
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA



PRESENTED BY

PRATIM SEN

Why This Topic Matters

- Domestic violence severely affects women's **physical, emotional, and mental health**.
- It leads to long-term consequences such as **injuries, depression, loss of autonomy**, and even death.
- Violence within the household remains **under-reported** due to social stigma and fear.
- Understanding associated factors helps in designing **policies and interventions**.
- NFHS-5 shows domestic violence is still **prevalent across India**, making this research socially relevant.



Study Objectives

Main Objectives:

- To estimate the **prevalence of domestic violence** among women in India.
- To examine the relationship between domestic violence and:
 - Husband's alcohol consumption
 - Age of the woman
 - Woman's education level
 - Husband's education level
 - Employment status
 - Wealth status
 - Place of residence (Urban/Rural)
 - Religion
 - Region and State
 - Marital status
- To identify **sociodemographic risk factors** that increase the likelihood of domestic violence.



Methodology

Data Source:

- National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), India (2019–21)
- Dataset used: Women's Individual Recode (IR file)

Study Population:

- Women selected for the Domestic Violence (DV) module
- Filter applied: keep if v044 != 0 (only DV-eligible respondents)

Key Variable (Outcome):

- *Domestic Violence (violence variable)*
- Defined as experiencing **any** of the following:
 - Physical violence (d105a–d105f)
 - Emotional violence (d104)
 - Sexual violence (d108)
 - Final coding: violence = 1 (Yes) if any type was present.

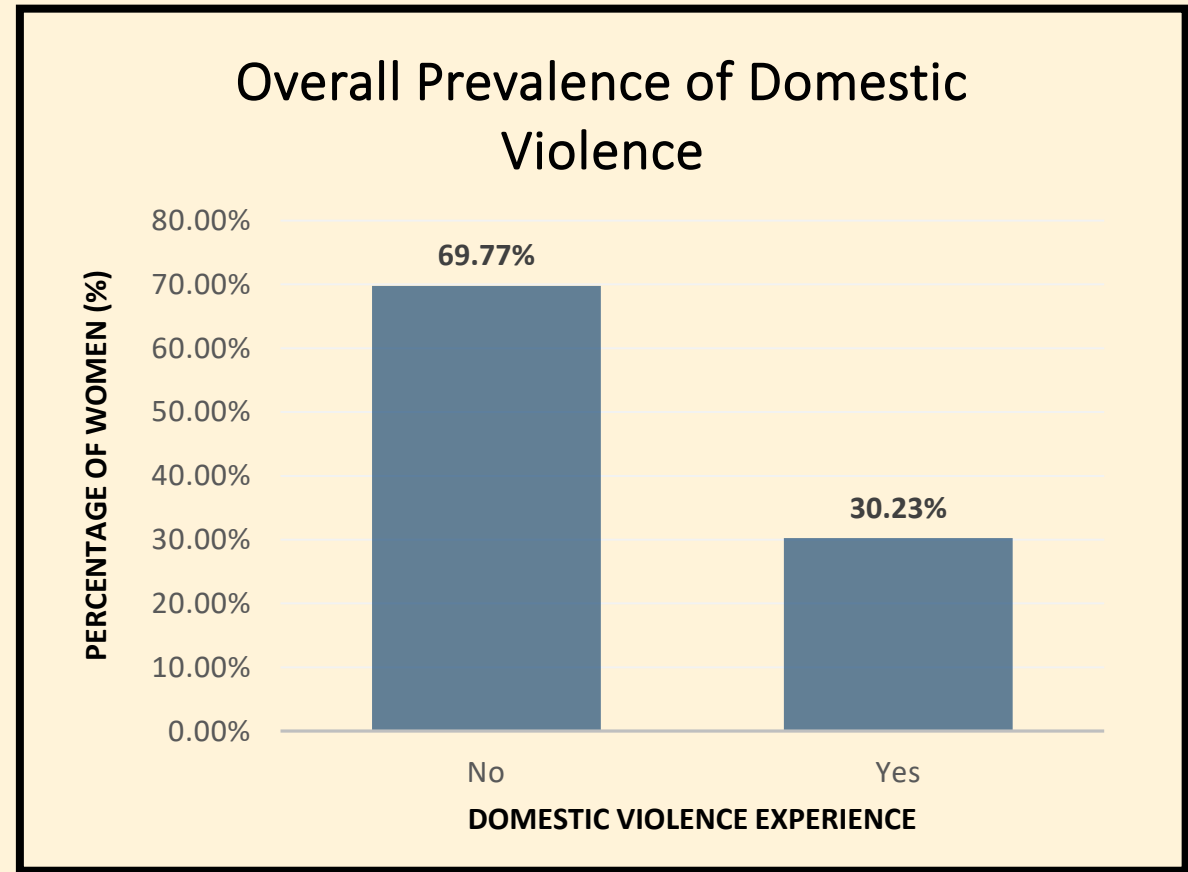
Analysis Performed:

- Descriptive statistics (frequency & percentages)
- Cross-tabulations with Chi-square test for association



