

The above table depicts that majority of domestic violence against women was as follows: physical & emotional violence was 84% in mental illness.

Conversely emotional/verbal violence was 53.3% in physical illness (Table.4).

Table 5: Clinical Characteristics of women with mental and physical illness.

Table 5: Clinical Characteristics of sample					
Variables	Mental illness Group(N=30)		Variables	Physical illness Group(N=30)	
	N	%		N	%
Schizophrenia	10	33.3	Abnormal uterine bleeding	10	33.3
Depression	07	23.3	Fibroid uterus	07	23.3
Bipolar disorder	03	10.0	Gastritis	03	10.0
OCD	02	06.7	Vaginitis	03	10.0
Conversion disorders	02	06.7	Urinary infection	03	10.0
Anxiety	03	10.0	Vaginal infection	04	13.3
MDD	02	06.7			
Mania	01	03.3			

Table 5 showed that Majority of 10(33.3%) women with mental illness were suffered from schizophrenia. And 10(33.3%) women with physical illness were suffered from abnormal uterine bleeding.

Table 6: Comparison of disability score in married women with mental and physical illness group.

Table 6. Comparison of patient group on disability score				
Variables	Mental illness Group(N=30)		Physical illness Group(N=30)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Global disability	10.1	2.3	6.7	3.8

Table 6. Showed that the mean disability of women with mental and physical illness was 10.1 ± 2.3 & 6.7 ± 3.8 .

Table. 7 Causes of domestic violence against women with mental and physical illness.

Table 7: Causes of domestic violence					
		Mental illness Group(N=25)		Physical illness Group(N=15)	
S.no	Variable	N	%	N	%
1	Unable to perform domestic chores	20	80.0	9	60.0
2	Remain mentally sick, so husband does not like you	13	52.0	0	00.0
3	Dowry is one of the cause which creates violence in the family	11	44.0	3	20.0
4	Other family members complain about her behavior	11	44.0	0	00.0
5	Husband is not find time to know the truth & starts scolding	11	44.0	3	20.0
6	Not good sex partner which cause for domestic violence	10	40.0	0	00
7	Husband has got approved by the family to do anything wrong or right against you	10	40.0	0	00
8	Husband does not like you and creates problem	10	40.0	0	00
9	Poverty, which is cause violence	9	36.0	3	20.0
10	Husband is greedy and demands money	9	36.0	3	20.0
11	Her husband considers himself to be more powerful	9	36.0	6	40.0
12	Not spends money on your treatment, causes domestic violence	9	36.0	3	20.0
13	Husband has low frustration tolerance by nature	9	36.0	3	20.0
14	Husband considers being a male so he dominates	8	32.0	6	40.0

15	Slow which causes unsatisfactory performance it gives rise to domestic violence	8	32.0	0	00
16	Husband as extramarital affair which causes domestic violence.	7	28.8	0	00
17	Husband use cannabis/dependence which causes domestic violence	6	24.0	0	00
18	Other members force to beat	5	20.0	0	00
19	The members of family put allegation for not respecting the elders	5	20.0	0	00
19	Wants to get rid of and creates domestic violence	5	20.0	0	00
20	Not liked by your husband on account of less education	4	16.0	0	00
21	Not good looking women in the eyes of husband	4	16.0	0	00
22	Unable to take care of children	3	12.0	0	00
23	Male child is preferred over the female child	2	8.0	3	20.0
24	Husband involve in any antisocial activities	2	8.0	0	00
25	Husband taking drug abuse which causes domestic violence	2	8.0	0	00

The majority of causes of domestic violence showed that 20(80%) women with mental illness and 9(60%) women with physical illness though that she was unable to performed domestic chores . 13(52.0%) women with mental illness remain mentally sick, so husband did not like & 11(44%) told that Dowry was one of the cause which created violence in the family, Other family members complaint about her behavior and also

Husband was not found time to know the truth & started scolding. Conversely 3(20%) women with physical illness thought that Dowry was one of the cause which created violence in the family, Husband was not found time to know the truth, Poverty, Husband was greedy, demands money and not spends money on the treatment, Husband has low frustration tolerance by nature & Male

child is preferred over the female child causes domestic violence (Table-7).

DISCUSSION

The present study was aimed to assess the Domestic violence in married women with mental and physical illness. It should be emphasized that no studies were found that the assessment of domestic violence in married women with mental and physical illness. Future research in this area should focus on qualitative studies including larger sample size.

The finding of the study showed that the assessment of domestic violence married women with mental and physical illness score among 60 subjects of the women, total distribution among given population 25 (83.3%) women with mental illness & 15 (50.0%) women with physical illness. Domestic violence in the married women with mental illness is largely due to stigma for mental illness.

Global disability and perceived cause of domestic violence of women with mental illness is more than women with physical illness.

CONCLUSION

According to the result obtained from the research, the domestic violence in women is quite high where as domestic violence in women with mental illness is more than women with physical illness. Domestic Violence in the married women with mental illness was largely due to stigma for mental illness.

Education on prevention of domestic violence exposures provides unique opportunities of the individual. Conduct home visits to the all family members to recognize any other factors leading for domestic violence. Need counseling services to protect their health and prevention of domestic violence. The study findings imply that there is need for health education programmed to be carried out to create awareness among the women regarding domestic violence and their risk.

The health care personnel should be given an opportunity to update their knowledge regarding domestic violence and need education for domestic violence and cessation, so that they can help the women to protect/prevent domestic violence. Health care personnel should participate in domestic violence relate seminars, group discussions, conferences and workshops so they can get the additional knowledge and skilled about it.

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