

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PUNJAB- A
CASE STUDY OF MANSA DISTRICT**

A

Thesis

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CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Apart from various atrocities against woman, domestic violence is also emerging to large extent. Domestic violence has many social-economic implications for her as well as society, which may hamper her growth in almost every field that is relevant for her development. Hence, she may fail to attain her personal and social freedom. Consequently, it propagates the gender inequalities which may gradually become severe if not regulated with time. So, domestic violence has emerged as a major area of concern for her security and protection must be explored in depth.

For this purpose, Punjab state of Indian union has been selected to study the problem of domestic violence against women. Women in Punjab are better placed in terms of education and professional opportunities; for, development of agriculture and infrastructure in early stages of development. They have come forward to prove themselves as the great supporters of men. But the social norms and their insecurity in the society are still a big hurdle for their overall progress. In spite of all this, they are not free from the menace of domestic violence by their life partners and other family members.

To fathom out the complexities of domestic violence and threadbare analysis of this issue, Mansa district of Punjab has been selected purposely. As, the women work participation is very high in this district as compared to other districts of the Punjab. The study has been organized to examine forms of domestic violence carried out against the women. Besides, an attempt has been made to discern the causes and frequency of domestic violence against women. Domestic violence may have various health outcomes, therefore, explored at length. Since the socio economic background may have link with the nature and extent of domestic violence, hence chosen to examine. The study is also intended to suggest measure to curb domestic violence on the basis of outcomes of the study.

This study is based on the sample of 400 women selected from Mansa district by applying the technique of multi-stage stratified random sampling. The selection of Mansa district is based on the fact that it has highest women work participation rate among the

all districts of Punjab (Census of India). All the blocks and towns of Mansa district have been selected for the present study. Four villages from each block have been selected, two with highest work participation by women and two with lowest women work participation rate. Similarly, two wards each with high and low women work participation rate have been selected. Therefore, from each block, four villages and from each town, four wards have been selected. Consequently, 20 villages and 20 wards have been selected from Mansa district for the primary survey, as Mansa district has five blocks and five towns. A total of 400 hundred households have been selected randomly for the primary survey, out of which 300 households belong to villages and 100 households belong to towns. 15 households have been surveyed from each village and 5 households have been surveyed from each ward. Further, one married woman from each household has been selected for primary survey. A sample of 400 females has been selected out of which 200 females are from working category and 200 females are from non-working category. To collect the information from the respondents a comprehensive schedule was used.

The data so obtained was analyzed through the use simple tabular, percentages, averages, coefficient of variation, Chi-Square test.

So far as the socio-economic background of the respondents is concerned, highest number of respondents belong to the age group of 23-30 years (34%), that is majority of them have just began their marital life. Most of them belong to general category and the Sikh religion preferring the nuclear family system. But, illiteracy is the major factor which forces them to survive in inferior living conditions. This is due to the fact that their status of education is very low and they are incapable to fight against the vices of the community. Analyzing the responses of half employed and half unemployed respondent women, study reveals that casualization is prevalent among 55.5 per cent working women. The casualization and informalisation is attributed to their lower educational status. Further, this has a negative impact on their income levels since earnings of majority of the surveyed women lie in the category of up to Rs.5000. Undoubtedly, husband of the surveyed women are illiterate but their number is less in comparison to the women. This is due to the preference for the education of sons rather than daughters. Moreover, two-fifths of the surveyed men are engaged in casual works and 26 per cent

are regular employees. Being the bread winners of the family, most of the men constitute their income in the category of 5001 to 10000 which is also low but higher than the surveyed women.

Further it has been established that majority of women suffer from the verbal form of domestic violence. However, the extent of verbal violence varies with the nature of employment, income levels, age, caste and residence. The type of family, either joint or nuclear, did not appear as a factor in the difference in extent of verbal violence. The magnitude of verbal violence is less prevalent in the women who are employed on regular basis as compared to self and casual employees. The women of more educated husbands suffer relatively less violence. Better economic status of husbands also leads to decrease in the extent of verbal violence.

So far as the physical violence is concerned, about half of the women suffer from this type of violence. In contrast to the common sense, the employed women are more prone to physical violence as compared to the unemployed women. The extent of physical violence is very high in the case of women employed on casual basis and relatively very less in the case of women who are employed on regular basis. The menace of physical violence reduces as the income of the woman increases. Though the age plays a significant role the magnitude of physical violence but its reducing impact could be seen only after the age of 47. Physical violence is influenced by the caste structure also. SC and BC women are more victims of this offence as compared to general category women. Women who are relatively less educated are experiencing more such violence as compared to those who are better educated. With improvement in the financial condition of husbands leads to less physical violence against women.

