

Domestic Violence Against Women In India

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence in India includes any form of violence suffered by a person from a biological relative, but typically is the violence suffered by a woman by male members of her family or relatives. The contributing factors could be the desire to gain control, the desire, to exploit someone for personal benefits, the flare to be in a commanding position all the time showcasing one's supremacy so on and so forth. On various occasions, psychological problems and social influence also add to the vehemence. The present review work deals with domestic violence against women prevalent in India. The after effects of domestic violence and the possible remedies have been highlighted. Finally, a conclusion has been drawn after the complete analysis of the topic considering the facts and figures at hand.

Key words : Domestic violence, woman.

Introduction

Domestic violence is being recognized globally as a major issue for women's Human Rights. According to recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report, one in six women around the world suffers from domestic violence. Domestic violence cuts across class, caste and religious boundaries. It is one of the most powerful means of patriarchy to maintain the subordinate position of women. It is the crude use of force to put women into a subordinate position. Since the 1990s, there has been increasing concern about violence against Women in general and domestic violence in particular, in both developed and developing countries. Domestic violence occurs in all socio-

economic and cultural population subgroup and in many societies, including India.

It is important here to clarify the concept of violence against women. The United Nations Commission on the status of Women defines violence against women to include, "any act of gender based violence that results in or likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women."

A term 'domestic violence' in the context of women includes various forms of violence that women face both in their natal and marital homes, at the hands of their father, brothers, sons, uncles, husband and in laws. Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse.

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According to United Nation Population Fund Report, around two-third of married Indian Women are victims of domestic violence and as many as 70 per cent of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex. In India, more than 55 percent of the women suffer from domestic violence, especially in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P. and northern states.

Experience of Violence by Women Age 15-49

In this section, women’s experience of physical

violence since age 15 is discussed, followed by a discussion of their lifetime experience of sexual violence. Indicators of the ever experience of physical or sexual violence are also discussed.

Table I : Experience of physical violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 and percentage who have experienced physical violence during the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06.

Table I : Experience of physical violence

| Background characteristic | Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 | Percentage who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | Often | Sometimes | Often or sometimes | Number of women |
| Age | | | | | |
| 15-19 | 20.7 | 2.8 | 11.7 | 14.5 | 16,617 |
| 20-24 | 30.8 | 4.1 | 15.8 | 19.9 | 15,427 |
| 25-29 | 38.1 | 5.2 | 18.3 | 23.5 | 13,832 |
| 30-39 | 39.4 | 4.6 | 16.4 | 21.0 | 22,542 |
| 40-49 | 37.7 | 3.1 | 12.4 | 15.5 | 15,286 |
| Residence | | | | | |
| Urban | 28.3 | 2.9 | 12.0 | 14.9 | 27,371 |
| Rural | 36.1 | 4.4 | 16.4 | 20.9 | 56,332 |
| Education | | | | | |
| No education | 44.3 | 5.7 | 19.9 | 25.6 | 34,138 |
| <5 years complete | 39.1 | 4.7 | 17.2 | 21.9 | 6,600 |
| 5-7 years complete | 32.4 | 3.7 | 15.1 | 18.7 | 12,557 |
| 8-9 years complete | 26.0 | 2.9 | 12.3 | 15.2 | 11,700 |
| 10-11 years complete | 21.3 | 1.9 | 8.7 | 10.6 | 8,683 |
| 12 or more years complete | 14.3 | 0.8 | 5.2 | 6.0 | 10,023 |
| Employment | | | | | |
| Not employed | 29.1 | 3.2 | 13.4 | 16.6 | 47,720 |
| Employed for cash | 39.6 | 4.9 | 17.3 | 22.2 | 24,079 |
| Marital status | | | | | |
| Never married | 16.1 | 1.4 | 8.1 | 9.5 | 16,477 |
| Currently married | 37.4 | 4.7 | 17.5 | 22.1 | 62,652 |
| Married, gauna not performed | 14.9 | 0.7 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 568 |
| Widowed | 37.9 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 2,692 |
| Divorced/separated/ deserted | 66.1 | 11.0 | 13.2 | 24.2 | 1,314 |

