RESEARCH ARTICLE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN JHARKHAND

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ABSTRACT

A large number of persons in India have been victim of domestic violence. Usually it occurs more to women. In our study, we have measured status of domestic violence among women in Jharkhand State. The main objective of my study is to measure the percentage of women who are victimized in various types of domestic violence and its comparison in respect to all India level. The relationship of the incidences of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables is also found. For this study, I have used NFHS-3 data of Jharkhand state and the sample size is 853 reproductive aged (15-49 years) married women. Background characteristics such as place of residence, women's and their husband's educational status, women's occupational status and wealth index of the family are linked to domestic violence. Bivariate analyses are used to find the causes of domestic violence. Categorical logistic regression is carried out to predict the domestic violence with the selected independent variables. The major finding of the data is that occurrence of domestic violence is more in Jharkhand in comparison with India. The incidences of domestic violence are found to be very low among the higher educated men and women and richest families. It is also interesting to know that, among the professionals or service holding women, the percentage of occurrence of physical violence is very high compared to other occupational categories of women and this result is statistically significant.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence as "anything that is experienced as fearful, controlling and threatening when used by those with power (invariably men) against those without power (Ravindran, 1991)". So it is a problem when one partner in an intimate relationship abuses the other. It not only includes inter-spousal violence but also violence between the family members i.e. among husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father, grandparent or any other family members. Anyone can be a victim or victimizer. But in India, violence against women generally happens due to subordinate status of women. It is one of the common and pervasive forms of violence and is estimated to effect between 13 % and 61 % of women globally (WHO, 2005). Generally the women and girl child experience repeated abuse during their whole life. Within the mother's womb, it takes in the form of female infanticide by sex-selective abortion, under-nutrition and low education during childhood and finally early marriage which leads to pathways of different forms of assaulted situation in their life. Recently Ahuja (1998) and Visaria (1999) have studied on domestic violence within inter-spousal relationship. Visarias studies in Gujarat and established the socio-economic relationship with domestic violence.

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Mainly, the violence is categorized into four types like physical, sexual, emotional or a combination of all three. Ahuza (1998) found in his study variety of physical violence like slapping, kicking, tearing hair, pushing and pulling, hitting with an object, attempting to strangulate and threatening. He noticed also several forms of emotional violence like severe restrictions on freedom of movement, totally ignoring the wife in decision-making processes, making frequent complaints against her to her parents, friends, neighbors, and kin much to the embarrassment of the wife. Some of the reasons given by the women were financial matters, behaviour with in-laws, back-biting, talking to any male without the liking of the husband, asking for money, preventing him from drinking and husbands personality traits.

One of the main cause of prevalence of domestic violence and its continuation is the lack of alternatives among the victims. Women and children may be economically dependent on users. Elderly people and children may feel too powerless to escape. Language or cultural barriers may isolate victims from seeking help. The most common causes of domestic violence are dissatisfaction with the dowry, refusing to have sex with husband, not cooking well and in time, not looking in-laws or infertility. Internationally, it is the situation when one in three women have been beaten, forced into sex or abused in their lifetime by a member of her own family (Heise *et al.,* 1993). In India, domestic violence against women is a widespread problem. Around 70 % of women in India are victims of

domestic violence (Chowdhury, 2005). According to National Crime record that a case of cruelty done by either husband or relative occurs in one by every nine minutes. Though in India, its prevalence varies regionally. Regional differences may arise due to subdued status of women in the society or in the family mostly in different regions of the country. For example, domestic violence is more in northern region than southern region as in the northern region, women have no economical descendent opportunity from their parents where as in southern states, and women are powerful in their economic inheritance from their parents. Beyond this patriarchal inheritance, domestic violence is also dependent on many other socio-economic factors like educational status, family structure, women's occupational status etc. In India, Jharkhand is the state with the highest percentage of illiterate women. The dowry system among the bridal party is very prevalent here, so a chance of women status or autonomy is very low. Babu and Kar (2009) have found the high rate of domestic violence in eastern India, mainly in Jharkhand state of India. Besides this, in Jharkhand, 46.2 % people belong in below poverty line (Census, 2001). Though it has one of the richest mineral reserves, yet there is great regional and social disparity within the state. Our focus of study is thus concentrated in Jharkhand. The main objective of the study is (i) to study the nature and extent of victimized women by various types of domestic violence and compare it with respect to all India level and (ii) to identify the correlation of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For this study, we have used the National Family Health Survey (NFHS – III) data conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, in 2005-06. They collected data on reproductive aged women of (15-49) years of 29 states in India. This survey includes only ever-married reproductive aged women of Jharkhand state. The sample size is only 853. The domestic violence against women has been assessed on three aspects like emotional, physical and sexual violence done by their husbands. Emotional violence are based on the criteria of (i) 'jealous if talking with other men, (ii) accused for unfaithfulness, (iii) does not permit her to meet her girl friends, (iv) tries to limit her contact with family, (v) tries to knowing where she is; (vi) does not trust her with money.

