

## Domestic Violence and Its Contributory factors among Married Women in Selected Urban Slums of Bangalore

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### Abstract

*Background:* Domestic violence against married women is prevalent in our society. Reported cases of domestic violence against women and homicide of women by their intimate partners represents only the tip of the iceberg and most of the cases are submerged, allegedly invisible to society. *Aim:* To study the proportion and contributory factors for domestic violence against married women. *Methodology:* Cross-sectional descriptive study was done for a period of two months (1<sup>st</sup> Feb to 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2016). Houses where married women were residing was listed and selected using simple random technique and only one married women was interviewed using well designed pretested questionnaires after considering inclusion and exclusion criteria and obtaining written informed consent. Percentage and chi square tests were used to analyse the data. *Results:* Results showed 186 (33.8%) of married women experienced domestic violence in last one year in our study area, of them majority faced verbal abuse (96.7%) followed by emotional abuse (78.4%). Women who experienced domestic violence, most of them studied till high school (34.4%), more than half of them were living in nuclear family (60%) and unemployed (56.4%). Majority told domestic violence was by their husbands (73.11%) and more among the women whose husbands are unemployed (57.6%) ( $P < 0.05$ ) and 46% of women experiences domestic violence at least once in a week. Husbands habit of substance abuse (48.9%) was observed as common reason for domestic violence and commonly seen among women whose husbands are addicted to alcohol and this association was significant statistically ( $P < 0.05$ )

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence; Married Women; Urban Slums.

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### Introduction

Violence against women is present in every country, across the boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though many societies prohibit violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the grab of cultural practices and norms or through misinterpretations of religious tenets [1].

Data from different surveys indicate a high prevalence of domestic violence against women in all societies [2]. Reported cases of domestic violence against women represent only a very small part of the problem when compared with prevalence data. Reported cases of domestic violence against women and homicide of women by their intimate partners represents only the tip of the iceberg and many cases are submerged, allegedly invisible to society [3].

This suggests that we are not dealing very well with this problem and it is important to further understand why female victims of domestic violence don't report or don't seek help [4].

In India, Protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005 is intended to protect women from domestic violence of any kind including dowry related harassment. Even a threat of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse would attract penal

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action against the provision of the act It has long been considered a 'private' affair and has contributed to the serious gap in public health policy making and the lack of appropriate programmes [5].

In view of the above facts present study was undertaken to study the proportion and different forms of domestic violence against married women and its contributory factors in selected urban slums in North Bangalore.

## Methodology

The study was carried out for a period of 2 months (February and March 2016) in selected urban slums which come under field practice area of Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore. The information was collected using predesigned questionnaires to assess both current and past episodes of domestic violence in past one year and its contributing factors by personally interviewing married women after considering inclusion and exclusion criteria and obtaining informed consent. Based on pilot study conducted, the prevalence of domestic violence among married women was 42%. Assuming the prevalence rate of 42% at 95% confidence level and 10% of allowable error, the sample size required was 530.

Complete list of houses was prepared in area in which married women are residing (750 houses listed). Houses were selected using simple random sampling technique by lottery method. In each selected house only one married women (youngest one) was interviewed after obtaining written informed consent. Values was statistically analyzed by percentages and chi square.

## Inclusion Criteria

Married woman since at least a year residing with husband and give informed consent to participate in study.

## Exclusion Criteria

Subjects who are unable to provide information and did not give consent.

## Results

Five hundred and fifty (550) married women were involved in the study. From the results gotten, majority (35%) were in age group of 25 - 34 years, 35% of them studied till high school, 55% were unemployed and 32.2% of them had monthly family income of Rs. 3000 to <6000. Many (47.2%) got married at the age of 18 to 20 years and around 37% of women got married less than 18 years of age. Most of them (63%) were living in nuclear families.

Out of 550 study subjects, 186 (33.8%) of married women experienced domestic violence in last one year in our study area. Women who experienced domestic violence, most of them were in age group of 25 to 34 years (40.4%) and studied till high school (34.4%), more than half of them were living in nuclear family (60%) and unemployed (56.4%).

Domestic violence was more among the women whose husbands were unemployed at least since past 3 months from the time of study (57.6%) and this association was significant statistically ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table1).