It has been established that little more than 40 percent of the women suffer from sexual violence irrespective of their employment status. The lesser income groups, rural women and less educated women are more prone to sexual violence as compared other segments. Nature of employment, education and income of husbands have sizeable influence on the extent of sexual violence. The husbands who are employed on regular basis are less inclined to commit sexual violence. The emotional violence is faced by the

majority of the women. The extent among different demographic categories is similar to the extent in sexual violence.

The study shows that the dominant reason for the domestic violence is the use of alcohol by husbands. As, 34.4% of the victims of domestic violence have reported that it is due to drinking habit of their husbands. Financial problem and home work not completed properly is also cited as a reason for abuse by the 10.6% and 16.6% of the women who suffered domestic violence. 38.2% of victims have reported that violence against them is without any particular reason.

The study depicts that drinking habit of alcohol is dominant reason of violence for the employed women. However, highest number of unemployed women is facing domestic violence without any particular reason. So, there is no concrete association between the employment status and reason of domestic violence. This has further been evident from the insignificant value of the chi-square test statistic. There is significant association between the nature of employment and reasons of domestic violence (significant value of chi-square statistic). For, drinking alcohol (49.4%) is dominant reasons of violence for the women who are employed on casual basis. However, no particular reason (60.6%) has turned out as dominant in case of women who are employed on regular basis. The self-employed women are suffering domestic violence due to alcohol (37.5%) and no particular reason (17.6). The drinking in the age group 31-38 is a dominant reason for domestic violence. Consuming alcohol is dominant reason for low income groups and it is without any reason in higher income categories. The violence due to alcohol follows decreasing trend with the improvement in levels of education among women. Even it has been reduced to zero/negligible for the husbands who have attained education to the level of graduation and higher.

To check the frequency of the violence, sampled women have been asked to respond on whether they encounter the abuse daily, once in a week, once in a month and sometimes. The overall situation reveals that 58.3% of the victims face this problem sometimes. 20.0 percent of the victims of domestic violence have reported that they are facing violence once in a week. This percentage is 15.0% and 6.5% for once in a month and daily measures of frequency respectively. Hence, we can say that frequency of the

existence of violence is more tilted towards sometimes and once in a week. The frequency of violence is irrespective of the employment status. However, the frequency of violence more prevalent in casual employees as compared to regular ones. The maturity with age accompanies the reduction in the frequency of domestic violence. Education levels are negatively related to the frequency of violence against women.

The most prevalent forms of physical violence are pushing, slapping and hit by fist. Emotional violence faced by women are in the form of restricting them to meet friends and other men. Besides, rendering ignore by the husband towards woman is also prominent. The sexual violence against women is largely displayed in the form of first forced intercourse.

Majority of the victims of domestic violence do not approach to seek help from someone to get rid of this menace. Those who seek help from others, majority of them derive solace from either parental or husband's family. Local leaders proved to be very popular to find the solutions for the victims of domestic violence.

The proportion of women who leave home temporarily due to domestic violence is not very large. There are multiplicity of the factors that contribute to leave the home by the victims. In the case of temporally leaving the home, decision to go back is dictated by many factors but 'do not want to leave children' is dominating.

It has been recognized in the established literature that domestic violence is highly prevalent in developing countries in the variety of formats. Even, the developed countries are not devoid of the problem of domestic violence. India may not be exceptional so far as the domestic violence especially against woman is concerned. Existence of domestic violence may have variety of health effects on the victims. It may affect the physical health that ranges from aches, pains to severe injury and so on. Apart from the physical health, the victim may experience variety of mental and reproductive health problems.

The effect of domestic violence may be different for the individuals belonging to different demographic groups such as age, caste, religion, education, joint or nuclear family, income, duration of marriage and so on. It may be expected that the severity of violence lessens with the attainment of education and increased income of the family.

Maturity with age may reduce the intensity of violence and its health effects. Staying in a joint family can ease the mental health problems due to domestic violence.

So the next chapter analyses the effects of domestic violence in terms of physical, mental and reproductive health. The study discovers that half of the victims of domestic violence (about 50%) have no bearing on the physical health. The domestic violence may be reflected in injury to the victim. It has been established that half of the victims suffer from injury due to domestic violence repeatedly. The study determines that scratch, abrasion, bruises, cuts, bites are the dominant forms of the injury that the victims suffered. The victims also suffered from the fractures, sprains and dislocations. Out of 131 injured victims, 78.6 percent needed health care due to injury is an indicator towards the severity of the domestic violence. But, the women are showing grit to openly declare the cause of the injury to the health workers.