Physical violence includes the criteria of (i) 'ever pushed shook or threw something; (ii) ever slapped; (iii) ever kicked or dragged; (iv) ever threatened or attacked with a knife; (v) ever twisted her arm or pull her hair; (vi) ever tried to strangle or burn and sexual violence includes (i) ever physically forced sex when not wanted and (ii) ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted. The background explanatory variables for domestic violence against women are: (i) educational attainment of women and (ii) their husbands, (iii) type of places, (iv) occupational categories of women and (v) wealth index of the family. To see the picture of different aspects of domestic violence against women and its relationship with different criteria of socio-economic variables in Jharkhand state, percentages are found and through these Univariate and bi-variate tables has been made. Categorical Logistic regression has been carried out to see the simultaneous effect of covariates on domestic violence. The dependent variables are dichotomous. The reference categories for different independent variables are 'illiteracy' for women and their husbands, 'rural' residence, 'no occupation' for women' and 'poorest wealth index'. The statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS, version 16.0) has been used for all the analysis. Significance of levels of 'p' values has been considered to see the degree of effect of each variable on the domestic violence.

RESULTS

Table 1 gives the percentages of different types of emotional violence against women which were committed by their husbands in Jharkhand state using data on 853 ever-married women. It is seen that out of six variables to judge the emotional violence in Jharkhand, 27.2 % husbands are jealous if seen talking their wife with other men, 9.0 % husband accused for unfaithfulness, 16.4 % husband tried to limit their wives contact with family and 22.3 % husband tried to locate their wife's current location and percentages of these four variables are more than that of all India percentages. But in respect of two variables like intermingle of their wives with the girl friends and not trusting wife with money, the percentages are less than all India figures. Table 2 presents the percentage of victimized women with physical and sexual violence's done by their husbands in Jharkhand and its comparison with total India.

Table 1. Experiences of different kinds of emotional violence among 15-49 aged women in Jharkhand and India

States	N	Emotional violence done by husbands (percentage) regarding ----					
		Jealous if talking with other men	Accused for unfaithful-ness	Does not permit her to meet her girl friends	Tries to limit her contact with family	Tries to knowing where she is	Does not trust her with money
Jharkhand	853	27.2	9.0	11.1	16.4	22.3	13.5
India	21632	22.3	7.4	14.8	7.8	12.5	16.2

Table 2. Experiences of different kinds of physical and sexual violence among 15-49 aged women in Jharkhand and India

States	N	Physical violence (percentage) regarding						sexual violence (percentage) regarding	
		Ever pushed, shook or threw something	Ever slapped	Ever kicked or dragged	Ever threatened or attacked with a knife	Ever twisted her arm or pull her hair	Ever tried to strangle or burn	Ever physically forced sex when not wanted	Ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted
Jharkhand	853	16.2	36.2	13.0	1.6	18.9	2.7	10.7	1.4
India	21615	12.0	28.9	8.7	1.3	13.4	1.6	7.4	2.8

Table 3. Relationship between different kinds of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables among 15-49 aged women in Jharkhand