| Background characteristic | Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 | Percentage who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | Often | Sometimes | Often or sometimes | Number of women |
| Household structure² | | | | | |
| Nuclear | 35.7 | 4.2 | 16.4 | 20.5 | 43,551 |
| Non-nuclear | 31.2 | 3.7 | 13.5 | 17.2 | 40,152 |
| Religion | | | | | |
| Hindu | 33.7 | 3.9 | 14.9 | 18.8 | 67,426 |
| Muslim | 34.6 | 4.9 | 16.2 | 21.1 | 11,396 |
| Christian | 27.8 | 3.0 | 13.8 | 16.7 | 2,039 |
| Sikh | 26.1 | 1.5 | 11.9 | 13.3 | 1,492 |
| Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist | 40.9 | 4.1 | 14.4 | 18.5 | 681 |
| Jain | 12.6 | 1.4 | 3.9 | 5.3 | 264 |
| Other | 36.3 | 2.8 | 18.2 | 21.0 | 333 |
| Caste/Tribe | | | | | |
| Scheduled caste | 41.7 | 4.9 | 19.0 | 23.9 | 15,609 |
| Scheduled tribe | 39.3 | 5.5 | 19.0 | 24.5 | 6,866 |
| Other backward class | 34.1 | 4.0 | 15.1 | 19.0 | 32,938 |
| Other | 26.8 | 3.1 | 11.4 | 14.5 | 27,582 |
| Don't know | 28.5 | 1.6 | 15.5 | 17.2 | 466 |
| Wealth index | | | | | |
| Lowest | 44.5 | 6.6 | 20.9 | 27.5 | 14,763 |
| Second | 41.8 | 5.5 | 19.6 | 25.1 | 15,997 |
| Middle | 35.9 | 4.3 | 16.2 | 20.5 | 16,790 |
| Fourth | 29.7 | 2.8 | 12.7 | 15.5 | 17,499 |
| Highest | 19.2 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 8.6 | 18,654 |
| Total | 33.5 | 4.0 | 15.0 | 18.9 | 83,703 |

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

By age, the prevalence of physical violence is lowest, at 21 percent, for women age 15, 19, followed by 31 percent for women age 20-24 and 38-39 percent for women in the older age groups.

Among women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15, percentage who report specific persons who committed the violence, according to the respondent's marital status, India, 2005-06 (Table 2).

As expected, almost all ever-married women who have experienced violence report current or

former husbands as the persons who inflicted violence. Eighty-five percent of ever-married women who have experienced violence since the age of 15 have experienced it from their current husband. Only 2 percent mention a mother-in-law as the perpetrator. Never married women and women whose *gauna* has not been performed mainly report family members, particularly mothers, as the person committing the violence. Notably, about one in seven of these women reports violence at the hands of a teacher.

Table 2 : Persons committing physical violence

| Person | Marital status | | | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | Ever married | Married, gauna not performed | Never married | |
| Current husband | 85.3 | (4.9) | NA | 77.0 |
| Former husband | 7.3 | (0.0) | NA | 6.6 |
| Current boyfriend | 0.0 | (0.0) | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Former boyfriend | 0.0 | (4.9) | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Father/step-father | 4.4 | (29.5) | 26.6 | 6.6 |
| Mother/step-other | 8.9 | (64.3) | 57.1 | 13.7 |
| Sister/brother | 4.7 | (19.6) | 36.3 | 7.8 |
| Daughter/son | 0.1 | (0.0) | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Other relative | 1.4 | (3.4) | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| Mother-in-law | 1.9 | (0.0) | NA | 1.7 |
| Father-in-law | 0.6 | (0.0) | NA | 0.6 |
| Other in-law | 1.5 | (0.0) | NA | 1.3 |
| Teacher | 1.7 | (16.3) | 14.9 | 3.0 |
| Employer/someone at work | 0.0 | (0.0) | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Police/soldier | 0.0 | (0.0) | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Other | 02 | (0.0) | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Number of women | 25,337 | 85 | 2,656 | 28,078 |

Lifetime Sexual Violence

NFHS-3 included two sets of questions on sexual violence. The first set asked only ever-married women about sexual violence by the current husband if currently married and the most recent husband if currently divorced, separated, deserted or widowed. The second asked all women, regardless of marital status, whether they had ever, as a child or as an adult, experienced sexual violence. Sexual violence here includes being forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts against one's own will. Table 3 shows that 9 percent of all women age 15-49 report

having experienced sexual violence at sometime during their lifetime.