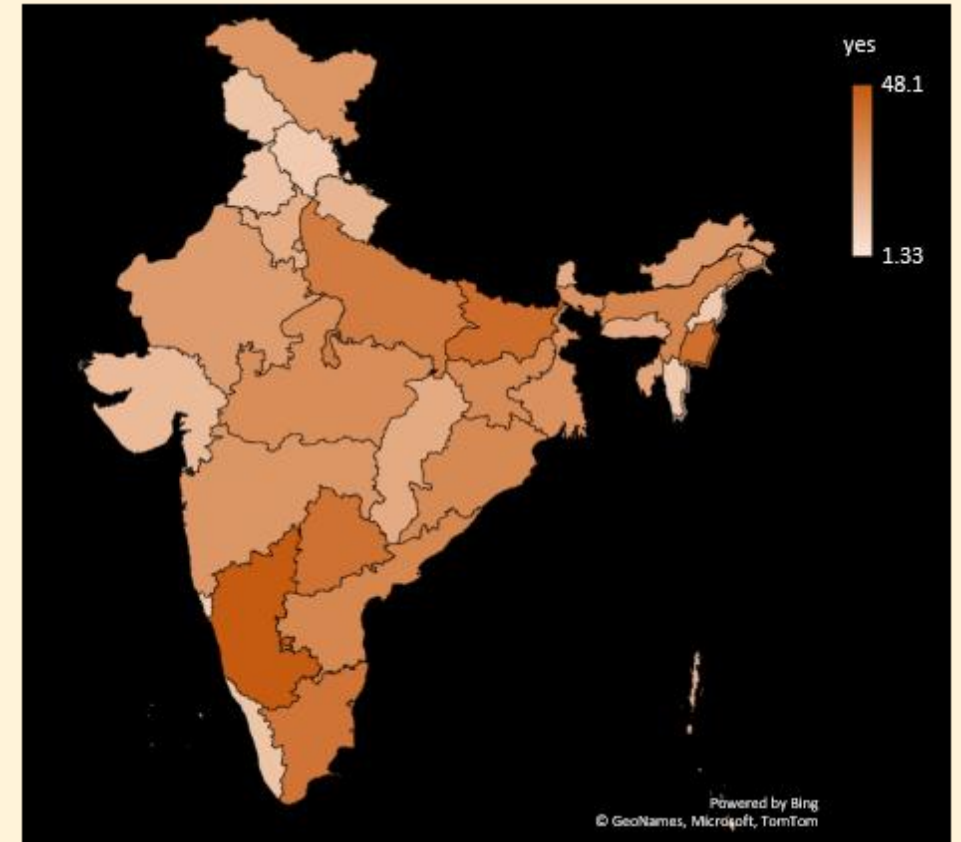
Overall Prevalence of Domestic Violence

- Out of women eligible for the Domestic Violence (DV) module, **30.23%** reported experiencing domestic violence.
- The majority (**69.77%**) reported **no violence**.
- This means **approximately 1 in 3 women** have faced some form of emotional, physical, or sexual violence from their partner.
- These findings indicate that domestic violence is a **significant public health and social issue**.



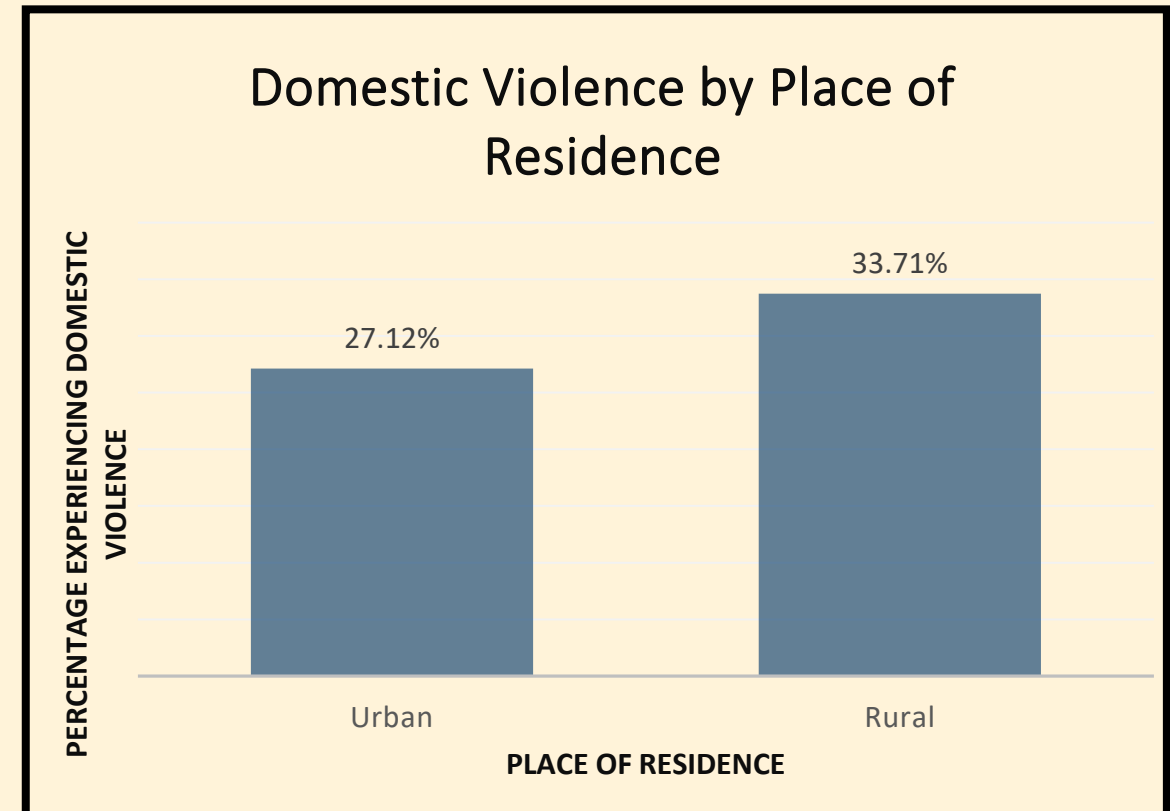
Domestic Violence by State

- Domestic violence shows **wide variation across states** in India.
- States with **highest prevalence** include:
 - **Karnataka (48.10%)**
 - **Bihar (42.28%)**
- States with **lowest prevalence** include:
 - **Lakshadweep (1.33%)**
 - **Goa (9.70%)**
- These differences reflect **state-level socio-cultural norms**, gender attitudes, and access to support systems.
- Domestic violence is not evenly distributed—some states have significantly higher risk, indicating need for targeted state-level interventions.