Socio-economic variables	Emotional violence (percentage)						Physical violence (percentage)						Sexual Violence (percentage)	
	Jealous if talking with Other men	Accused for unfaithfulness	Does not permit her to meet her girl friends	Tries to limit her contact with family	Tries to knowing where she is	Does not trust her with money	Ever pushed, shook or threw something	Ever slapped	Ever kicked or dragged	Ever threatened or attacked with a knife	Ever twisted her arm or pull her hair	Ever tried to strangle or burn	Ever physically forced sex when not wanted	Ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted
Husband's education														
Illiterate	24.7	8.4	13.9	19.9	23.3	12.5	16.6	40.9	12.8	2.0	20.0	2.0	12.2	1.0
Primary	32.1	10.7	9.8	10.7	17.9	15.2	23.2	43.8	17.9	0.9	25.0	3.6	10.7	0.0
Secondary	30.7	9.7	10.9	15.5	21.2	14.9	16.0	34.4	13.8	1.7	18.3	3.4	10.9	2.0
Higher	12.5	2.5	1.2	12.5	21.2	7.5	6.2	16.2	5.0	1.2	6.2	1.2	3.8	2.5
Place														
Rural	23.6	10.0	13.9	18.0	24.8	16.7	15.7	38.7	13.7	1.5	18.4	2.6	12.8	7.5
Urban	29.3	7.3	6.4	13.7	17.9	8.0	16.9	31.9	11.8	1.9	19.8	2.9	7.0	1.3
Respondent's education														
Illiterate	28.6	10.2	12.6	18.2	22.8	15.2	18.6	41.7	15.2	2.0	22.1	3.5	11.5	0.9
Primary	31.4	9.8	14.7	15.7	20.6	12.7	21.6	41.2	14.7	2.0	22.5	2.9	13.7	2.0
Secondary	24.3	6.5	6.5	13.5	23.2	10.8	8.1	22.2	7.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	7.6	2.2
Higher	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.8	7.7	0.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Respondent's occupation														
No occupation	23.7	9.1	8.1	13.1	19.4	13.4	12.3	27.5	8.3	0.8	13.6	2.5	6.8	0.5
Professional	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	28.6	14.3	14.3	14.3
Clerical/sales	29.3	12.1	13.8	19.0	20.7	12.1	27.6	41.4	20.7	1.7	31.0	3.4	13.8	3.4
Agriculture	29.5	6.4	12.8	17.6	26.3	12.5	16.7	42.9	12.8	1.3	20.6	1.3	13.1	1.0
Skilled/unskilled/manual	36.7	17.7	19.0	25.3	14.1	20.3	24.1	50.6	30.4	6.3	29.1	7.6	17.7	5.1
Wealth Index														
Poorest	29.3	11.0	17.0	20.2	26.7	17.8	19.9	43.2	15.7	2.1	22.8	2.6	15.4	1.8
Poorer	37.4	9.4	12.2	18.0	27.3	17.3	15.8	41.7	15.1	2.9	19.4	4.3	10.1	1.4
Middle	30.2	12.3	4.7	17.0	18.9	12.3	17.0	37.7	15.1	0.9	23.6	4.7	10.4	0.9
Richer	20.6	6.1	5.3	11.5	16.0	5.3	13.0	29.0	8.4	0.0	15.3	0.8	4.6	0.8
Richest	9.5	1.1	1.1	5.3	9.5	3.2	5.3	8.4	3.2	1.1	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Table 4. Relationship between different kinds of domestic violence with different state of husband and wife's educational qualification among 15-49 aged women in Jharkhand

Combination of Husband and wife's educational variable		Emotional violence (percentage)						Physical violence (percentage)						Sexual Violence (percentage)	
Husband	Wife	Jealous if talking with Other men	Accused for unfaithfulness	Does not permit her to meet her girl friends	Tries to limit her contact with family	Tries to knowing where she is	Does not trust her with money	Ever pushed, shook or threw something	Ever slapped	Ever kicked or dragged	Ever threatened or attacked with a knife	Ever twisted her arm or pull her hair	Ever tried to strangle or burn	Ever physically forced sex when not wanted	Ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted
Illiterate	Illiterate	24.1	11.2	13.5	20.7	24.4	12.0	16.5	39.8	13.2	2.3	19.6	2.3	11.3	0.8
Illiterate	Primary	29.2	13.3	16.7	12.5	12.5	16.7	20.8	58.3	12.5	0.0	25.0	0.0	20.8	4.2
Illiterate	Secondary	33.3	22.2	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	16.7	0.0
Illiterate	Higher	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Primary	Illiterate	31.1	10.3	6.7	10.0	12.2	16.7	22.2	45.6	17.8	0.0	26.7	4.4	11.1	0.0
Primary	Primary	38.9	6.1	22.2	11.1	44.4	11.1	27.8	38.9	16.7	5.6	22.2	0.0	5.6	0.0
Primary	Secondary	25.0	3.2	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
Primary	Higher	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Secondary	Illiterate	34.2	9.3	14.3	16.8	22.4	18.6	21.1	43.5	18.6	3.1	23.6	5.6	12.4	1.9
Secondary	Primary	32.7	6.6	12.7	18.2	16.4	12.7	20.0	34.5	16.4	1.8	20.0	5.5	14.5	1.8
Secondary	Secondary	26.6	2.2	6.2	13.3	21.9	11.7	8.6	24.2	7.0	0.0	11.7	0.0	7.8	2.3
Secondary	Higher	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Higher	Illiterate	12.5	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Higher	Primary	40.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Higher	Secondary	17.4	2.1	2.2	13.0	9.1	8.7	6.5	17.4	6.5	0.0	4.3	0.0	4.3	2.2
Higher	Higher	4.5	1.3	0.0	4.5	21.4	0.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

