

# **Gender, Health and Domestic Violence in India:**

A Study of women's health and well being

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## **ABSTRACT**

Domestic violence is a global issue reaching across national boundaries as well as socio-economic, cultural, racial and class distinctions. It is wide spread, deeply ingrained and has serious impacts on women's health and well-being. Its continued existence is morally indefensible. Its cost to individuals, to health systems and to society is enormous. Yet no other major problem of public health has been so widely ignored and so little understood. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), suggest that there were 244,270 crimes committed against women during 2012. These crimes include 24,923 rapes, 8,233 dowry-related murders, and 106,527 instances of abuse by a husband or his relatives. India's National Family Health Survey-III, carried out in 29 states during 2005-06, has found that a substantial proportion of married women have been physically or sexually abused by their husbands at some time in their lives. The survey indicated that, nationwide, 37.2% of women "experienced violence" after marriage. The present paper is an attempt to look forward both towards the issue of domestic violence as well as its impacts on women's health. Data for the present paper was mainly drawn from the National Family Health Survey – 3, (2005- 06).A bivariate and multi variate analysis with correlation of coefficient is used to analyse the data. The outcomes too are interesting. While a sizeable percent (11-15%) reported physical violence activities like, 'twisted her arm or pulled her hair', or beat her up' etc; the state wise outcomes of the types of violence indicates Rajasthan (22.9%), Bihar(55.6%) and West Bengal (21.5%) having the highest nos. of emotional, physical and sexual violence. However, it is due to the level of education, access to mass media and employment etc. somehow restricts the occurrence of domestic violence.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of this paper are as follows:

1. To identify the prevalence of types of domestic violence among married women in India
2. To find out the differences in different forms of violence experienced and
3. To find out the types of health hazards women face during the act of domestic violence.

## **DATA**

Data for the present paper was mainly drawn from the National Family Health Survey – 3, 2005-06 (NFHS-3) conducted during November 2005 – August, 2006 in 29 states of India. In all, 1, 24, 385 ever-married women (15-49 years) were interviewed from 1, 09, 041 households and the response rate was 97.7 percent. The researcher also looks at the NCRB data sheet to mark out the magnitude of the prevalence of domestic violence. Analysis of the secondary data sources will be done to trace out the impact on domestic violence on women's health.

## **ANALYSIS**

The analysis has been carried out mostly on frequency and bivariate cross tabulations. The magnitude of different forms of domestic spousal violence viz., physical, sexual and emotional as well as whether women ever sought help and from whom such help is sought are analyzed with the help of frequency tables. To identify the relationship between the explanatory variables and forms of violence, the multivariate analysis was carried out.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, in India, 35 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 reported having experienced any form of physical violence, slapping is the most common one; 10 percent faced any form of sexual violence, physically forced to have sex is the major one; and about 16 percent experienced any form of emotional violence, said or did something to humiliate her in front of others as the most mentioned. With a few exceptions, the magnitude of all forms of spousal violence is higher than the national average in the states of Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, and Orissa, and the lower being in Himachal Pradesh. The outcomes of such violence are in most cases physical causing damage and deformation in the body parts and organs in general to death in specific.