The injury due to domestic violence did not make any association with demographic factors such as age, religion and location of victim. However, such association is strong with caste, family type, education of woman and husband, income and duration of marriage.

The study makes it out that domestic violence reflect too little in mental health in terms of losing consciousness, memory loss and thought of committing suicide. However, anger and irritation and sadness are severe manifestations of domestic violence. The after effects of domestic violence in terms of problem of concentration, loss of interest in daily activities, no future after violence, loneliness are moderate.

The 70 percent of the victims of domestic violence are experiencing contraceptives. Besides, the use of contraceptives is not a secret affair between husband and wife, even if there is domestic violence. Even the husbands of the women who suffered domestic violence are cooperative so far as the use of contraceptives are concerned. The major responsibility of contraceptives is born by the women. There is no forced pregnancy and desire to have kids is same for both the spouses. The problem of unwanted pregnancy among the victims of domestic violence is also very little. Besides, the violence has been curtailed moderately after the women become pregnant.

The beating during pregnancy is prevalent among the sufferers of domestic violence irrespective of income and education levels. Besides, the prevalence of miscarriage due to violence cannot be denied. The reaction of husbands for ante-natal care is discouraging for the victims of domestic violence. Even then, desire for son is not a severe form of cruelty against the woman.

The post-natal care in the form of check-up after delivery is true in the case of majority of the victims of domestic violence. Income of the husband has emerged as a determining factor for such post-natal care. The state of health of victim woman is relatively good so far as the weight of the baby at the time of birth is concerned.

Suggestions Emanated from Study

- The study has established that education among women and their husbands is an important tool to curb the all forms of violence. Hence, the contemporary governments should promote basic education among the society to save women from such violence. The basic education for women needs to be highlighted in the political as well as social agenda so that the movements for the women's empowerment achieve the success. The violence will be curbed soon if the education has entered their lives making them aware of their rights in the society.
- The study clearly highlights that women come back to their husband's family even after facing violence from them. They prefer to stay in the destructive and critical relationship because they think that they will be homeless if they leave the relationship and their in laws family. They feel insecure regarding non availability of societal support for them and their children. Therefore, it is essential to empower them with such jobs through which they can earn their own livelihood and take care of their children rather than living in merciful life. They must be trained in some self-employment occupations in order to make them independent of their husbands and the family. The women should be made economically independent. This will reduce their reliance on men which would encourage them not to tolerate the violations against them. This will enable them to move towards a better world with self-reliance and great confidence.

- Governing and non-governing bodies should collaborate and help women to educate them and to learn more about their rights. Seminars and conferences should be organized in the rural as well as the urban areas make them aware about their rights. This would enhance their confidence levels to fight against the evil of domestic violence. Also, funds should be released to organize these workshops and assist the needy women.
- Every form of violence is prevalent among low income categories, SCs and STs. Hence, society, NGOs and governments should focus on them to reduce the extent of domestic violence. It may be achieved through creating peer pressures, legislations and so on.
- Since, mother is, generally, proved to be role model for the daughter for her future living of life. Every woman should establish herself that they do not bear such domestic violence. It may prove very fruitful for their daughters to escape from domestic violence.
- The study states that sexual and emotional violence is widespread among all categories of women irrespective of their status, income, employment and so on. Therefore, there is lack of education in society regarding these facts. Hence, school curriculum be recasted and people should be educated in these contexts to have a beautiful society free from such violence.
- It has been established that other social evils are positively associated with domestic violence. Hence, the evil of domestic violence cannot be solved in isolation. It should be handled holistically.
- Emotional violence is not only the problem of a particular family rather it originates from the practices prevalent in the society. So this problem cannot be handled in pieces. Hence, the society and government should jointly make efforts to develop the society as well as character building. As and when the society will develop, emotional violence will gradually recede.
- Every village or society should have some institution represented by women only where victim women should be able to speak her mind. This will put a social pressure on the male community and they will likely to avoid violence that will bring him to embarrassment.

- As gender stereotyping is the root cause for the low literacy levels among the women in this district, this should be discouraged in the school textbooks and new curriculum and syllabi should be made including the female role models and the achievements of women in various other fields. This would raise their educational standards.
- Our courts and family courts should be efficient that they speedily dispose of the matters related to domestic violence. It will create deterrent effect for the male community to commit the domestic violence.