

Asian Resonance

Impact of Crime on Women and their Families in Rural Areas



Rashmi Tyagi

Assistant Professor,
Deptt. of Sociology,
College of Basic Science CCS
HAU, Hisar



Jatesh Kathpalia

Assistant Scientist
Deptt. of Sociology,
College of Basic Science CCS
HAU, Hisar

Ritu

PSS Worker,
Deptt. of Sociology,
College of Basic Science CCS
HAU, Hisar

Abstract

This study determines the actual condition of female mobility on the public space in the male dominated society. The costs were generally higher for spousal violence against women than against men for all categories. They present findings within a conceptual framework comprised of role functioning, life satisfaction, and well-being, and social-material conditions, including crime-related medical, mental health, and employer costs, and health care utilization. Crime is recognized as the significant barrier in the path of women empowerment and also skews the democratic set up the policy. The paper examines the impact of crime on women and their families in rural areas. Present study was conducted in Hisar-I and Barwala blocks covered under Hisar district of Haryana State by selecting 200 rural women. Data were collected with the help of duly pre-tested structured interview schedule, developed for the study. The inferences were drawn on the basis of frequency, percentage. The violence has a wider and deeper impact in life of the victims.

Keywords: Violence, women, crime, impact

Introduction

Violence has a significant impact on the health and well-being of women both in the immediate and longer term, continuing even after the relationship has ended. The psychological consequences of violence can be as serious as the physical effects. Exposure to violence leads to poorer physical health overall compared with women who have not experienced violence, and it increases the risk of women developing a range of health problems (*World Health Organisation 2000*). Families or individuals who have experienced violence are in the process of healing both physically and emotionally from multiple traumas. These traumas can have various effects on the mind, body and spirit. Even though survivors may experience similar types of abuse, the response to trauma may vary from person to person. Many factors can influence how a person responds to short- and long-term effects of the abuse, such as the frequency of abusive incidents, degree of severity and the effects on physical health. Violence against women can have a myriad of devastating consequences on women's short and long-term health and wellbeing. Along with the immediate physical and emotional impacts of violence, women's overall quality of life can be adversely affected over an entire lifetime, which can, in turn, impact their participation and engagement in various aspects of life and society (Johnson et al. 2008). These consequences to the individual women, along with the violent act itself, can have ripple effects on society as a whole (*World Health Organization 2011*). In consideration of these issues in mind, the present study was designed with the following specific objective. The violence has a wider and deeper impact in life of the victims.

Objective

To know the consequences of crime on victim women and their families

Methodology

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state. From Hisar district two blocks were selected i.e. Hisar-1 and Barwala. From Barwala block, cluster of villages (Dhani garon, Dhani Khanbhadur, Bichpadi, Barwala, Sarsaud, Balak, Khedar) and from Hisar Block-1 Kaimari and Mangali villages were selected. 100 respondents were randomly selected from each of the selected Block. From selected villages, 200 respondents were interviewed. The data thus, collected were computed, tabulated and analyzed using frequency, percentage.

Asian Resonance

Results

Socio-Economic and Personal Profile of the Respondents

The results regarding socio-economic and personal profile of the respondents in Table 1 reveal that 64.0 per cent of the respondents were in young age group followed by middle (25.0%) and old age group (11.0%). Huge majority of the respondents were married followed by unmarried (14.0%) and widow (3.0%). Majority of the respondents (89.5%) had arranged marriage followed by love (6.5%) and love cum arranged (4.0%). It was found that 56.5 per cent had joint family background while 43.5 percent respondents had nuclear family system. Majority of the respondents had medium (59.0%) family size followed by small (23.0%) and large (18.0%).

Further, it was observed that more than a sizeable number of the respondents (43.0%) were middle/high school while one-fourth of the respondents had senior secondary school/graduate (25.0 %) followed by illiterate (14.5%) and up to primary. Rest of the

respondents was graduate (5.0%) and post graduate (1.5%). Majority of the respondents (50.0%) were from upper caste followed by back ward cast (27.0%) and schedule caste (23.0%). Majority of the respondents (65.5%) had low family education status followed by medium (26.0%) and high (8.5%) family education status (Table 1).

