

Extended Abstract

Does education and economic empowerment of women help to reduce spousal violence in wealthy families?

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Introduction

Domestic violence is usually considered a private issue and occurs in private domains; it is unlikely to be known by other people unless the victim speaks out and tries to seek help from formal or informal sources. The help seeking behaviour was found in one third (31.5%) of women who had faced violence in their lifetime (Bhattacharya et al., 2013). These women had never sought any help, even from their relatives and close friends, and preferred to rely upon their own strategies to deal with the situation. When women are beaten in the full knowledge of others, most people choose not to intervene because the disputes between husband and his wife are seen as internal family affairs in which the 'outsiders' are not expected to interfere. An act of exposing the husband, and thus his family, by seeking help from non-governmental or governmental organisations may have the desired effect of shaming him (Visaria L., 2000). She also pointed out that sometimes education does not empower women to enter the public arena for support. Better educated women or those belonging to better-off families who experience violence are least likely to share their experiences or seek support from others (Visaria L., 2008).

Objective

1. To examine the help seeking behavior with victim's attitude towards acceptance of the violence.
2. Study of those women who silently suffer the violence by their educational and occupational status.

Methodology

Data for the present research work has drawn from the National Family Health Survey -3. This research study is based on wealthy families therefore as per wealth index richer (17,499) and richest (18,654) group has been identified for wealthy families. In this research study, data from 36,153 women of high wealth quintile including currently-married, separated, divorced and widowed women from the ever-married women have been taken. Bi-variate , multivariate and multiple linear regression analysis are carried out.

Results and Discussion

The data shows that there are educated and economically empowered women, who suffer some form of violence but never ask for assistance to stop the violence. Almost one half percent ever married women who have completed their secondary education from West region, 45.5 percent women who have no education in North region, 21 percent who completed their primary education and 10 percent who have completed their higher education never sought help from anyone which are higher compare to other regions. It is interesting finding that majority of women who have completed their secondary education do not seek help compare to other education and nearly 5 percent women from all regions who have completed their higher education never ask for help which indicates that education is empower indicators where women are socially empowered and aware of their rights. It is very interesting observation that those husbands are more educated that the victims, never seek for help. In central region 51 percent women reported that they never seek help whose husbands are better educated because husbands who are abusive will have deliberately tried to break down their wives' confidence, and make her feel like she is foolish, hopeless, and responsible for the abuse. She may feel powerless and unable to make decisions while nearly 48 percent women from North East region where husbands and wives are equal level schooling also do not seek help may be do not want to lose the marital relationship with

emotional bonding because they may be not abusive all of the time which are higher among the regions. Moreover, 11 percent in central regions where husbands and wives are not educated and 13 percent from south region where wife is better educated do not seek help. Women who are homemaker (85.5%) do not seek help from East regions compare to working women may be result of losing children, economic dependency, pressurise to maintain relationship and fear of isolation from family and society. Moreover women who earn less than their partner (80%) from north region are more likely to do not seek help compare to other regions and other income gap.

Conclusion

Almost three-fourth women never talked about the violence they faced to someone and do not ask for help. Women, overall tend to keep silent about violence. Most of the ever married women seeking help are either emotionally abused or next sexually abused by their husbands. When the violence is more serious, other family members beat them, or they think they are being beaten for no good reason, they tend to categorize such violence as unacceptable and are more likely to turn to other people for help. Women who do not seek any kinds of help are less socially empowered endure domestic violence within their marriages because of economic dependence, fear of losing custody of their children, social isolation, and ignorance about institutions that might offer shelter or assistance and may be under-reporting of physical abuse (Pruitt 2008, Tenkorang E., et al., 2013; Narayan U., 1995).

Table 1: Percentage distribution of who do not seek help who suffered any violence in Lifetime which are committed through husbands with Education and Occupation of among Ever Married Women NFHS- 3 (2005-06).

Do not Seek Help by suffered any violence	Education N=5969				Educational Difference N=5959				Occupation N=5973				Earns more than partner N=1209			
	No Education	Primary	Secondary	Higher	Neither educated	Both equally educated	Wife better educated	Husband better educated	Not Working	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	More than him	Less than him	About the same	Partner does not bring in money
North	45.5	17.4	33.2	3.9	12.1	30.0	7.2	50.7	67.8	19.1	8.8	4.3	5.7	79.8	9.2	5.3
Central	43.0	16.5	35.0	5.5	11.3	29.4	8.4	51.0	81.4	8.2	6.7	3.8	14.7	75.3	7.4	2.6
North East	17.8	17.8	54.3	10.1	7.5	47.8	10.6	34.2	68.7	6.1	7.6	17.6	15.0	60.0	25.0	-
West	22.8	19.2	55.0	3.0	7.9	44.8	11.1	36.2	65.9	11.9	17.5	4.6	10.7	77.0	6.6	5.7
East	29.6	17.0	47.1	6.3	8.1	39.7	7.4	44.7	85.5	5.2	4.4	5.0	16.2	71.3	8.1	4.4
South	25.0	21.1	48.2	5.7	8.4	44.6	12.8	34.2	64.9	13.6	15.5	6.0	16.8	73.6	7.4	2.2
India	33.9	18.1	42.6	5.4	9.7	37.2	9.2	43.9	74.5	11.1	9.3	5.2	13.3	74.9	8.4	3.5