Ten percent of currently married or widowed women, 1 percent of never married women, and 2 percent of women whose *gauna* has not yet been performed report have experienced sexual violence. However, compared not only with women in other marital statuses, but also with all other subgroups in the table, it is divorced, separated, or deserted women have the highest prevalence of sexual violence (25 percent).

Five percent of women age 15-19 report having experienced sexual violence, the lowest rate among

all the age groups. Ten percent of rural women have experienced sexual violence, compared with 6 percent of urban women. The prevalence of sexual violence declines sharply with education from 12 percent among women with no education to less than 5 percent of women with at least 10 years of education. As in the case of physical violence, women who were employed (either for cash or not for cash) during the 12 months preceding the survey have a somewhat higher prevalence of sexual violence (10 percent) than women not employed (7 percent). According to religion, Buddhist/ Neo-Buddhist and Jain women have the lowest prevalence of sexual violence (3 and 4 percent) and Muslim women the highest (11 percent), followed by Hindu women (8 percent). Prevalence of sexual violence is somewhat higher for the scheduled castes (11 percent) and scheduled tribes (10 percent) than for women not belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes (7-9 percent). As with physical violence, prevalence is highest among women in the poorest wealth quintile (13 percent) and declines steadily with increasing wealth to a low of 4 percent among women in the highest quintile.

Table 3 : Experience of sexual violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence by background characteristics
India, 2005-2006.

| Background characteristic | Percentage who have ever experienced sexual violence | Number of women |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Age | | |
| 15-19 | 4.5 | 16,617 |
| 20-24 | 8.6 | 15,427 |
| 25-29 | 10.2 | 13,832 |
| 30-39 | 10.2 | 22,542 |
| 40-49 | 8.5 | 15,286 |
| Residence | | |
| Urban | 5.9 | 27,371 |
| Rural | 9.7 | 56,332 |
| Education | | |
| No education | 12.1 | 34,138 |
| <5 years complete | 10.5 | 6,600 |
| 5-7 years complete | 8.1 | 12,557 |
| 8-9 years complete | 6.0 | 11,700 |
| 10-11 years complete | 3.7 | 8,683 |
| 12 or more years complete | 2.3 | 10,023 |
| Employment (past 12 months) | | |
| Not employed | 7.4 | 47,720 |
| Employed for cash | 9.7 | 24,079 |

| Background characteristic | Percentage who have ever experienced sexual violence | Number of women |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Employed not for cash | 10.1 | 11,880 |
| Marital status | | |
| Never married | 1.1 | 16,477 |
| Currently married | 10.1 | 62,652 |
| Married, <i>gauna</i> not performed | 1.8 | 568 |
| Widowed | 9.7 | 2,692 |
| Divorced/separated/deserted | 24.6 | 1,314 |
| Household structure¹ | | |
| Nuclear | 8.5 | 43,551 |
| Non-nuclear | 8.5 | 40,152 |
| Religion | | |
| Hindu | 8.3 | 67,426 |
| Muslim | 10.9 | 11,396 |
| Christian | 5.8 | 2,039 |
| Sikh | 4.6 | 1,492 |
| Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist | 2.8 | 681 |
| Jain | 3.9 | 264 |
| Other | 9.3 | 333 |
| Caste/tribe | | |
| Scheduled caste | 11.0 | 15,609 |
| Scheduled tribe | 10.2 | 6,866 |
| Other backward class | 7.4 | 32,938 |
| Other | 7.8 | 27,582 |
| Don't know | 8.7 | 466 |
| Wealth index | | |
| Lowest | 13.2 | 14,763 |
| Second | 11.1 | 15,997 |
| Middle | 8.8 | 16,790 |
| Fourth | 6.8 | 17,499 |
| Higher | 3.7 | 18,654 |
| Total | 8.5 | 83,703 |

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

Table 4 shows percentage distribution of women who have experienced sexual violence with relation to their age at first experienced of sexual violence. For majority of women who report sexual violence, the information of age when first experience of sexual violence occurred is not known as these acts were committed in a marital

relationship. The data also suggested that non marital sexual violence typically occurred in the age group 15-19 and a significant proportion also reported acts of sexual violence even before the age of 15. Again about one in four women report sexual violence by someone other than a current or most a recent husband.

