

CHAPTER V

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5.1 Summary

The present study aimed mainly to investigate the experiences of domestic abuse among the married women in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu, India, and the coping strategies which they choose, the belief they hold as regards the rights and attitudes of married women and the self-esteem they have. The first major aim of the study was to understand the various forms of domestic abuse experienced, namely emotional abuse, economic abuse and physical abuse. The second aim was to identify the coping strategy they adopt and the belief they hold about the rights of women and about domestic abuse in general. The second major aim was to study the self-esteem of the married women. The third major aim was mapping of relationship between domestic abuse, coping strategy, belief system and self-esteem.

A multivariate, cross sectional design was used, where educational qualification, number of years of marriage, employment status, organization where employed, the income, family type, residential status namely rural or urban, type of house living in namely owned or rented, number of children and number of people at home as predictors and the experience of domestic abuse, coping strategy, belief system and self-esteem as criterion variables.

The sample consisted of 342 married women residing in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, aged group between 20 and 60 years, working or home makers, with educational qualification ranged from school education to post graduation and professional studies, either living in joint family or nuclear family system and were from urban or rural residence, living in rented or owned houses.

The participants of the study were assessed on domestic abuse questionnaire, for their experiences on domestic abuse which were in the form of emotional abuse, economic abuse and physical abuse, the coping method they adopted and the belief they held towards such instances. The Rosenberg's self-esteem scale was used to determine the self-esteem of the respondents.

After examining the data for normality and homogeneity for variance and linearity, statistical tools like descriptive statistics, chi-square test, anova, discriminant function analysis, correlation analysis, multiple regression analysis structural equation modeling were employed to analyse the data.

Within the limitations of the present study, the following conclusions were drawn from the results obtained.

5.2 Conclusion

This research aimed to study the domestic abuse experienced, coping strategy, the belief system and the self-esteem of the married women in Madurai District and the influence of the demographic variables on them, found that the demographic variables were predictors of the experience of domestic abuse, coping strategy, the belief system and self-esteem. In addition, difference was observed between the employed married women and the married women who were not employed in Madurai District, in these variables. This study also found the association between the respondents' experience of domestic abuse, the coping strategy adopted by them, their belief system and their self-esteem.

1. The experience of domestic abuse by the married women, their coping strategies, their belief system and their self-esteem were related to their educational qualification, number of years of marriage, employment status, organizations where they were employed, their income, family type, rural or

urban residence, owned or rented house, number of children they had and number of people at home.

2. Coping strategy adopted by the married women were related to the emotional abuse, economic abuse and physical abuse experienced by them.
3. The belief(s) of the married women about their rights as well as domestic abuse and their self-esteem have negative association with the coping strategy.

5.3 Limitations

1. Only the present condition of domestic abuse of the respondents were studied and not the increase or decrease over a period of time.
2. Women who were married and still in relationship were studied and not women divorced due to chronic abuse.
3. The result of the study reflects the views and experience of domestic abuse of married women in Madurai District.

5.4 Suggestion for Future Studies

1. Study may be carried with regard to pre and post intervention, offering counselling to enhance self-esteem and strengthening the belief of married women about their rights.
2. Comparative study may be carried out with the respondents from the metropolitan cities and the non-metropolitan city like Madurai.
3. Study may be carried with respondents hailing from different cultures.

5.5 Utility of the Study

The present study indicates the state of domestic abusive instances prevailing in a district like Madurai which is known for its tradition and culture. The study indicates the relationship between the domestic abuse, the consequent coping method followed by the victim and how this relate on the self-esteem and the belief system of

the married women. Educating married women to know their rights as well as domestic abuse and counselling them so as to enhance their self-esteem may be looked upon to improve their well-being. Family counselling may also be tried so that the spouse and the family members understand the victims' plight and would change over a period of time. In the current era when the women empowerment is highly propagated, it is necessary that the issue of domestic abuse of women have to be addressed strongly in the public and necessary steps have to be taken to ensure its eradication.

Respect to women and treating them well is the greatest virtue a society can possess and it is the duty of every man to protect and treat with dignity the woman whom he marries. The members in the house too have a responsibility to care for the woman who comes as a bride and this act could stop the victimization of married women and can bring a great cultural reform of dignified living of married women.