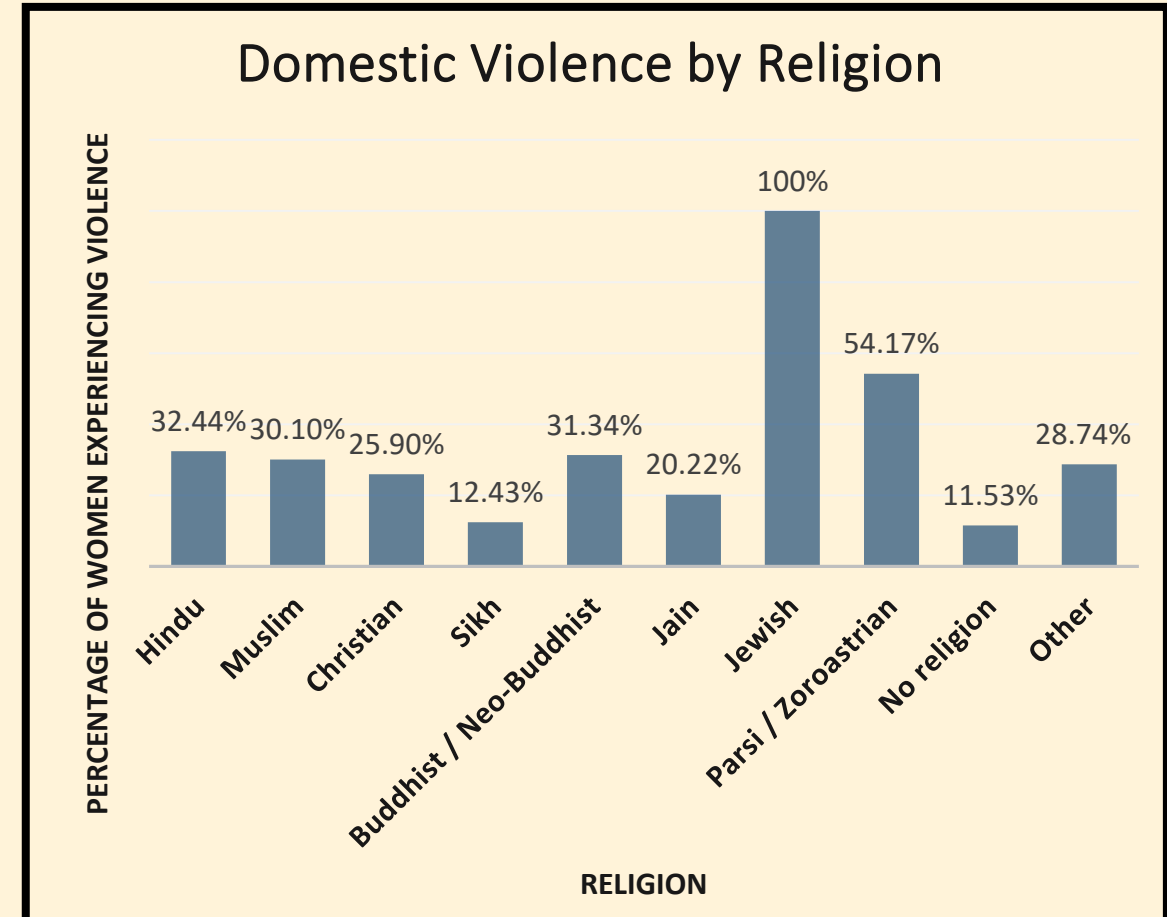
Domestic Violence by Place of Residence (Urban vs. Rural)

- Women in **rural areas** experience higher domestic violence (**33.71%**) compared to those in **urban areas** (**27.12%**).
- The difference suggests that rural women are at a **greater risk** of violence.
- Possible reasons:
 - Stronger **patriarchal norms** and traditional gender roles in rural regions,
 - Limited access to **legal and support services**,
 - Greater economic dependency and lower mobility.
- Domestic violence is **more prevalent in rural households**, highlighting the need for targeted interventions in rural communities.



