

Periodic Research

A Sociological Study of Violence Against Middle Class Educated Women: With Special Reference to Agra City

Abstract

Violence against women is a global phenomenon. The experience of violence against women in India is as same as in the rest of the world. Every third women in the world is the victim of sexual violence and in some countries the percentage of this sexual violence is up to 70. India is one of the most dangerous places on the earth for women. It is time to put an end of eve-teasing. National Crime Record Bureau shows that between 1953 and 2011, the incidence of rape rose by 873%, or three times faster than all cognizable crimes put together. The globalization process negatively affected the culture of India and women's bodies are being commoditized and added fuel on the fire

Keyword: Violence, Middle Class, Globalization, Global phenomena, Discrimination, Domination

Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Violence against women is a global phenomenon. The experience of violence against women in India is as same as in the rest of the world. Every third women in the world is the victim of sexual violence and in some countries the percentage of this sexual violence is up to 70 (Berli 2011: 10). However its ramifications are more complex and its intensity is much greater in India. "Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal distribution of power relation between men and women, which has led to domination over the discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of the women..." (UNO 2006: 2). India is one of the most dangerous places on the earth for women. It is time to put an end of eve-teasing. National Crime Record Bureau shows that between 1953 and 2011, the incidence of rape rose by 873%, or three times faster than all cognizable crimes put together (Hindustan Times 2012: 8). According Centre for Transforming India, 88.00% of working women in B.P.Os have been subjected to sexual harassment at some point or other (Hindustan Times 2010: 1). A survey conducted in Delhi by Hindustantimes, 78% of the women have sexually harassed in past one year (Hindustantimes 2013: 1,4). According to another study conducted on girl students of Delhi University Campus, 91.7% of the girls students has been suffered form sexual harassment by teachers, clerks and boy students (Piania 2007:8). The globalization process negatively affected the culture of India and women's bodies are being commoditized (Sharma 2012). Violence against women is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms through their lives. Article 2 of the UN draft Declaration of Violence against women identifies three areas in which violence commonly takes place. They are a) violence occurring within the family b) violence occurring in the general community and c) violence perpetrated or condoned by the state. The acts of violence against women may be psychological violence (emotional violence); physical violence; and sexual violence on women victim.

Significance of the Study

India is the biggest democracy of the world based on the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. But as the above data shows that around half of the India's population is not consuming the right of liberty such as most of the women are not aware of their rights to protection of life, liberty etc. Even if they are aware, they have lack of the resources in terms of money, skill, time, experience, confidence and courage to invoke these provisions. Moreover, traditionally women believe in tolerating harassment at home and outside home. Violence against women is to be perceived not as a law and order problem alone. Primarily it is a socio-

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cultural problem. Its impact has far reaching effects on the family life, health of woman, life of children etc. Studies, which examine the causes, nature and manifestations and consequences of violence, would assist the society to understand the magnitude as well as its implications on the lives of them as well as the institution of family. Moreover, it would be an elementary step in bringing together the victims of violence under one umbrella and fight against this vice that breaks down the bonds that exists within the primary institution of the society thereby make efforts to formulate appropriate measures /strategies that could contribute to the minimization of violence against women and uphold their rights before the society.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows-

1. To study the socio-economic profile of middle class educated women under the study.
2. To study the type of violence against middle class educated women.
3. To make the relationship between education and violence of middle class educated women.
4. To make the relationship of violence with the family structure of middle class educated women.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the research are as follows-

1. More than half of the total middle class educated women have been the victim of violence.
2. Middle educated women of middle class are more prey of violence than the higher educated women of middle class.
3. Joint family educated women are more prey of violence than the women who are living in nuclear family.

Design of the Study

The researcher has adopted descriptive research design to describe the sociological study of violence against educated women of middle class families.

Location of the Study

The location of the study is Jairam Bagh Colony of Dayalbagh area of Agra city. Though, said colony is not approved by the development authority yet it is a newly developed middle class families' colony of Dayalbagh region.

Universe of the Study

The universe of the research is comprises educated women of middle class families of the age group of 18-60 of the Jairam Bagh Colony of Dayalbagh region of Agra City.

Unit of the Study

After the consideration of the objectives of the research, the researcher has chosen women from the age group of 18-60 years as the unit of the study.

Sampling Method

After considering the total number of units, the researcher used purposive sampling method for the selection of the 105 units for the study.

Tool of the Data Collection

For the fulfilling of the objectives of the research, structured interview-schedule has been used for the collection of relevant information from the

units. This interview-schedule was divided into two parts, first part was related with the questions of socio-economic and familial background of the middle class educated women and the second part of the interview-schedule was consisted with the questions of violence, agents and types ect.