Table 5. Categorical logistic regression between different kinds of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables among 15-49 aged women in Jharkhand

Socio-economic variables	Emotional violence						Physical violence						Sexual Violence	
	Jealous if talking with Other men	Accused for unfaithful-ness	Does not permit her to meet her girl friends	Tries to limit her contact with family	Tries to knowing where she is	Does not trust her with money	Ever pushed, shook or threw something	Ever slapped	Ever kicked or dragged	Ever threatened or attacked with a knife	Ever twisted her arm or pull her hair	Ever tried to strangle or burn	Ever physically forced sex when not wanted	Ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted
Husband's education														
Illiterate®	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Primary	1.506	1.403	0.763	0.527	0.765	1.446	1.760*	1.248	1.225	1.756	1.526	2.062	0.961	0.000
Secondary	1.722	1.786	1.151	1.03	1.017	2.010	1.682*	1.243	1.842*	2.029	1.573*	4.123	1.298	3.232
Higher	1.995	0.998	0.363	1.183	2.530*	2.699	1.220	1.365	2.109	1.411	1.212	0.000	0.934	5.367
Place														
Rural ®	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Urban	1.412	1.012	0.983	1.289	1.376	0.765	2.508**	2.032**	2.522**	1.718	3.108**	1.346	1.376	1.844
Respondent's education														
Illiterate®	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Primary	1.118	1.057	1.658	0.985	1.040	0.918	1.198	1.019	1.117	0.955	1.016	0.688	1.531	3.060
Secondary	1.082	0.871	1.134	0.971	1.753	0.929	0.439*	0.580*	0.810	0.506	0.571*	0.00	1.342	4.217
Higher	0.352	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.915	0.000	0.088	0.062	0.468	0.120	0.120	0.000	1.483	5.783
Respondent's occupation														
No occupation®	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Professional	0.000	0.00	0.00	17.059**	0.000	0.000	26.653*	11.732*	7.046	44.04**	41.058*	1.204	11.299	30.375
Clerical/sales	1.132	1.164	1.542	1.342	0.903	0.693	2.402*	1.539	1.873	2.538*	2.463**	1.373	1.764	4.691
Agriculture	1.098	0.389**	0.782	1.027	1.127	0.425**	1.221	1.657*	1.698	1.314*	1.568*	0.345	1.237	1.383
Skilled/unskilled/manual	1.728	1.489	1.376	1.578	1.053	1.047	1.813	2.166**	3.288**	4.042**	2.205*	2.602	2.039*	13716**
Wealth Index														
Poorest®	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Poorer	1.240	0.653	0.627	0.863	0.928	0.732	0.618	0.944	0.619	0.887	0.691	1.450	0.530*	0.383
Middle	0.839	0.826	0.224**	0.741	0.480*	0.464*	0.534	0.743	0.566	0.806	0.704	1.369	0.504	0.206
Richer	0.459*	0.340*	0.241**	0.395*	0.321**	0.168**	0.354**	0.478*	0.222**	0.383*	0.346**	1.188	0.172**	0.063
Richest	0.218**	0.077*	0.073*	0.146**	0.094**	0.105**	0.188**	0.139**	0.051**	0.165*	0.044**	0.228	0.030**	0.031

® = Reference category; ** significant at 1% level; * significant at 5% level

It is seen that 36.2 %women are ever slapped by their husbands. In respect of other physical assaults like ever-pushed, shook or threw something, kicking, threatened or attacked with a knife or twisting of arm, burning, and even physically forced sex, percentages of victims are more in Jharkhand than in all India. Table 3 describes the relationship between different kinds of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables. It is seen that among the higher educated husbands, percentage of emotional, physical and sexual violence are more controlled than illiterate, primary or secondary educated husbands except for putting restriction to contact with her family and knowing wife's current location.