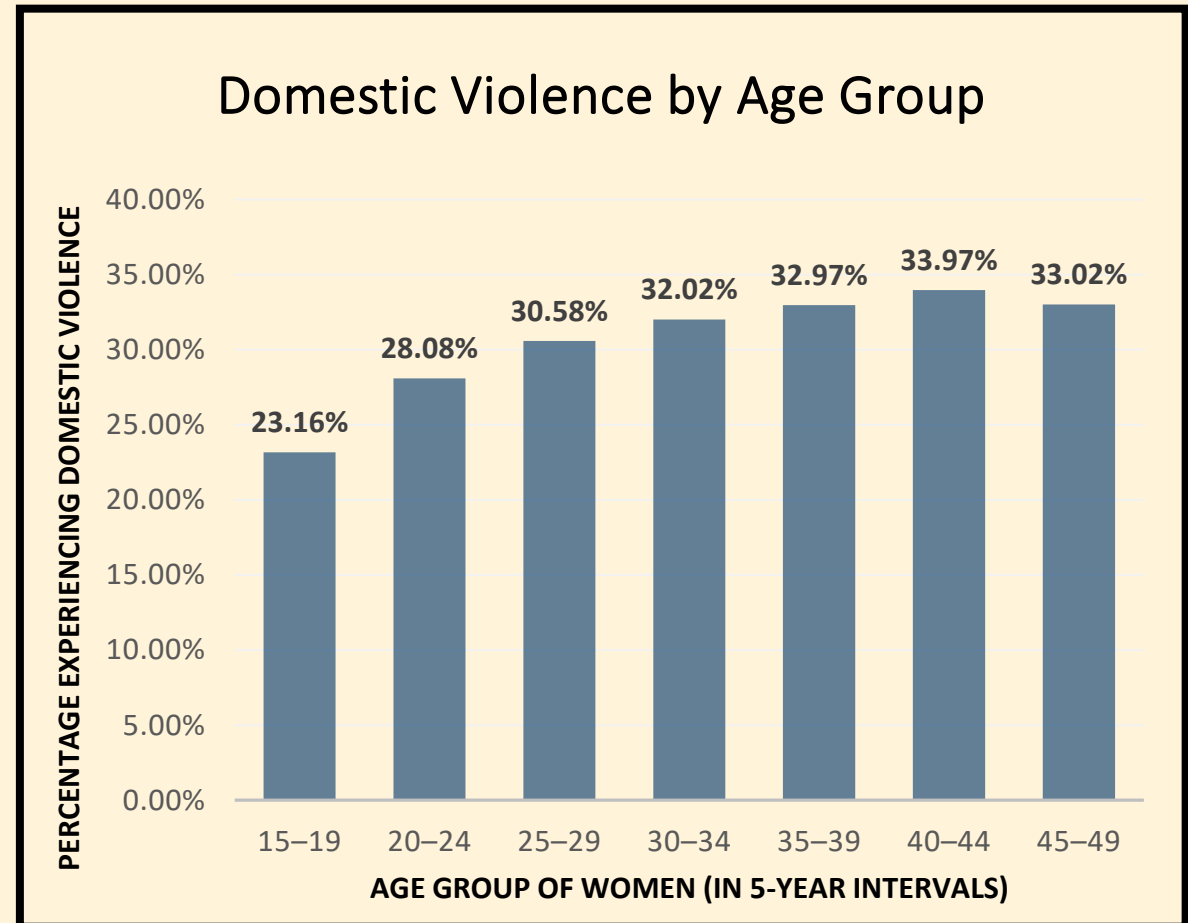
Domestic Violence by Religion

- Domestic violence prevalence varies across religious groups.
- Sikh and "No religion" groups show the **lowest prevalence**.
- Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist groups show **moderate levels**.
- Some smaller groups show extreme values due to **very small sample sizes**.
- The variation reflects **socio-cultural and household factors**, not religion itself.



