

A Study on Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Udaipur City

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Abstract

Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) violence against women is reflection of unequal power relations which has led to men's domination over and discrimination against women. Thus violence against women throughout their life comes to be socially sanctioned. While the basic reason for violence against women is their inferior status in a male dominated society-educationally, economically, politically and socially, there are other factors responsible too.

The status of women in Udaipur as elsewhere in India is not equal to the status of men in terms of access, participation and reward. This situation is the outcome of the patriarchal and feudalistic structure of the society. The manifestation of gender discrimination is violence in the family, community and society. It takes the form of female foeticide, female infanticide, abuse of the girl child, social harassment, mental torture, physical violence and cruelty affecting the body and mind of the women.

The occurrence of violence within the family known as domestic violence is all pervasive irrespective of race, nationality, language, culture, economics and religion. In this context this paper is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Data was collected from 80 women victims of domestic violence cases in all over the Udaipur by approaching the Family Counselling center (FCC) and NGOs running Mahila Panchayat project for handling domestic violence cases and FCCs. It also reflects the socio-economic profile of victims, causes and factors affecting for domestic violence, different types of violence they faced, and consequences on victimization in the different level on personal, family, cultural and society.

Keywords: Nature, Forms, Domestic, Violence, Discrimination.

Introduction

Behind closed doors and drawn curtains, there is an anguished cry, quickly smothered and silenced. It is the cry of pain, of humiliation of shame that extinguished as quickly as it arises. This tragedy unfolds silently and insidiously within the four walls of the home. The one place where women should be most secure and safe is the place of their torture and degradation.

Violence against women is a universal phenomenon that cuts across class, creed and country. It is inversely proportional to the status of women in society. In communities that value women, violence has no place. In patriarchal societies where women are objectified and equated to property or money, violence is omnipresent.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993, described violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm, or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty; whether occurring in public or private life."

The Indian Government while presenting its country report in the 4th World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995 had recognized VAW (Violence against Women) as one of the eleven critical areas of concern. As per the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), VAW is defined as an act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life. The Beijing Platform of Action (Paragraph 117) quotes "The fear of violence, including harassment is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and

society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.

Violence against women has so many different faces that it is difficult to chronicle the various manifestations observed. It begins before the birth of a daughter and continues to haunt her till her death in subtle and gross ways. It could be foeticide, infanticide, neglect, malnutrition, denial of education, denial of livelihood, denial of resources, denial of opportunities, dowry violence, marginalization in the family or community and lack of proper nutrition and health care. The table no.1 clearly indicates the type of violence occur by the family members with a woman throughout the life cycle.

**Table -1
Examples of Violence against Women
throughout The Life Cycle**

Phase	Type of Violence
Pre-Birth	Sex-selection abortion, effects of battering during pregnancy on bits outcomes
Infancy	Female infanticide; physical, sexual and psychological abuse
Girl child	Child marriage, female genital mutilation, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, incest, child prostitution and pornography
Adolescent and Adulthood	Dating and courtship violence(acid throwing and date rape), economically coerced sex, incest, sexual abuse in the work place, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution and pornography, trafficking in women, partner violence, marital rape, dowry abuse and murders, partner homicide, psychological abuse, forced pregnancy
Elderly	Forced suicide or homicide of widows for economic reasons, sexual, physical, psychological abuse.

Factors Responsible for Rise in Violence against Women

The basic reason for violence against women is their inferior status in a male dominated society, educationally, economically, politically and socially.

Types of violence Against Women:

1. Drug related
2. Rape and custodial rape
3. Harassment at work place/Eve-teasing
4. Dowry-related violence
5. Domestic violence
6. State, communal & caste instigated

Drug Related

Drugs and alcohol are positively correlated with crime and VAW. Alcoholism raises violence and

consequently family disintegration. There are some incidents where the father raped his daughter under the influence of alcohol. The most common form of violence would wide is wife battering, which is the direct result of alcoholism.

Rape and Custodial Rape

One of the most heinous crimes against women is rape. The whole identity of the woman is distorted. In most cases the victims are branded as woman of loose morals. Custodial rape is extremely heinous, especially since the offenders are supposed to be guardians of law. Most often when the abuser is a male member of the family, pressure from other family members or even the community members in the name of "family honour" is the main consideration. In such cases there is virtually a conspiracy of silence.