Table 4 : Age at experience of sexual violence

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence by age at first experience of sexual violence, according to current age, India, 2005-2006

| Age | Age at first experience of sexual violence | | | | | Missing | Total | Number of women |
|-------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|---------|--------|-----------------|
| | Less than age 10 | Age 10-14 | Age 15-19 | Age 20-49 | Not determined/ don't know ¹ | | | |
| 15-19 | 2.1 | 9.8 | 32.2 | NA | 55.3 | 0.7 | 100.0 | 751 |
| 20-24 | 0.0 | 4.4 | 18.3 | 7.3 | 69.8 | 0.3 | 100.0 | 1,324 |
| 25-29 | 0.2 | 4.6 | 10.5 | 8.4 | 76.2 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 1,413 |
| 30-39 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 10.3 | 8.3 | 77.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,308 |
| 40-49 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 10.6 | 11.3 | 73.5 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 1,293 |
| Total | 0.4 | 4.8 | 14.2 | 7.8 | 72.6 | 0.2 | 100.00 | 7,090 |

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

¹ includes women who report having ever experienced sexual violence committed only by their current husband if currently married or most recent husband if widowed, divorced, separated, or deserted. For these women, the age at first experience of sexual violence is not known.

Table 5 shows the perpetrators of sexual violence according to women's marital status and age at first experience of violence. The table shows that although the vast majority of ever-married women reporting any sexual violence have

experienced such violence at the hands of a husband, 2 percent report sexual violence by a relative, 1 percent report sexual violence by a friend/ acquaintance, and about half a percentage point each, report sexual violence by a boyfriend, an in-law, a family friend, or a stranger. Never married women who have experienced sexual violence have most often been abused by a relative (27 percent), a friend/ acquaintance (23 percent), a boyfriend (19 percent), a stranger (16 percent), and a family friend (8 percent).

Table 5 : Persons committing sexual violence

Among women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence, percentage who report specific persons committing sexual violence according to age at first experience of sexual violence and current marital status, India, 2005-2006.

| Person | Marital status | | Age at first experience of sexual violence | | | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Ever married | Never married | <15 years | 15 years or higher | Don't know ¹ | |
| Current husband | 87.5 | 0.0 | 47.1 | 75.1 | 91.0 | 85.2 |
| Former husband | 7.9 | 0.0 | 8.0 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 7.7 |
| Current/former boyfriend | 0.4 | 19.2 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Father | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Step father | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.01 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other relative | 1.7 | 26.7 | 18.6 | 5.7 | 0.2 | 2.4 |
| In-law | 0.4 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Own friend/acquaintance | 1.0 | 22.9 | 10.2 | 4.3 | 0.1 | 1.6 |

| Person | Marital status | | Age at first experience of sexual violence | | | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Ever married | Never married | <15 years | 15 years or higher | Don't know ¹ | |
| Family friend | 0.4 | 7.6 | 4.6 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Teacher | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Employer/someone at work | 0.2 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Police/soldier | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Priest/religious leader | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Stranger | 0.5 | 15.6 | 7.8 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Other | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Number of women | 6,900 | 190 | 371 | 1,566 | 5,144 | 7,090 |

Note : Total includes women with missing information on age at experience of sexual violence, who are not shown separately.

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

Includes women who report having ever experienced sexual violence committed only by their current husband if currently married or most recent husband if widowed, divorced, separated, or deserted. For these women, the age of first experience of sexual violence is not known.

Among women for whom the age at first sexual abuse is known, 371 were younger than 15 years when they were first abused. Almost half (47 percent) of this small number of women, say that their current husband was the perpetrator of the violence and 8 percent say that it was a former husband. Among women who first experienced sexual violence before age 15, significant proportions say that the violence was perpetrated by a relative (19 percent) or by a friend or acquaintance (10 percent). Among women who first experienced sexual violence after age 15, husbands are by far the most common perpetrators of sexual violence.