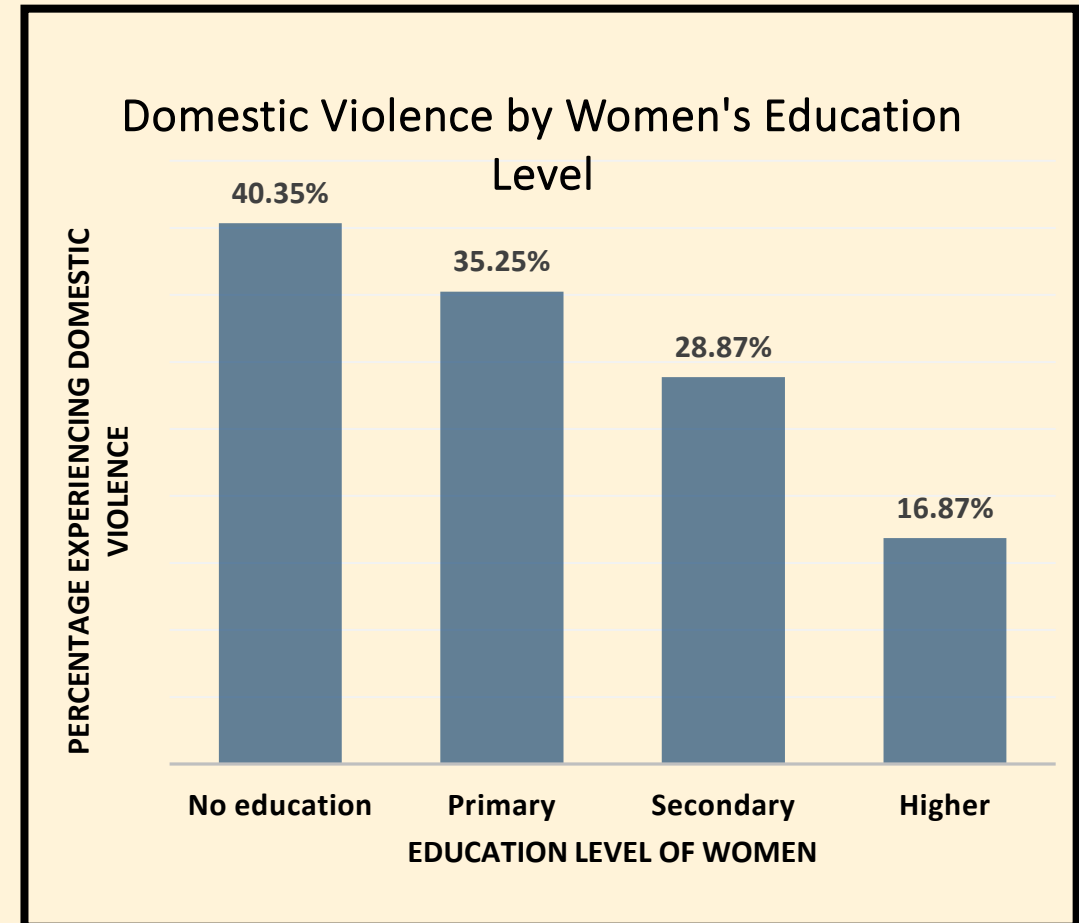
Domestic Violence by Age Group of Women

- Prevalence of domestic violence **increases with age**.
- Only **23.16%** of women aged 15–19 experience violence- the lowest group.
- Violence peaks among ages **40–44 (33.97%)**, and remains high in 45–49 age group (33.02%).
- Older women have likely spent **more years in marriage/union**, increasing exposure to risk.
- Indicates that domestic violence is **not a one-time event**, but can be **persistent and cumulative** over time.



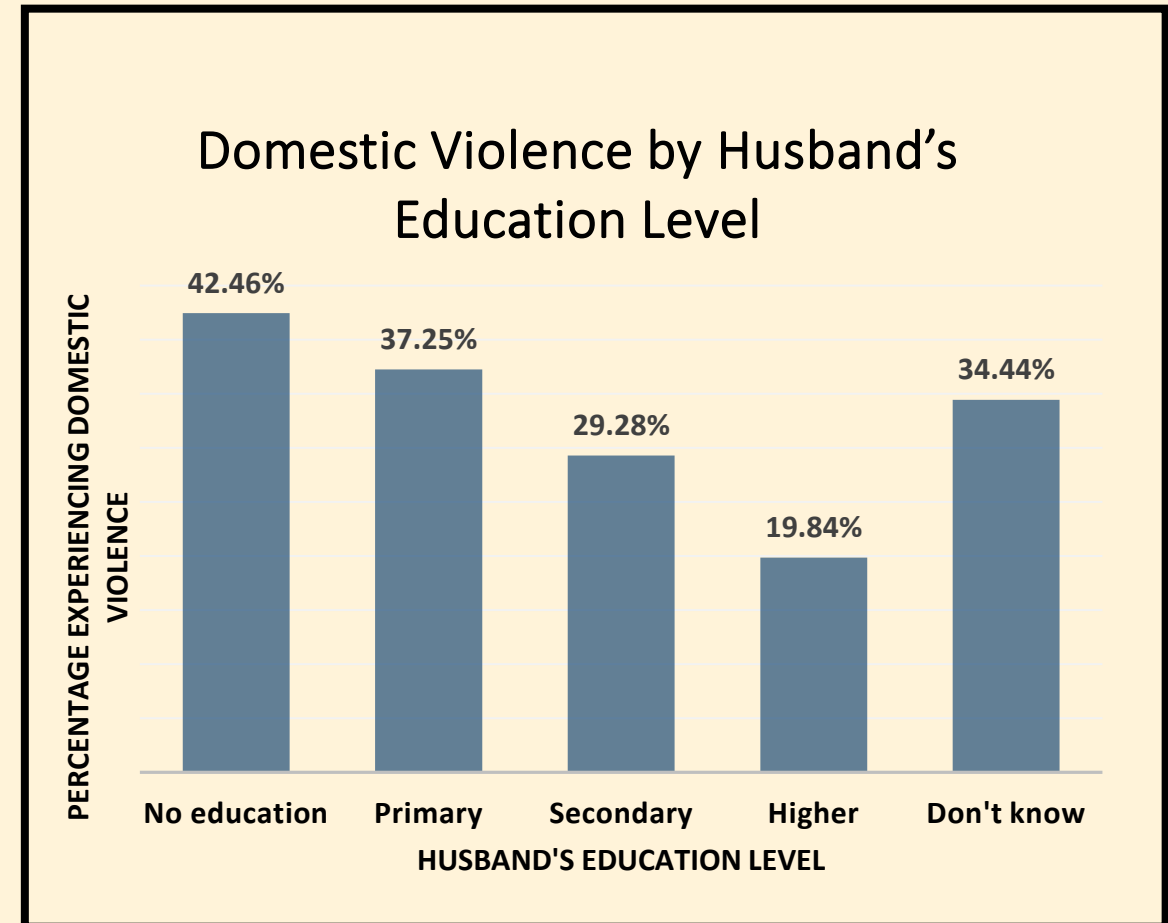
Domestic Violence by Educational Level of Women

- There is a **strong inverse relationship** between education and domestic violence.
- Women with **no education** have the highest experience of violence (**40.35%**).
- Violence gradually decreases with education:
 - **35.25%** among women with primary education
 - **28.87%** among women with secondary education
 - Only **16.87%** among women with higher education-**lowest risk group**
- Educated women may have **greater awareness of rights**, better negotiation power, and more independence, reducing vulnerability.