Results regarding family occupation it was found that more than a sizeable number of the respondents (44.0%) had farming as a main occupation followed by labour (23.0%), service/job (13.5%), independent profession (10.5%) and business/ small scale enterprise (9.0%). It was found that majority of the respondents (41.0%) were in low income category followed by medium (35.0%) and high (24.0%) income category. Past studies conducted in rural Haryana also reported that most of the respondents were in middle age group, were from higher caste category, illiterate, married, having nuclear families. Farming was main occupation for most of them. (Deepti 2008; Gita, 2010 and Yadav 2013.

Table 1 : Socio-Economic and Personal Profile of the Respondents (n=200)

Sr. No.	Variables	Category	Freq.	%
1.	Age	Young (17-29)	128	64.0
		Middle (30-41)	50	25.0
		Old (>42)	22	11.0
2.	Marital Status	Unmarried	28	14.0
		Married	165	82.5
		Widow	6	3.0
3.	Type of marriage	Arranged	179	89.5
		Love	13	6.5
		Love cum arranged	08	4.0
4.	Family Type	Nuclear	87	43.5
		Joint	108	54.0
5.	Family Size	Small	46	23.0
		Medium	118	59.0
		Large	36	18.0
6.	Respondent's Education	Illiterate	29	14.5
		Up to primary	21	10.5
		Middle/ Highschool	86	43.0
		Senior secondary /Under graduate	51	25.5
		Graduate	10	5.0
7.	Caste	Post Graduate	3	1.5
		SC/ST	46	23.0
		Back ward	54	27.0
8.	Family Education status	Upper caste	100	50.0
		Low	131	65.5
		Medium	52	26.0
9.	Family occupation	High	17	8.5
		Labour	46	23.0
		Business/small scale enterprise	18	9.0
10.	Family income	Independent profession	21	10.5
		Farming	88	44.0
		Service/Job	27	13.5
		Up to Rs 10000	82	41.0
		Rs 10001-20000	70	35.0
		Above 20000	48	24.0

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Communicational Profile of the Respondents

The results regarding communicational profile of the respondents in Table 2 reveal that mass media possession it was revealed that huge majority of the

respondents (85.5%) had television followed by newspaper (25.0%), radio (19.0%), magazine (5.0%), computer (4.5%) and internet (3.0%).

Table 2: Communicational Profile of the Respondents (n=200)

Sr. No.	Variables	Category	Freq.	%
1.	Mass media possession	Radio	38	19.0
		Television	171	85.5
		News paper	50	25.0
		Magazine	10	5.0
		Computer	9	4.5
		Internet	6	3.0
2.	Mass media exposure	Low (up to 11)	67	33.5
		Medium (12-15)	84	42.0
		High (above15)	49	24.5
3.	Extension content	Low (up to17)	107	53.5
		Medium (18-24)	42	21.0
		High (above 24)	41	20.5
4.	Social participation	Low (0-1)	120	60.0
		Medium (2-3)	68	34.0

Consequences Faced by Respondents

The results regarding consequences faced by respondents are presented in Table 3. Various forms of violence against women had multiple effects on the physical health of women. Most common ailments found among majority of women were migraine (61.0%), decreased efficiency of work (54.5%) and gynecological problems (36.00%). Similarly 33% each were found suffering from asthma and sexual problems. On the other hand 31.0% and 19.0% had physical injuries and problems of miscarriage. Boyd (2010) supports this study.

Multiple psychological problems were also found among the women facing crime. Analysis revealed that majority of women had anxiety (68.0%), fear and insomnia (62.0%) and problem of anger outburst (59.0%). On the other hand 54% and 48.5% felt low self-esteem, eating disorder, loneliness (28.5%) and suicidal tendency (5.0%). Murray (2000) examined that "The

	High (3-4)	12	6.0
--	------------	----	-----

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Data as regard to mass media exposure revealed that out of total sample, more than a sizeable number of the respondents (42.0%) had medium mass media exposure followed by low (33.5%) and high (24.5%) mass media exposure. Regarding extension contact, it was observed that more than half of the respondents (53.5%) had low level of extension followed by medium (21.0%) and high (20.5%). The results indicated that majority of the respondents (60.0%) had low social participation followed by medium (34.0%) and high (6.0%) social participation among the respondents (Table 2). Kusum (2005), Akanksha (2006) and Renu (2009) support the present findings where most of the respondents were reported to have low social participation, low level of extension contact and mass media sources were used to low extent.

short-term impact of sexual abuse in childhood has led to depression, anxiety, anger, and fear".