Harassment at Workplace/Eve-Teasing

Pervasive jokes with sexual undertones, obscene behavior with sexual overtures, and direct sexual harassment- all of them combine to make the atmosphere in the work-place unhealthy and discriminatory to women. It seriously affects women's psychological and physical well being.

Eve-teasing is a crime committed in crowded are as in the cities. The public transport is one of the commonest places of its occurrence. It hampers the freedom of women.

Dowry-Related Violence

It is observed that dowry giving and receiving is a common practice among people irrespective of caste, religion and income groups. However, harassment cases are more among higher income groups where as middle and lower income groups show a higher dowry death rate.

Domestic Violence

The most alarming and yet under reported crime against women is domestic violence. It crosses all barriers of class, income, race, culture and religion. It is the greatest obstacle to gender equality and securing the rights of women. Nari Chetna, a Udaipur based women's organization has reported that wife-beating is common among all social classes. However, the pattern of violence varies from one class to other.

State, Communal and Caste Instigated Violence

Victims of state sponsored violence are mostly women; caste and communal violence mostly target women. Dishonoring women is the most accepted norm of taking revenge on specified castes and communities.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is emotional, psychological, physical or sexual abuse that one person in an intimate relationship uses in order to control the other. It can take many forms such as threats, name calling, isolation, withholding of money, power or privileges, actual or threatened "physical harm or sexual assault. As per population Reports (1999) domestic violence is violence between intimate partners. It is not just hitting and fighting or an occasional argument, it is chronic abuse of power.

In our country, the constitution of India provides equal status to men and women. They can have access to education and employment

opportunities on par with men. There are women professors, higher level corporate executives, commissioned officers in defence, parliamentarians, women chief ministers who have made indelible marks in public life. But still exploitation of women continues, violence against women continues, violence against women is on the increase.

The protection of women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 was passed by Parliament in August 2005. For women in a "Domestic relationship" the Bill sets a precedent by widening the definition of domestic violence, which includes physical violence, emotional abuse (humiliation, ridicule, name calling, threats to cause physical harm), sexually degrading conduct, or, economic deprivation. "Domestic relationship" is defined as a relationship between two persons who live or have at any point of time lived together in a shared household and are related by blood through a common ancestor; marriage or a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption, or are family members living together in a joint family.

Domestic violence is acknowledged widely as significant problem. It is also recognized as a major public health concern and violation of human rights. It can take many forms:

Neglect

Denial of food, lack of or inappropriate personal or medical care

Physical Abuse

Assaults, rough or inappropriate handling, inappropriate behavior modification, over medication, confinement

Psychological Abuse

Verbal abuse, intimidation, social isolation, emotional deprivation, denial of the right to make personal, emotional derivational, denial of the right to make personal decisions, threats of having her children taken away.

Sexual Abuse

Denial of a woman's sexuality, denial of a sexual information education (for example birth control and child birth), verbal harassment, unwanted sexual touching, assault, forced abortion or sterilization.

A study conducted by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in collaboration with the International Clinical Epidemiologists Network in seven cities of India on a sample size of 10,000 women revealed that 45 percent of Indian women are slapped, kicked or beaten by their husbands. About 74.8 percent of the women who reported violence have attempted to commit suicide.

Domestic violence generally involves wives and daughters-in-law in the family. They are accused of speaking too much, answering back and wrangling over trifling issues. If she talks or has friendly relations with other males, the suspicious husband and in-laws always make allegations against her. On the contrary, she is not supposed to suspect her husband and oppose his extra-marital relationships. Not only a submissive or inferior-in-status wife is victimized but an educated, strong, intelligent, working women who is conscious of her status, also becomes the victim of

violence. Other abuses include dowry demands and physical torture by an alcoholic husband. Dowry today represents commercialization of social relations. The issue is not one of changing life-styles alone since demands for dowry culminate in violence including murder.