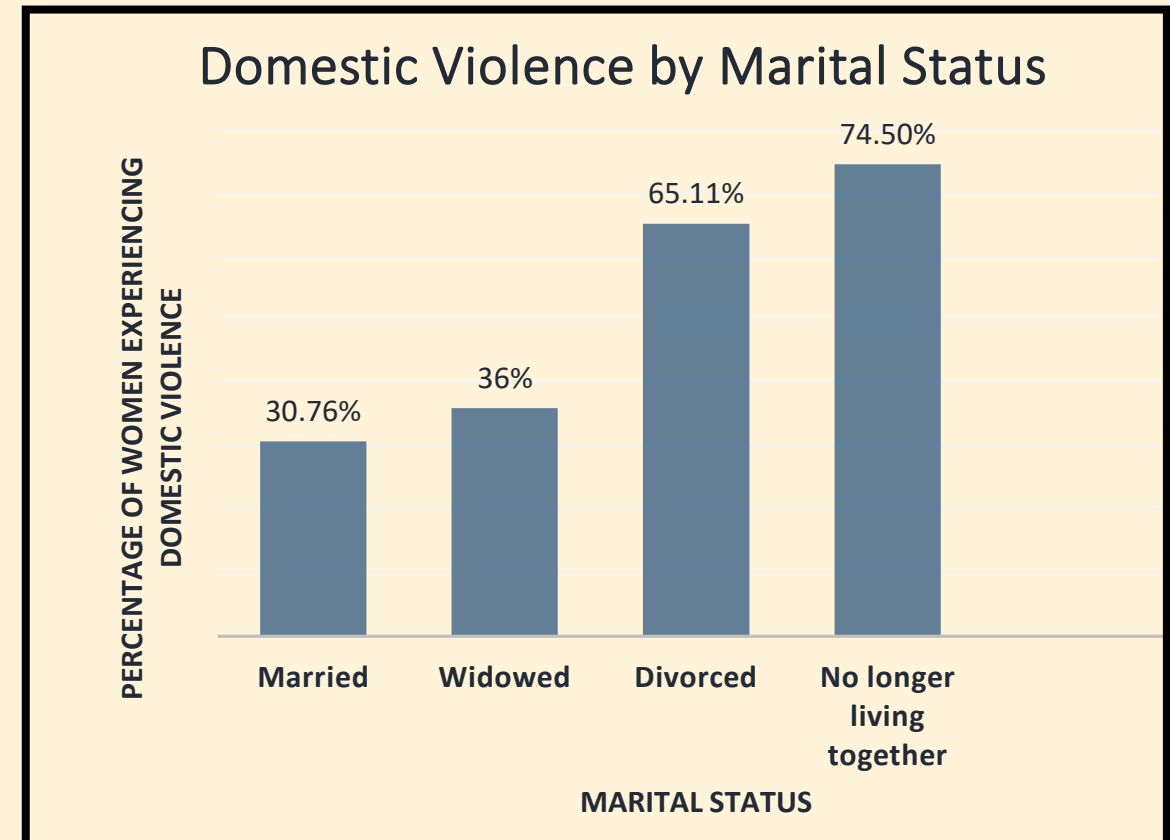
Domestic Violence by Husband's Education Level

- Domestic violence decreases as the **husband's education increases**.
- Women whose husbands have **no education** face the highest violence (**42.46%**).
- Prevalence steadily declines:
 - **37.25%** when husbands completed primary education,
 - **29.28%** with secondary education,
 - **19.84%** with higher education — **lowest violence level**
- Similar to women's education, husband's education is an important **protective factor** against domestic violence.