**Table 1:** Domestic violence and related variables

Study Variable	Domestic violence		P Value
	Yes	Total	
<b>Age groups (years)</b>			
15 - 24	35 (35%)	100	P = > 0.05
25 - 34	78 (40.4%)	193	
35 - 44	36 (30%)	119	
45 - 54	18 (26%)	69	
55 & above	19 (27%)	69	
<b>Women Education</b>			
Illiterate	56 (32.7%)	171	P = > 0.05
Primary	52 (41%)	127	
High school	64 (47.4%)	135	
PUC/Diploma	11 (25%)	44	
Graduate	3 (33%)	9	
<b>Employment status of Husband</b>			
Employed	156 (31.3%)	498	P = < 0.05
Unemployed	30 (57.6%)	52	

<b>Type of Family</b>			
Nuclear	106 (30.5%)	347	P = > 0.05
Joint	32 (42.6%)	75	
Three generation	48 (37.5%)	128	
<b>Husband habits</b>			
Alcohol abuse	139 (65%)	214	P = < 0.05
Tobacco use	108 (54.2%)	191	P = < 0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>186 (33.8%)</b>	<b>550</b>	

**Table 2:** Distribution of study subjects based on type of Domestic violence

Type of violence	Number (Percentage)
Physical abuse	87 (46.7%)
Verbal abuse	180 (96.7%)
Sexual abuse	15 (8%)
Emotional abuse	146 (78.4%)

**Table 3:** Distribution of study subjects based on persons committing domestic violence

Persons	Number (Percentage)
Husband	136 (73.1%)
Mother in Law	38 (20.4%)
Father in Law	02 (1%)
Sister in law	01 (0.5%)
Children	11 (6%)

**Table 4:** Distribution of study subjects based on frequency of Domestic violence

Frequency	Number (Percentage)
Daily	56 (30%)
Once a week	85 (46%)
Once in two weeks	22 (11.8%)
Once in a month	10 (5.3%)
Once in 3 months	11 (6%)
Rarely	2 (1%)

**Table 5:** Distribution of study subjects based on reasons for domestic violence

Reasons	Number (Percentage)
Women not earning	12 (6.4%)
Dowry demand	14 (7.5%)
Husband habit of substance abuse	91 (48.9%)
Husband spends most of money on substance abuse	26 (13.9%)
Preference of male child	10 (5.3%)
Gambling habit in husband	12 (6.4%)
Women asking money from husband	04 (2%)
Women having extramarital affair	15 (8%)
Husband having extramarital affair	02 (1%)

Majority of them faced verbal abuse (96.7%) followed by emotional abuse (78.4%) (Table 2). Many of them told domestic violence was by their husbands (73.11%) followed by mother in law (20.4%) (Table 3) and 46% of these women faces domestic violence at least once in a week (Table 4).

Husbands habit of substance abuse (48.9%) was observed as common reason for domestic violence and commonly seen among women whose husbands are addicted to alcohol and this

association was significant statistically ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 5).

### Discussion

In India Domestic Violence act 2005 is intended to protect women from domestic violence of any kind but the problem is still prevalent in India. The present study found that 186 (33.8%) of married

women experienced domestic violence in last one year in our study area and of them majority faced verbal abuse (96.7%) followed by emotional abuse (78.4%). A similar study conducted by sandeepkaur et al. [6] (2014) married women in slum area of ludhiana, India showed more than half (61.3%) of study participants reported to experienced domestic violence of them majority faced physical abuse (78.3%) followed by sexual abuse (57%). Another by Gaikwad V et al. [5] (2011) in rural Bangalore revealed out of the 257 women, 76 (29.57%) women reported domestic violence of them 81.58% faced verbal abuse.

In present study many study subjects told domestic violence was by their husbands (73.11%) followed by mother in law (20.4%) and similar results were seen in a study conducted by sandeepkaur et al. [6] (2014) and Ali T.S. et al. [7] (2007) where husband was main person committing domestic violence

In our study we found husbands habit of substance abuse (46%) was common reason for domestic violence and commonly seen among women whose husbands are addicted to alcohol and this association was significant statistically ( $p < 0.05$ ). similar results observed in studies done by Sandeepkaur et al. [6] (2014) and Chandrasekaran V et al. [8] (2007).

#### *Conflicting Interest*

None

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