Collection of the Facts

In the present study, both (primary as well as the secondary) types of data have been used. Primary data were collected from the respondents with the use of structured interview-schedule. Secondary data were collected from the different books, journals, news papers, internet and other governmental documents for the fulfillment of the need of research objectives.

Findings of the Study

The major findings of the study derived through the data collection with the help of interview-schedule through fieldwork from 105 respondents are as follows

Table- I

General Information

Age of the Respondents				Education of the Respondents			
S. No.	Age	Frequencies	%	S. No.	Education	Frequencies	%
1	18-25 years	26	24.76	1	8th Passed	10	9.52
2	25-35 years	41	39.04	2	Intermediate	27	25.71
3	35-50 years	29	27.61	3	Graduate	37	35.23
4	50 - 60	9	8.57	4	P. G. & Profess.	31	29.52
5	Total	105	100	5	Total	105	100
Caste Category of the Respondents				Family Structure of the respondents			
S. No.	Caste Category	Frequencies	%	S. No.	Family Type	Frequencies	%
1	General	51	48.57	1	Nuclear	76	72.38
2	O.B.C.	34	32.38	2	Joint	29	27.61
3	S.C.	20	19.04	3	-	-	-
4	Total	105	100	4	Total	98	100

As the table I show that most 24.76% of the respondents are in the age of 18-25 years. 39.04% 25-35 years, 27.61% 35-50 years and rest (8.57%) of the respondents are in the age group of 50-60 years. On the basis of education 9.52% of the respondents are up-to 8th passed, one-fourth of the total respondents (25.71%) are intermediate passed, 35.23% are graduates and rest (29.52%) of the respondents are post-graduate and professional educated.

On the basis of caste categories half of the respondents (48.57%) are from general caste category, 32.38% O.B.C. and rest (19.04%) of the respondents are from the S.C. category.

On the basis of family structure of the respondents slightly less than three-fourth (72.38%) of them are living in nuclear family and rest (27.61%) in joint family.

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Table- II
Violence Against Middle Class Educated Women

Violence				Type of Violence N 72 Included		
Reaction	Frequencies	%	S. No.	Violence Type	Frequencies	%
Yes	72	68.57	1	Psychological	47	65.27
No	15	14.28	2	Physical	39	54.16
Cannot say	18	17.14	3	Economic	26	36.11
-	-	-	4	Sexual	14	19.44
Total	105	100	5	Total	-	-

As the table II shows that that 68.57% of the respondents have been suffered from exploitation, 14.28% said no and rest (17.14%) are not sure about their violence.

65.27% of the respondents have been suffered from psychological, 54.16% physical, 36.11% economic and 19.44% have been suffered from sexual domestic violence.

Table- III
Family Structure and Violence Educated Women

Family Structure	S. No.	Reaction	Frequencies	%
Joint 29	i	Yes	15	51.72
	ii	No	6	20.68
	iii	Cannot say	8	13.15
	iv	Total	15	100.00
Nuclear 76	i	Yes	57	75.00
	ii	No	9	11.84
	iii	Cannot say	10	13.15
	iv	Total	76	100.00

On the basis of family structure 51.72% of the respondents and living in joint family had been suffered from violence, 20.68% said no and rest 13.15% were not sure about their violence. 75.00% of the respondents and are living in nuclear family had suffered from violence, 11.84% said no and rest (13.15%) of them are not sure about their violence.

Table- IV
Education and Violence of Educated Women

Education	S. No.	Reaction	Frequencies	Percentage
Up to 8th Passed	i	Yes	2	20.00
	ii	No	3	30.00
	iii	Can Not Say	5	50.00
	iv	Total	10	100.00
Intermediate	i	Yes	19	70.37
	ii	No	2	7.40
	iii	Can Not Say	6	22.22
	iv	Total	27	100.00
Graduate	i	Yes	29	78.37
	ii	No	5	13.51
	iii	Can Not Say	3	8.10
	iv	Total	37	100.00
P.G. & Professionals	i	Yes	22	70.36
	ii	No	5	16.12

iii	Can Not Say	4	12.90
iv	Total	31	1.00

As the table shows that 20.00% of the 8th passed middle class educated respondents had suffered from violence, 30.00% said no and rest (50.00%) are not sure about their violence. 70.37% of the intermediate respondents had suffered from violence, 7.40% said no and rest (22.22%) are not sure about their violence. 78.37% of the graduate respondents had suffered from violence 13.51% said no and rest (8.10%) are not sure about their violence. 70.36% of the P.G. and professional educated respondents had suffered from violence, 16.12% said no and rest (12.90) are not sure about their violence.

