



Domestic Violence and Subjective Well Being Among The Women Professionals And House Wives

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ABSTRACT

Domestic Violence can be described as when one adult in a relationship misuses power to control another. It is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. The violence may involve physical abuse, sexual assault and threats. Sometimes it's more subtle, like making someone feel worthless, not letting them have any money, or not allowing them to leave the home. Social isolation and emotional abuse can have long-lasting effects as well as physical violence. Many women in India are the victims of domestic abuse. Innumerable women who silently suffer assaults and abuses everyday inside every second home across the country can now perhaps look forward to a remedy that protects their vulnerable position. The phenomenon of domestic violence is widely prevalent but has remained largely unseen. The present study concludes that moderate level of domestic violence was found among both working professionals and house wives. The subjective well being was found to be moderate among the working professionals and high among the house wives. However, not much difference is noticed between these two categories of women with respect to domestic violence and subjective wellbeing.

KEYWORDS

Domestic Violence, Subjective Well Being, Women Professionals, House Wives.

INTRODUCTION

Women in India now participate in all activities such as education, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology, etc. The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), non discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), and equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. (Article 42).

Many women in India are the victims of domestic abuse. Innumerable women who silently suffer assaults and abuses everyday inside every second home across the country can now perhaps look forward to a remedy that protects their vulnerable position. The phenomenon of domestic violence is widely prevalent but has remained largely unseen.

Domestic Violence can be described as when one adult in a relationship misuses power to control another. It is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. The violence may involve physical abuse, sexual assault and threats. Sometimes it's more subtle, like making someone feel worthless, not letting them have any money, or not allowing them to leave the home. Social isolation and emotional abuse can have long-lasting effects as well as physical violence.

Domestic Violence isn't just hitting, or fighting, or an occasional argument. It's an abuse of power. The abuser tortures and controls the victim by calculated threats, intimidation, and physical violence. . Although both men and women can be abused, in most cases, the victims are women. Children in homes where there is domestic violence prevails are also abused or neglected. Although the woman is usually the primary target, violence is sometimes directed toward children, and sometimes toward family members and friends.

Domestic violence can take many forms and variations and

can happen once in a while or all at the same time. Domestic violence can be Psychological Abuse, Social Abuse, Financial Abuse, Physical Assault or Sexual Assault. Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault or injury (hitting, beating, shoving, etc.), sexual abuse (forced sexual activity), or stalking. The effect of such violence influences the well being of the women, which will have its own impact of the whole family. Thus this study was meant to study the domestic violence and subjective wellbeing of the women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Ravneet Kaur and Suneela Garg (2012) Physical violence was a major cause of concern among women. Some women had to suffer even during pregnancy. An alcoholic husband emerged as the main cause for domestic violence. Husbands' relatives instigating wife beating was also common. Majority of the women preferred to remain silent despite being victimized. The women feared to resort to law because of implications such as social isolation.

2. Faruk Kocacik and Orhan Dogan (2006) found a statistically significant relationship among the types of violence and annual income, type of family, education and occupation level of women, education level of perpetrators, watching violent films, and childhood experience of emotional abuse or negligence. Fifty-two percent of women were exposed to at least one type of violence. Verbal violence was the most frequent type of violence (53.8%), followed by physical violence (38.3%). About 45% of women exposed to violence were in the 30-34 years age group, 41.6% completed only primary schools, 73.6% were housewives, 91.7% were married, 71.0% had been exposed to violence during their childhood, and 45.2% had been exposed to violence several times in a month. Economic problems were reported as the most important reason for domestic violence (31.4%).

3. Koustuv Dalal and Kent Lindqvist (2012) Lifetime experiences of violence among respondents were as follows: emotional violence, 14%; less severe physical violence, 31%; severe physical violence, 10%; and sexual violence, and 8% Women of scheduled castes and Muslim religion were most often exposed to domestic violence. Women's poorer economic back-

ground, working status, and husband's controlling behavior emerged as strong predictors for domestic violence in India. Elimination of structural inequalities inherent in the indigenous oppressive institutions of religion, caste, and the traditional male hierarchy in society could prevent domestic violence.

4. According to official crime statistics in Tamil-Nadu, 618 women were killed in 2002 as a result of such violence. It is surprising to note that the number of cases of harassment of women declined substantially in Chennai during 2006 as compared to 2004 and 2005, but there is a marginal increase in the dowry death (THE HINDU, March 02, 2007).

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

1. To study the personal details of the women professionals and housewives.
2. To assess the level of domestic violence and subjective well being of the respondents.
3. To study the influence of socio-economic variables on the level of domestic violence and subjective well being of the respondents.