Review of Literature

According to NFHS-III (2005-06) data, one in every five women has faced domestic violence in her life. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2007 Statistics show that from 2006-2007 there was 6.2 percent increase in the rate of cases filed under dowry deaths. However, cases of dowry deaths and cruelty by husbands and their relatives only constitute about 21percent of "violent crimes" and "crimes against women". According to Demographic and Health Surveys (2013), married women with no education are much more likely (46 percent) than other women to have suffered spousal violence. The NFHS-IV (2015-16) reported that 12 percent of married women surveyed reported being kicked and at least one-in-ten married women have experienced sexual violence at the hands of their husbands. More women than men (54 percent and 51 percent respectively) believe it is okay for a husband to beat his wife if she "disrespects" his family or neglects the house and children.

The NFHS-IV (2015-16) data shows that most women do not seek help in situation of domestic violence and an estimated two out of three women have not only never sought help but have never told anyone about the violence. The silence rises from a lack of agency not surprisingly nearly 46 percent of married women with no education have experienced spousal violence. But a law like PWDVA can help greatly and people need to understand its true intent.

Study on Women Victims of Domestic Violence in Udaipur

The present paper is an attempt to highlight the socioeconomic status of women victims of domestic violence, factors affecting for domestic violence and the consequences in their personal, family, cultural and societal life.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic profile of women beneficiaries.
2. To analyze the existing types of violence and the causative factors for violence
3. To study the consequences on victimization on their personal, family, cultural and societal level.

Methodology

The data was collected from the sample of 80 women victims of domestic violence those are the beneficiaries of Family Counselling Centers and NGOS running the mahila panchayat project, Crises intervention center funded by Udaipur Commission for Women which covered all the nine district of NCT of Udaipur. The sample was collected purposefully from reputed NGOs those are working for the care and support services for the women victims. Schedule, observation, interviews, focus group discussion method used for data collection.

Socio-Economic Profile of The Victims

The socioeconomic profile has been analyzed in respect of age, education, caste, religion, employment status, income, ration card holder and type of family.

Women between 21-30 years of age were at a higher risk of being subjected to domestic violence than women of other age-groups. There were 16 cases belonging to scheduled caste and four were from scheduled tribes. The least number of cases were from New Udaipur and South Udaipur districts. Respondents mostly lived in pucca or semi-pucca houses. Their tenure status indicates that most of them lived in their own houses. The religious composition of respondents revealed that a vast majority of them (66) were Hindu followed by Muslims (10). Around half of the respondents (45) belonged to nuclear families followed by 35 respondents from joint families. A majority of the victims (28) had studied upto matric where as 13 of them were graduates. More than half of mother-in-laws (41) were found to be illiterate. Only 14 families had below poverty line ration cards.

Around three-fourths of the respondents were housewives. Eight of them were in government service or working in private companies. Employed women were also not immune from violence in spite of the fact that they added to the family income and brought more dowry in marriage. It was found that 25 respondents' families were in the income bracket of Rs 20001 and above. This data shows that occurrence of domestic violence was higher among middle class as compared to low income group (below Rs 10001/- per month). A few of the beneficiaries were not aware of the social security/ savings of their families. Some had savings in post office/chit funds. The details of data are given below table no 2:

Table -2
Profile of the Respondents
(N=80)

	Background characteristics	Number of Women
Age	Below 20 years	7
	21 – 25 years	27
	26 -30 years	29
	31-35 years	5
	36-40 years	4
	41-45 years	3
	46 and above	5
caste	Schedule Caste	16
	Schedule Tribes	4
	Backward castes	22
	Others	38
Religion	Hindu	66
	Muslim	10
	Sikh	3
	Christian	1
Family type	Nuclear	45
	Joint	35
Education	Illiterate	11
	Literate	14
	Upto Matric	28
	Intermediate	10

	Graduate	13
	Post-graduate	2
	Professional - qualification	2
Ration card holder	BPL Card	14
	APL Card	46
	No Card	20
Employment	Service	8
	Labour/unskilled	6
	Selfemployed/business	7
	Housewife	59
Income of families	Upto 5000	15
	5001-10000	17
	10001-15000	17
	15001-20000	6
	20001-25000	9
	25001-30000	3
	30001 and above	13
Financial Assets and liabilities	Saving in Banks	35
	Saving in post offices/chit funds	25
	No saving	10

Factors contributing to Violence

In below table no.3 data clearly points out that the most common factor was alcoholism as reported by maximum number (46) of respondents. It was cited as main factor, followed by "greed for more dowry". The third factor was financial constraints that lead to violence. The fourth major factor was extra-marital affairs of 19 husbands. Dowry was a major cause in almost all districts but it is more in east and north-east districts of Udaipur.