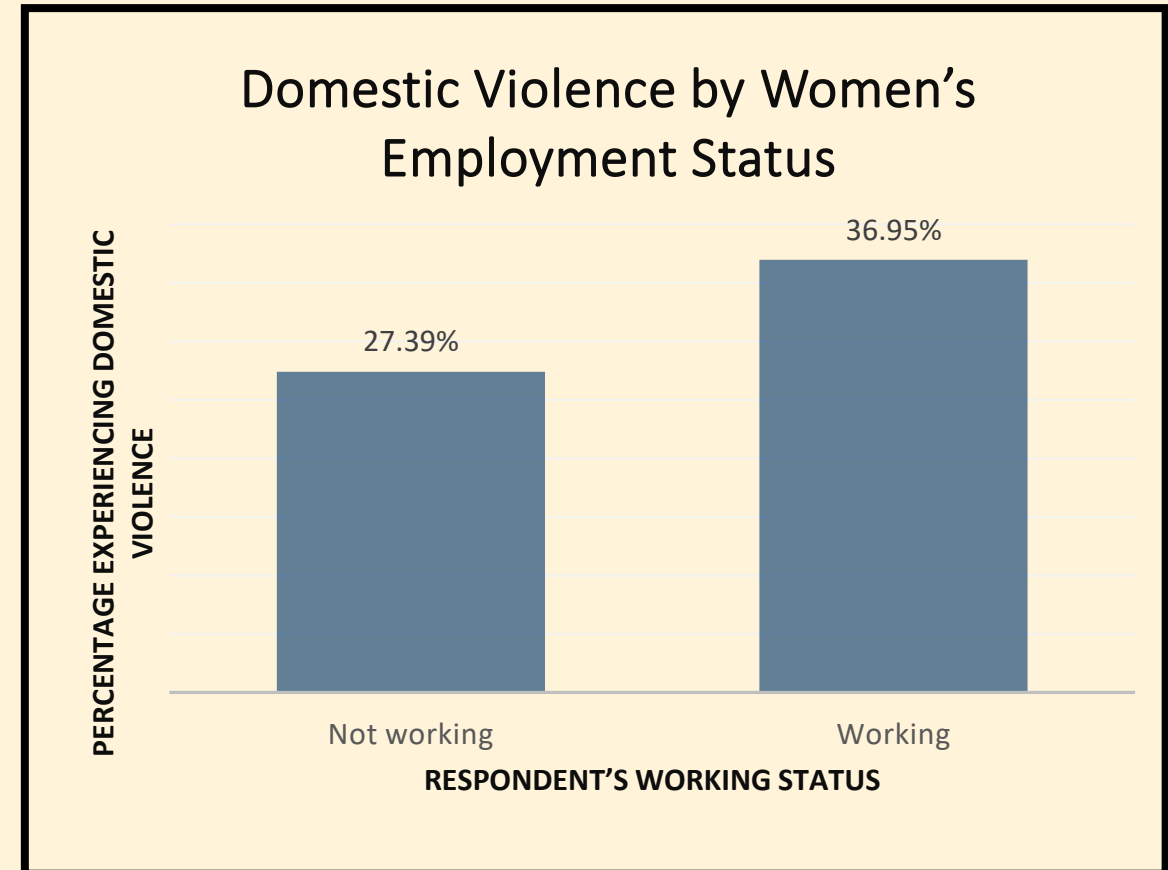
Domestic Violence by Marital Status

- Domestic violence varies sharply by marital status.
- **Married women** experience domestic violence at **30.76%**.
- Prevalence increases when women are no longer in stable unions:
 - **Widowed:** 36.00%
 - **Divorced:** 65.11%
 - **Separated / not living together:** **74.50% (highest)**.
- Highest violence is among separated/divorced women, indicating that leaving a relationship is frequently a result of ongoing violence.



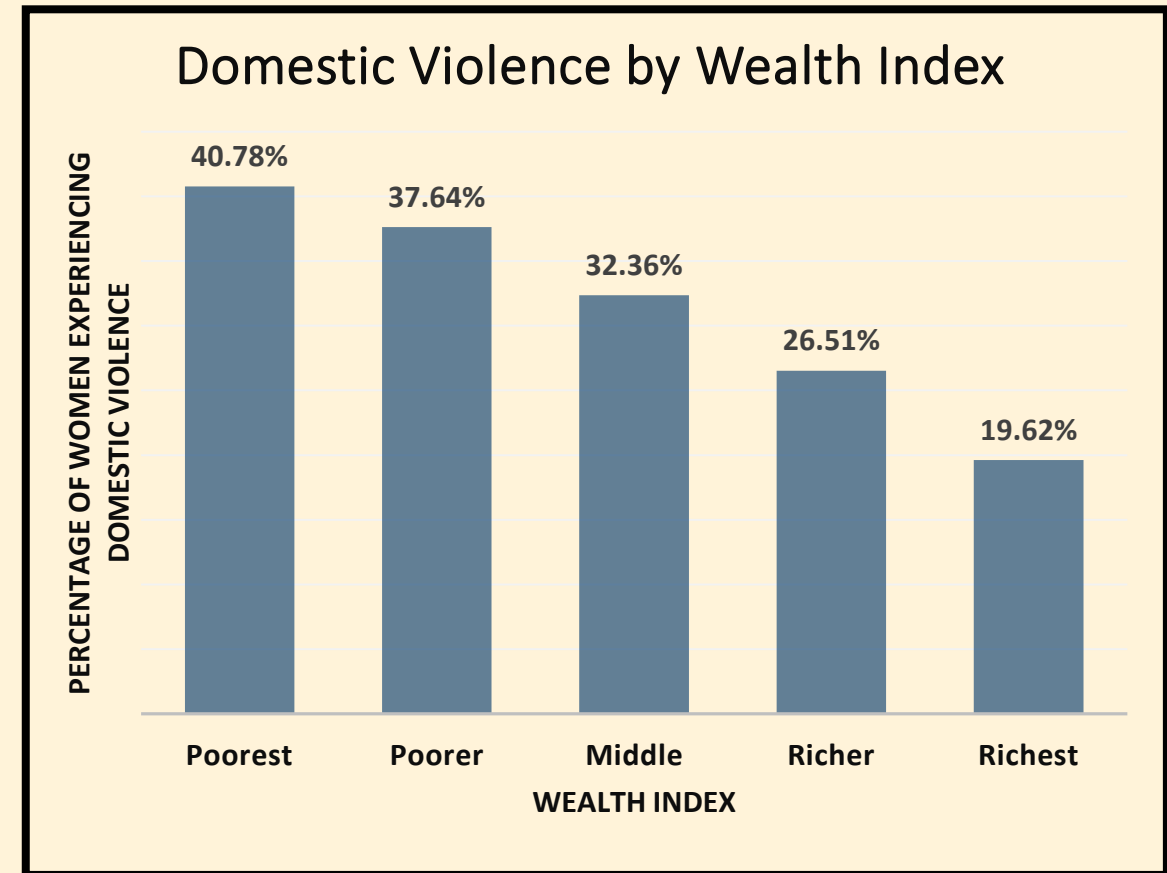
Domestic Violence by Women's Employment Status

- Women who are **currently working** face higher domestic violence (**36.95%**) compared to women who are **not working** (**27.39%**).
- This difference is **statistically significant** (Chi-square test, $p < 0.001$).
- Contrary to expectation, employment does not protect women from violence. Instead, violence is higher among working women.
- This may be due to:
 - **Economic stress** or conflict over income contribution,
 - Husbands feeling **threatened by women's independence**, leading to control or violence,
- Greater negotiation or assertiveness by working women that may trigger conflict in patriarchal settings.