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted by the researcher is descriptive in nature. Non probability sampling technique is used. Relay sampling/snow ball sampling is used for the study. Initially the researcher contacted few women professionals and housewives with a set of questions. By getting references from them other respondents were covered for data collection. Hence it became relay sample. The total sample for this study is 238 which include 119 women professionals and 119 housewives. The tools used for this study were interview schedule which included questions pertaining to the socio-economic background, personal data, pattern of violence and subjective well being of the respondents. A standardized scale was used to determine the levels of subjective wellbeing.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Socio-economic Profile

Variable	Particulars	Working Professionals		House wives		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
Husbands nature of job	Business	29	24.4	21	17.6	50	21.0
	Government	58	48.7	52	43.7	110	46.2
	Any other	32	26.9	46	38.7	78	32.8
Residence of in-law	Local	60	50.4	57	47.9	117	49.2
	Distant place	59	49.6	62	52.1	121	50.8
Satisfactory sex life	Yes	95	79.8	88	73.9	183	76.9
	No	24	20.2	31	26.1	55	23.1
Husband as alcohol addict	Yes	62	52.1	75	63.0	137	57.6
	No	57	47.9	44	37.0	101	42.4
Husband - addict to drug	Yes	20	16.8	27	22.7	47	19.7
	No	99	83.2	92	77.3	191	80.3

The above table indicates that majority (46.2%) of the respondents' husbands are Government employees. The next majority (32.8%) comes under any other job. Majority of the women professionals' husbands (48.7%) and the house wives' husbands (43.7%) are Government employees.

The above table shows that majority (50.8%) of the respondents' in-laws reside in distant places. Whereas only (49.2%) respondents' in-laws reside in local places. Majority (50.4%) of the women professionals' in-laws reside in local places and majority (52.1%) of the house wives' in-laws reside in distant places.

The above table indicates that majority (76.9%) of the respondents' sex life is satisfactory. Whereas only 23.1% respondents' sex life is not satisfactory. The majority of both the woman professionals (79.8%) and house wives (73.9) are satisfied with their sex life.

The above table indicates that majority (57.6%) of the respondents' husbands are addicted to alcohol. Whereas (42.4%) of the respondents' husbands are not addicted to alcohol. Majority of both the women professionals' husbands (52.1%) and the housewives' husbands (63%) are addicted to alcohol.

Table 2: Level of Domestic Violence, Level of Subjective Well-being, Life Style Stress and Level of Depression

		No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Level of Domestic Violence	Low level	29	24.4%	28	23.5%
	Moderate level	71	59.7%	71	59.7%
	High level	19	16.0%	20	16.8%
Level of Subjective Well-being	Low level	36	30.3%	37	31.1%
	Moderate level	42	35.3%	32	26.9%
	High level	41	34.5%	50	42.0%

The table 2 depicts that 59.7 percent of the working professionals have faced moderate level of domestic violence, 24.4 percent of them had low level of domestic violence and 16 percent of them have faced high level of domestic violence. It also shows that 59.7 percent of the house wives have faced moderate level of domestic violence, 23.5 percent of them had low level of domestic violence and 16.8 percent of them have faced high level of domestic violence.

The level of subjective well being of the working professionals shows that 35.3 percent of them had moderate level of subjective well being, 34.5 percent of them had high level of subjective well being and 30.3 percent of them had low level of subjective well being. The level of subjective well being of the house wives in comparison shows that 42 percent of them had high level of subjective well being, 31.1 percent of them had low level of subjective well being and 26.9 percent of them had moderate level of subjective well being.

Table 3: Influence of Socio-Economic Variables on Domestic Violence and Subjective Well Being of the Respondents

Variables	Statistical test	Value	Result
Residence of in-law and domestic violence	t-test	t= 1.202 (P>0.05)	Non-significant
Husband addict to alcohol and domestic violence	t-test	t= 1.623 (P>0.05)	Non-significant
Husband addict to alcohol and subjective well being	t-test	t=3.02 (P<0.05)	Significant

From the table 3 it is clear that the socio economic variables namely residence of in-laws and addiction of husband do not influence the level of domestic violence of the respondents. It also shows that addiction of husband influence the level of subjective well being of the respondents.

Conclusion

The study concludes that moderate level of domestic violence was found among both working professionals and house wives. The subjective well being was found to be moderate among the working professionals and high among the house

wives. The study also concludes that subjective well being among the respondents was influenced by husband's addiction to alcoholism. It indicates that the sufferings are almost equal to women irrespective of their status as working women.

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