Table No-3
Factors contributing to Violence
(N=80)

S.No.	Contributing factors	No of Respondents
1	Dowry	43
2	Financial constraint	28
3	Extra-marital affairs	19
4	Alcoholism	46
5	Difference in social status	12
6	Suspicion	17
7	Employment of wife	7
8	Not attending household chores	7
9	Job dis-satisfaction of husband	7
10	Mental disorder	1
11	Illness	9
12	Property dispute	15
13	Not looking after children	3
14	Lack of property	18
15	Sexual harassment	14

Table No-4
Ways of Harassment
(N=80)

S. No	Nature of harassment	No of Response
1	Physical	69
2	Psychological	75
3	Emotional	76

The above table no.4 shows that respondents mentioned the ways adopted by husbands/their in-laws to harass them. While psychological ways of harassment were reported by 75 victims, the emotional violence inflicted was reported by 76 respondents. Physical violence was reported by 69 victims. Physical and psychological violence were most frequently used mode of torture but threatening to victim occupies the most prominent place in this mode of violence.

Consequences of Victimization

In Below table no.5, data indicates that 63 women had suffered bruises such as injury appearing on area of discolored skin caused by a blow or impact which had ruptured underlying blood vessels.

Table No-5
Physically bruised victims
N=80

S. No	Response (s)	No. of response (s)
1	Yes	63
2	No	17

Table No: 6
Severity of violence inflicted by perpetrators
(N =80)

S. No.	Responses	No of response
1	Very serious	14
2	Serious	12
3	Moderate	25
4	Minor	12
5	Non response	17

Above table no.6 shows that 14 women had been attacked or badly beaten, kicked, slapped etc. Another 12 had serious physical wounds. Some of them had broken fingers, teeth, bruised on neck/legs. The largest group was of those moderately affected.

Table No: 7
Mental Depression
(N=80)

S. No	Psychological effects	No. of response (s)
1	Yes	70
2	No	10

The problem which has cropped up due to denial of fulfillment of basic needs and perpetual torture was mental depression. Seventy out of eighty respondents were victims of mental depression. This depression was manifested in crying, loss of sleep etc. Twenty five respondents mentioned that they had to incur heavy expenditure on treatment by a

psychiatrist or a psychologist. The rest of the respondents had remained tense and spent sleepless nights but calm and composed to average their defeat against perpetrators.

On being harassed, tortured and victimized time and again, a time came when victims had to decide what to do in such a situation. Where to go to get relief? The reaction of victims to this perpetual violence, torture and mental persecution was as given in table below:

Table No: 8
Reaction to domestic violence due to
perpetual violence and/or torture perpetrated
on victims
(N=80)

S. No	Natural reaction to violence	No. of response (s)
1	Went to my own house(parents/brothers/sister)	49
2	Used abusive words	18
3	Beat children	2
4	Neglected the household chores	23
5	Any other	17

Cultural Relations

Value system was greatly affected in 19 cases where as 29 were partially affected. While nine victims had decreased faith in God, 19 had become more dependent on God-increased faith. There was no change in faith towards God for 29 respondents where as 44 had reported change in attitude towards God. In respect of frequency of visits to religious places, eleven respondents visited religious places frequently where as 28 did so on special occasion.

Violation of Customs

Sixty victims felt that perpetual violence had resulted in violation of family customs. Almost half of the respondents (34) opined that it was violated frequently and rest had observed it rarely. This has encouraged conflicting views about future of family in modern times.

Consequences at societal level were observed in terms of relationship of victims with their neighbors, friends and other residents of the locality. 23 had found moderately affected, the relationship whereas ten of them mentioned very badly affected relationship because neighbours had sided with husband's families. Isolation and lack of personal contact with family and friends created further stresses and strains leading to high anxiety and depression for victims.

Conclusion

Many experts feel that one way to address this harsh reality is to begin gender sensitization at an early stage. Intervention strategies need to focus on attitudinal change in families, and the negative impact of the use of violence has to be stressed in a structured form in schools. We should realize that stopping violence is not only a women's issue. It must also be a school, workplace, community and national area of vital concern. Need to make the civil society aware of different laws for women particularly rural

women dissemination and awareness of legal provisions and rights are required.

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