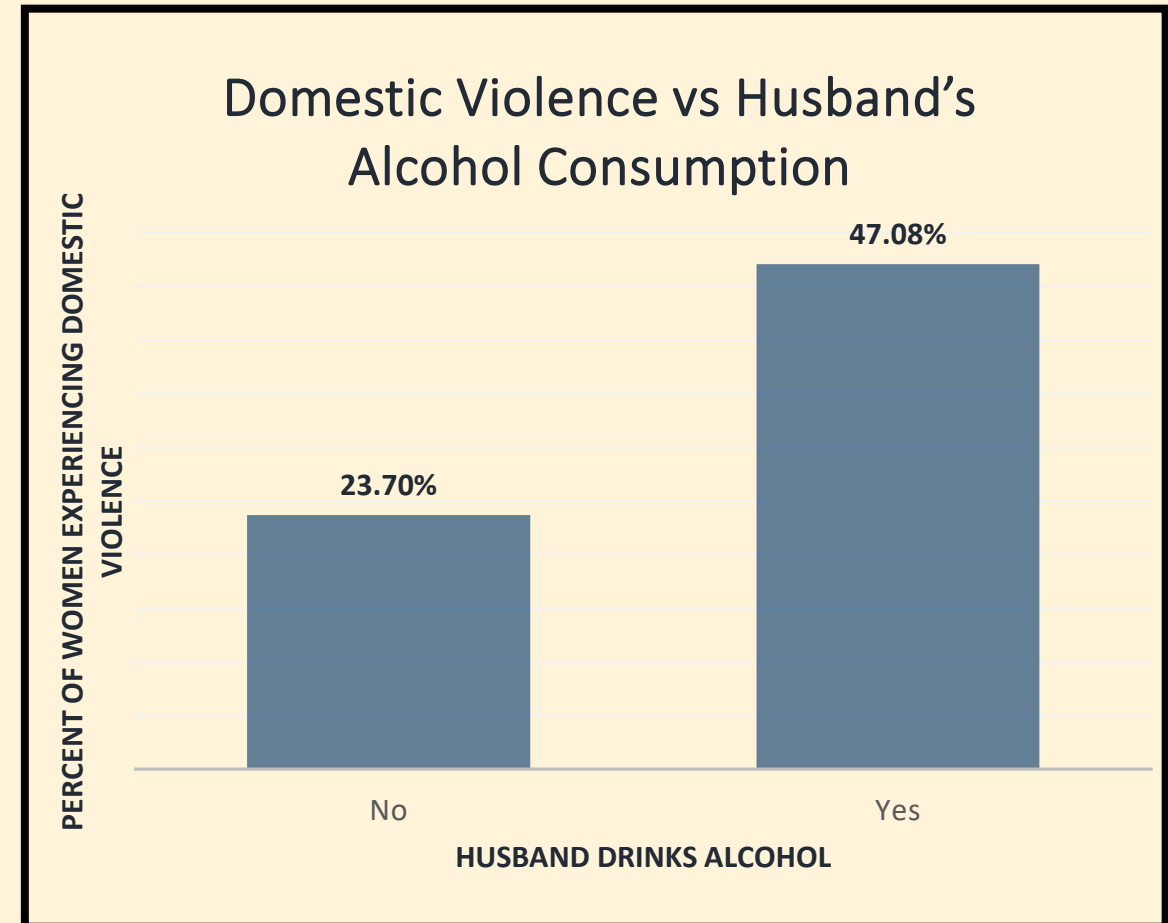
Domestic Violence by Household Wealth Index

- There is a **strong inverse relationship** between household wealth and domestic violence.
- Women in the **poorest wealth category** experience the highest violence (**40.78%**).
- Violence decreases steadily as wealth increases:
 - Poorer: **37.64%**
 - Middle: **32.36%**
 - Richer: **26.51%**
 - Richest: **19.62%** (lowest)
- Domestic violence is most prevalent in economically disadvantaged households.



Domestic Violence by Husband's Alcohol Consumption

- Domestic violence is significantly higher when husbands consume alcohol.
- **47.08% of** women whose husband drinks experienced domestic violence, compared to only **23.70%** among those whose husband does not drink.
- Chi-square test shows a significant association (χ^2 , $p < 0.001$).
- Husband alcohol use is a strong predictor of domestic violence.



Key Findings

- **30.23%** of women experienced domestic violence (NFHS-5 DV sample).
- Violence almost doubles when the husband drinks (47% vs 23%).
- Domestic violence is **highest among women aged 30–49 years**.
- Lower education (woman or husband) is linked with **higher domestic violence**.
- Working women face **more violence** (36.95%) than non-working women (27.39%).
- **Rural women face more violence** (33.71%) than urban women (27.12%).
- Women who are **divorced / separated / not living together** report the **highest violence rates**.



Policy / Program Implications

- Strengthen **alcohol abuse control programs** targeting men.
- Expand women's support services such as helplines, legal aid, and shelter homes.
- Promote **education and awareness campaigns** on gender equality.
- Empower women economically **with safety mechanisms**, not just employment.
- Increase **community-based interventions**, especially in high-prevalence states.
- Encourage routine **screening for violence** in hospitals and health facilities.



Limitations

- Data is **self-reported**; women may underreport due to fear or stigma.
- NFHS is cross-sectional, so it shows association but cannot prove cause and effect.
- Only women eligible for **DV module (v044 = 1)** included, not the entire NFHS sample.
- Some sensitive variables (like alcohol and sexual violence) **may be underreported**.
- NFHS does not capture **psychological trauma or long-term consequences**.

Conclusion

- Domestic violence in India remains a **major public health and human rights issue**.
- Violence is influenced by **husband's alcohol use, education, wealth, and marital status**.
- Economic independence alone is not enough. Societal norms must change.
- Urgent need for **targeted policies**, community awareness, and support services.
- Empowering women and addressing male alcohol consumption can **significantly reduce domestic violence**.



THANK YOU