Incidence of emotional violence is more in rural areas but in case of physical and sexual violence, magnitude of difference between rural and urban areas is very small. In case respondent's education, percentage of victimized women are very few among the higher educated women in all three types of domestic violence except for the case where women were forced to do unwanted sexual act. In relation to respondent's occupation and emotional violence, it is seen that percentage of victimized women is 0.0 % among the professional group. Besides professional women, it is the highest among the skilled / unskilled or manual labored women.

It is very interesting to note that among the professional women and manual or skilled and unskilled workers, physical or sexual violence are very high compares to other categories of women. According to wealth index categories, it is seen that all types of violence like emotional, physical and sexual violence are indirectly related with wealth index of the family. The lowest percentages are found in the richest category of families Table 4 describes the association between different kinds of domestic violence with combination of husband's and wives educational status. It is seen that that the incidence of domestic violence against women are the least one, the wife is highly educated. Husband's educational level also has same effect. But it is not clear whether the combinations of husband and wife's education have any effect on the domestic violence against wife. Table 5 is statistically justifies the association between different types of domestic violence with different socio-economic variables. It is seen that the result is statistically significant among the higher educated husband where physical violence like physical torture to their wives by them are more than illiterate husband. The result shows that among the urban women, physical violence is more than rural women and it is statistically significant at 1% level of significance. Regarding women's education, as women's education increases, both the emotional and physical violence are more or less decreasing excepting sexual violence and the result is statistically significant at 1 % level of significant. Regarding women's occupation, among the professional women, husband always tries to limit her contact with paternal family and this result is statistically significant at 1% level of significance. Among the professional women, physical violence is 11 to 44 times higher than non-working women and the result is statistically significant at 1% level of significant. Wealth index shows systematic decreasing tendency of violence almost in all the aspects. It can be noticed that the incidence of domestic violence is the least for almost all the aspects of violence when the wife has no occupation at all. This is possibly because women are automatically subdued or non-empowered when they do not have any occupation. So the husbands do not have much scope for violence.

DISCUSSION

The above results clearly indicate that in Jharkhand state, in respect of different types of domestic violence, the situation are worst compared to all India figures. It is seen that higher education has an impact on reducing emotional violence among the women but on the contrary, it is also seen that higher (above secondary) educated women are forced to do unwanted sexual act. Another interesting feature is that among the professional group of women, physical violence is very high and their husband always tries to limit their contact with their paternal family. The result also shows that good economic condition in the family has a positive impact in reducing the all types' domestic violence against women in Jharkhand. If both husband and wife becomes higher educated then all types of domestic violence decrease. The reason for high domestic violence in Jharkhand is that 40 % people are under-privileged groups i.e. 28 % are tribal and 12 % are Scheduled Castes (Census, 2011).

Since the state has high concentration of large tribal population as it is apprehended that they are the most deprived section of the society though we have not however taken any caste data for our analysis. Here female literacy rate is the lowest 56 % (Census, 2011) compared to all India level. It is also seen from my study that high wealth index is positively related with the low occurrence of domestic violence, so it can be said that as it is poor privileged state in India, that is why, domestic violence is higher than India. From my study it is seen that professional women are abused highly by physical violence. This study coincides with the study of Stark et al. 1988 and Lenvison, 1989 where housewives have lower risk of physical violence than employed women.

It is seen that basic education is not the factor for reducing the domestic violence because excepting both higher educated couple combination, other educational combination of couples, education is not much effective on reducing domestic violence. So it can be said that domestic violence is not only related to status or education, it is certainly dependent on psychological factor. It can be traced from insecurity, deprivation and stress. So it can be said that not only literacy, only higher education for both the partners is one of the basic factor for eradication of domestic violence in the society but other hidden cultural and psychological factors are also responsible for domestic violence in the family. Finally it can be said that general upliftment of economic condition is necessary for reducing the domestic violence in the society.

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