Martial Control

Certain male behaviors meant to keep tight control over women, particularly wives, have been identified in the literature as risk factors for violence (Campbell et al., 2003; Kishor and

Johnson, 2004). Accordingly, NFHS-3 sought information on six controlling behaviors that may be manifested by husbands, by asking each ever-married respondent the following: whether her husband is jealous or angry if she talks to other men; frequently accuses her of being unfaithful; does not permit her to meet her female friends; tries to limit her contacts with her family; insists on knowing where she is at all times; and does not trust her with money. For currently married women these questions refer to their current husband and for formerly married women to their most recent husband. Table 6 shows the percentage of women who have been subjected to these behaviors, according to background characteristics. The most common behavior of all the behaviors asked about is jealousy or anger if the wife talks to other men. This behavior is experienced by a quarter of ever-married women (26 percent). The next most commonly experienced controlling behaviors asked about are the wife not being trusted with money (18 percent) and the wife not being allowed to meet her female friends (16 percent). However, few women have husbands who show a significant number of these behaviors: only 12 percent of

women have husbands who display three or more who display none of them.
of these behaviors, and 57 percent have husbands

Table 6 : Degree of marital control exercised by husbands

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 whose husband has ever demonstrated specific types of controlling behaviours, according to background characteristics, India, 2005-2006.

| Background characteristic | Percentage of women whose husband | | | | | | | | Number of women |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Is jealous or angry if she talks to other men | Frequently accuses her of being unfaithful | Does not permit her to meet her female friends | Tries to limit her contact with her family | Insists on knowing where she is at all times | Does not trust her with any money | Husband displays 3 or more of the specific behaviours | Husband displays none of the specific behaviours | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-19 | 33.6 | 11.7 | 19.3 | 12.3 | 16.1 | 20.9 | 17.2 | 49.5 | 4,643 |
| 20-24 | 27.7 | 8.2 | 15.9 | 10.3 | 12.7 | 18.5 | 12.7 | 56.3 | 11,642 |
| 25-29 | 27.1 | 8.7 | 16.1 | 9.8 | 12.7 | 18 | 12.4 | 55.9 | 13,006 |
| 30-39 | 25.8 | 8.5 | 15.9 | 10 | 11.2 | 18.8 | 12 | 57.5 | 22,191 |
| 40-49 | 23.5 | 7.7 | 14.9 | 8.7 | 10.4 | 17.1 | 10.4 | 59.8 | 15,175 |
| Residence | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 20.5 | 6.4 | 14.3 | 8 | 9.3 | 17.1 | 9.6 | 63.7 | 20,441 |
| Rural | 29 | 9.4 | 16.6 | 10.7 | 13 | 18.9 | 13.3 | 54 | 46,217 |
| Education | | | | | | | | | |
| No education | 32.3 | 10.8 | 16.5 | 11.4 | 13.4 | 19.3 | 14.5 | 51.5 | 32,024 |
| <5 years complete | 28.3 | 9.7 | 19.7 | 11.6 | 14.8 | 21.2 | 14.8 | 53.1 | 5,647 |
| 5-7 years complete | 25.7 | 8.1 | 15.8 | 9.8 | 11.8 | 17.9 | 12.1 | 57.8 | 9,900 |
| 8-9 years complete | 21 | 6.1 | 15.1 | 8.6 | 10.8 | 17.2 | 9.8 | 61.9 | 7,585 |
| 10-11 years complete | 17.2 | 4.3 | 13.8 | 6.8 | 8.4 | 16.6 | 7.9 | 65.5 | 5,440 |
| 12 or more years complete | 9.6 | 2.6 | 12.4 | 4.5 | 6.2 | 14 | 5 | 73.8 | 6,059 |
| Employment (past 12 months) | | | | | | | | | |
| Not employed | 23.6 | 6.7 | 15.2 | 9.1 | 10.9 | 18.1 | 10.7 | 59.3 | 37,020 |
| Employed for cash | 28 | 11.5 | 17.2 | 11.3 | 13.5 | 18.8 | 14.5 | 55.6 | 19,668 |
| Employed not for cash | 33.8 | 9.1 | 16.3 | 10.1 | 12.5 | 18.3 | 13.2 | 50.8 | 9,958 |
| Marital status | | | | | | | | | |
| Currently married | 26 | 7.8 | 15.6 | 9.4 | 11.4 | 18 | 11.6 | 57.3 | 62,652 |
| Widowed | 24.8 | 9.9 | 15.2 | 9.4 | 12.5 | 17.6 | 12.9 | 59.9 | 2,692 |
| Divorced/separated/deserted | 50.7 | 38.1 | 32.3 | 31.3 | 33.7 | 36.1 | 39.5 | 31.8 | 1,314 |
| Marital duration¹ | | | | | | | | | |
| Married only once | 25.7 | 7.7 | 15.5 | 9.3 | 11.2 | 17.9 | 11.4 | 57.6 | 61,395 |
| 0-4 years | 24.3 | 7.4 | 15.5 | 8.6 | 11.7 | 17.7 | 11.5 | 59.5 | 11,411 |
| 5-9 years | 26.7 | 7.6 | 15.6 | 10.1 | 12 | 17.7 | 12.1 | 56.8 | 12,261 |
| 10+ years | 25.8 | 7.8 | 15.4 | 9.3 | 10.8 | 18 | 11.2 | 57.3 | 37,723 |
| Married more than once | 37.9 | 14.8 | 22.5 | 15.1 | 21 | 23.2 | 21.1 | 45.2 | 1,258 |
| Number of living children | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 27 | 10.2 | 17.1 | 10.9 | 14.6 | 18.9 | 14.1 | 56.4 | 7,530 |
| 1-2 | 23.2 | 7.6 | 14.9 | 9 | 10.8 | 17.2 | 11 | 60.9 | 29,164 |
| 3-4 | 28.6 | 8.9 | 16.6 | 10.3 | 12.2 | 19.1 | 12.8 | 54.2 | 22,244 |
| 5+ | 32 | 9.2 | 16.8 | 11.1 | 12.6 | 19.8 | 13.3 | 50.5 | 7,620 |