Results regarding family consequences are presented in Table 3. Analysis revealed that more than fifty percent felt lack of intimacy with husband (51.0%) reduced interaction with family members (43.5%) felt unsuitable home atmosphere for children (28.5%) and refusal of satisfaction of basic needs by husband (26.5%). Fear of causing harm to children was also felt by 7.0% of women. Crime against women also had societal level consequences as it affects her position/status in the society also. Analysis revealed 35.5 per cent felt that domestic violence has affected their relationship with neighbours and friends and children face mental and physical stress (30.5%). On the other hand, 25.5% women felt that children also accepted it is as part of normal life. Kalyan (2013) and Bhai (2013) supports this study.

Table 3: Consequences Faced by Respondents

(N =200)

Sr.No	Physical Consequences	Freq.	%age
1.	Migraine	122	61.0
2.	Decrease efficiency of work	109	54.5
3.	Gynecological problem	72	36.0
4.	Asthma	66	33.0
5.	sexual dysfunctional, frigidity and phobia	66	33.0
6.	Have physical injuries	62	31.0
7.	Miscarriage	39	19.5
Psychological Consequences			
1.	Anxiety	136	68.0
2.	Fear & insomnia	124	62.0
3.	Anger outburst	118	59.0
4.	Low self esteem	108	54.0
5.	Eating disorder	97	48.5
6.	Isolation	57	28.5
7.	Suicidal ideation	10	05.5
Family Consequences			
1.	Lack of intimacy with husband	102	51.0
2.	Lack of interaction among family member	87	43.5
3.	Unsuitable atmosphere for children at home	57	28.5
4.	Denial of human rights/basic needs by husband	53	26.5
5.	Fear of kidnapping of children/causing harm to children	14	07.0
Societal Consequences			
1.	Affected your relationship with friends and neighbours	70	35.5

Asian Resonance

2.	Facing demeaning, humiliating or undermining remarks or	67	33.0
3.	Do you observe that your children face mental and physical	61	30.5
4.	Children live with fear and inability to trust other	53	26.5
5.	Growing up believing violence as a normal part of family life	51	25.5
6.	Children live isolated by an abusing parent who shift off the	41	20.5
7.	Deprived of leading a normal life	23	11.5
8.	Children feel responsible for abuse and powerless to stop it	20	10.0

Conclusion

The violence has a wider and deeper impact in life of the victims. The victims shy away from the public and prefer to stay alone. A proper societal-legal environment has to be built to make the societies safe and secure for the woman. These results provide vital information to develop interventions, as well as policies and programmes towards women. Also, this knowledge facilitates healthcare personnel to intervene more effectively with women at risk of violence-related health problems.

Recommendation

1. Use of alcohol is to be considerably reduced
2. Law and punishment should be executed properly and neutrally.
3. Government should take more initiative to publicity law against any violence against women.
4. School and college teachers should be more proactive to motivate students against eve teasing and sexual harassment. They should also teach male students to honor their classmates

References

1. Akansha. 2006. Appraisal of trainings under central training scheme 'Women in Agriculture'. M.Sc. Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
2. Bhai, L. T. 2013. Women Victims of Crimes in Kerala 2012-13. Report of the study conducted by Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
3. Boyd, C. 2010. The impacts of sexual assault on women. Australian Institute of Family Studies, 1(1):8 http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2000/who_msd_mdp_00.1.pdf
4. Deepti. 2008. Impact Assessment of all India coordinated research project (AICRP) in home science on farm women. M.Sc. Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
5. Gita. 2010. Feasibility of fruit plant nursery as an enterprise for rural women. M.Sc Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
6. Johnson, H., N. Ollus and S. Nevala. 2008. Violence Against Women: An International Perspective. New York. Springer.
7. Kalyan, J. L. (2013), Violence against Women an Analytical Approach, South Asian Journal of Human Rights, 2(1) 34-37.
8. Kusum. 2005. Capacity building of farm women through agri-business activities. M.Sc. Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University.
9. Murray, J. B. (2000), Psychological profile of pedophiles and child molesters. Journal of Psychology, 134, 211-255.
10. Renu, 2009. Capacity building of scheduled caste rural women through energy conservation. Ph.D. Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana.
11. World Health Organization 2000, Women and Mental Health: An Evidence Based Review, World Health Organisation, Geneva
12. World Health Organization. 2011. "Violence against women: Intimate partner and sexual violence against women." Fact Sheet. No. 239. (accessed September 28, 2012).
13. Yadav, M. 2013. Media standization on fruits and vegetables processing and preservation. Ph.D. Thesis, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.