Table- V
Family Structure, Education and Violence Educated Women

Family Structure	Education	S. No.	Reaction	Frequencies	Percentage
29	Up-to 8th passed	i	Yes	2	28.57
		ii	No	1	14.28
		iii	Can Not Say	4	57.14
		iv	Total	7	100.00
	Intermediate	i	Yes	7	63.63
		ii	No	1	9.90
		iii	Can Not Say	3	27.27
		iv	Total	11	100.00
	Graduate	i	Yes	4	44.44
		ii	No	2	22.22
		iii	Can Not Say	3	33.33
		iv	Total	9	100.00
P.G. and Professionals	i	Yes	2	100.00	
	ii	No	-	-	
	iii	Can Not Say	-	-	
	iv	Total	2	100.00	
76	Up-to 8th Passed	i	Yes	-	-
		ii	No	2	66.66
		iii	Can Not Say	1	33.33
		iv	Total	3	100.00
	Intermediate	i	Yes	12	75.00
		ii	No	1	6.25
		iii	Can Not Say	3	18.75
		iv	Total	16	100.00
	Graduate	i	Yes	25	89.28
		ii	No	3	10.71
		iii	Can Not Say	-	-
		iv	Total	28	100.00
	P.G. and Professionals	i	Yes	20	68.96
		ii	No	5	17.24
		iii	Can Not Say	4	13.73
		iv	Total	29	100.00

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As the table V shows, the relationship of middle class educated women's violence with their education and family structure. 28.57% of the 8th passed respondents and who are living in joint family said that they have been suffered from violence, 14.26% say no and rest (57.14%) of them are not sure about their violence. 63.63% of the intermediate respondents and who were living in joint family said that they had suffered from violence, 9.90% said no and rest (27.27%) are not sure about their violence. 44.44% of the graduate respondents and who are living in joint family said that they have been suffered from violence, 22.22% said no and rest (33.33%) were not at all about their violence. 100.00% of the post graduate and professional educated respondents and who are living in joint family had suffered from violence.

No 8th passed respondent is found in nuclear family who suffered from violence, 66.66% of the said no and rest 33.33% are not sure about their violence. 75.00% of the intermediate respondents and are living in nuclear family said that they suffered from violence, 6.25% said no and rest (18.75%) said can not say. 89.28% of the graduate respondents and are living in nuclear family said that they have been suffered from violence and rest (10.71%) of them said no. 68.96% of the P.G. and professional educated respondents and who were living in nuclear family had suffered from violence, 17.24% said not and rest 17.24% are not sure about their violence.

Summary of the findings

It is observed from the study that 68.57% of the total respondents have been suffered from violence. Only 14.25 percentages of them said they did not face any violence. If we keep 'can not say' category with violence, the percentage will increase up to 85. The types of violence suffered by the women was 65.27% psychological, 54.16% physical, 36.11% economic and 19.44% of the respondents had been suffered from sexual violence. The rate of violence among women in joint family was 51.72% and in nuclear family 75.00%. If we show violence on the basis of education, it was 20.00% in 8th passed respondents, 70.37% in intermediate respondents, 78.37% in graduate respondents and 70.36% in the P.G. and professional educated respondents.

On the basis of family background, 28.57% of the 8th passed 63.63% of the intermediate, 44.44% of the graduate and 100.00 % of the P.G. and professional respondents who are living in joint family have been suffered from violence.

66.66% of the 8th passed respondents and were living in nuclear family had been suffered from violence, 75.00% of the intermediate respondents, 89.28% of the graduate respondents and 68.96% of the P.G. and professional respondents and who were living in nuclear family had suffered from violence.

Conclusion and Testing of Hypothesis

- In the present research work the first hypothesis is 'more than half of the middle class educated women have been victim of violence.' It is observed through the study that slightly less than two third (68.57%) of the respondents have been

suffered from violence. Therefore, the first hypothesis of the study is approved.

- In the present research work the second hypothesis is 'middle educated women of middle class are more prey of violence than higher educated women.' It is observed from the study that higher educated women have been more victim of violence than low and middle educated women. Therefore, the second hypothesis does not approve.
- The third hypothesis of the study is 'joint family women of middle class are more prey of violence than that of the women who are living in nuclear family.' It is observed from the study that the women who are living in nuclear family have been more prey of violence than that of the women who are living in joint family. Therefore the third hypothesis does not approve.

Limitations of the Study

Following are the limitations of the study-

1. Data were collected from a small geographical area.
2. The universe of the study was small.
3. Sample size was small.
4. Data were collected in a short duration of time.
5. SPSS did not use for the calculation.
6. Limited variable were used in the study.
7. Statistical calculation did not use.

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