| Background characteristic | Percentage of women whose husband | | | | | | | | Number of women |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Is jealous or angry if she talks to other men | Frequently accuses her of being unfaithful | Does not permit her to meet her female friends | Tries to limit her contact with her family | Insists on knowing where she is at all times | Does not trust her with any money | Husband displays 3 or more of the specific behaviours | Husband displays none of the specific behaviours | |
| Household structure² | | | | | | | | | |
| Nuclear | 26.3 | 8.7 | 15.3 | 9.6 | 11.5 | 17.8 | 12 | 57.6 | 33,989 |
| Non-nuclear | 26.6 | 8.3 | 16.6 | 10.1 | 12.3 | 18.9 | 12.4 | 56.2 | 32,669 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindu | 26.4 | 8.4 | 15.8 | 9.5 | 11.4 | 18.1 | 11.9 | 57.3 | 54,208 |
| Muslim | 29.1 | 9.3 | 16.8 | 12.8 | 14.8 | 19.8 | 14.4 | 52.3 | 8,795 |
| Christian | 18 | 7.4 | 9.8 | 6.3 | 10.4 | 11.8 | 8.6 | 69.5 | 1,500 |
| Sikh | 22.1 | 5.2 | 19.9 | 5.1 | 11.7 | 21.9 | 10.9 | 59.2 | 1,115 |
| Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist | 19.1 | 12.2 | 22.8 | 16.7 | 15.4 | 30.8 | 18.5 | 51.9 | 537 |
| Jain | 10.7 | 3.2 | 20.7 | 2.3 | 5.1 | 22.7 | 5.1 | 66.4 | 190 |
| Other | 27.1 | 8.6 | 13.2 | 10.2 | 25.6 | 15.6 | 12.6 | 50.6 | 245 |
| Caste/tribe | | | | | | | | | |
| Schedule caste | 29.7 | 10.5 | 17.6 | 10.7 | 12.9 | 20.2 | 14.1 | 53.7 | 12,701 |
| Schedule tribe | 31.3 | 12 | 17.6 | 11 | 15.3 | 18.9 | 16 | 52.7 | 5,562 |
| Other backward class | 27.2 | 8.2 | 13.6 | 9.8 | 11.1 | 16.1 | 11.5 | 58.3 | 26,428 |
| Other | 22.2 | 6.6 | 17.4 | 9.1 | 11.4 | 19.9 | 10.9 | 58.3 | 21,393 |
| Don't known | 31 | 16.1 | 17.4 | 16.2 | 18.2 | 16.6 | 18.5 | 53.6 | 375 |
| Wealth index | | | | | | | | | |
| Lowest | 33.9 | 12.4 | 17.2 | 12.8 | 15.4 | 19.8 | 16 | 49.3 | 12,815 |
| Second | 32.1 | 10.8 | 17.9 | 11.6 | 14.2 | 20.6 | 15 | 50.1 | 13,384 |
| Middle | 28.8 | 10 | 16 | 10.5 | 12.3 | 17.9 | 13 | 55.6 | 13,386 |
| Fourth | 23 | 6.5 | 14.6 | 8.8 | 10.8 | 17 | 10.5 | 60.9 | 13,444 |
| Highest | 14.8 | 3 | 14 | 5.8 | 7.1 | 16.6 | 6.8 | 68.1 | 13,628 |
| Total | 26.4 | 8.5 | 15.9 | 9.9 | 11.9 | 18.3 | 12.2 | 56.9 | 66,658 |

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

The proportion of women whose husbands show three or more controlling behaviours declines with age. Husbands of the youngest married women (15-19 years) appear to be the most controlling, with 34 percent reporting that their husbands are jealous or angry when they talk to other men, 21 percent reporting that their husband do not trust them with money; and 19 percent reporting that their husbands do not permit them to meet their female friends. While rural women are more likely to report controlling behaviours by their husbands than urban women, the differentials tend to be relatively small. The

proportion of women experiencing controlling behaviours also tends to decline with increasing education and wealth, and is higher for women who are employed, particularly if employed for cash, than if they are not employed. Differentials by religion and caste/ tribe are also evident.

Spousal Violence by State

Table 7 gives the percentages of ever-married women who have experienced different types of spousal violence by state. The most common form of violence in all states is physical violence. Sexual violence is reported least often in most states. The only exceptions are West Bengal, where the

prevalence of sexual violence is much higher than the prevalence of emotional violence, and Manipur where the two are equally prevalent. Sexual violence is most common in West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Bihar where the prevalence is twice the national average.

The prevalence of physical or sexual violence ranges from 6 percent in Himachal Pradesh and 13 percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya, to 46 percent in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 59 percent in Bihar (Figure 15.2). Other states with 40 percent or higher prevalence of spousal physical or sexual violence include Tripura, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Assam. For most states, the proportion of ever-married women who have experienced emotional or physical or sexual violence is only slightly higher than those who have experienced physical

or sexual violence.

Slapping is the most commonly reported act of physical violence. Thirty-four percent of ever-married women report being slapped by their current or most recent husband, and 20 percent of ever-married women (except widows) report having been slapped in the 12 months preceding the survey. The next most common acts of physical violence experienced by women involve having hair pulled or arms twisted (15 percent) and being pushed shaken or having something thrown at them (14 percent). Twelve percent of women report having been kicked, dragged, or beaten up, and 2 percent report that their husbands tried to choke or burn them on purpose. Overall, 35 percent of women report having experienced physical violence at the hands of their current or most recent husband.

Table 7 : Experience of physical of sexual spousal violence by state

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 ho have experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband by State, India, 2005-2006

| State | Percentage who have experienced | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Emotional violence | Physical violence | Sexual violence | Physical or sexual violence | Emotional or physical or sexual violence |
| India | 15.8 | 35.1 | 10.0 | 37.2 | 39.7 |
| North | | | | | |
| Delhi | 4.9 | 16.1 | 2.1 | 16.3 | 17.2 |
| Haryana | 8.7 | 25.5 | 7.1 | 27.3 | 28.0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 3.8 | 5.9 | 1.8 | 6.2 | 6.9 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 8.9 | 11.5 | 3.9 | 12.6 | 15.1 |
| Punjab | 10.7 | 24.4 | 7.2 | 25.4 | 26.7 |
| Rajasthan | 22.9 | 40.3 | 20.2 | 46.3 | 50.2 |
| Uttaranchal | 8.9 | 27.3 | 6.1 | 27.8 | 29.8 |
| Central | | | | | |
| Chattisgarh | 12.7 | 29.2 | 6.9 | 29.9 | 32.3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 22.5 | 44.0 | 11.0 | 45.7 | 49.1 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 16.1 | 41.2 | 9.4 | 42.4 | 45.0 |

| State | Percentage who have experienced | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Emotional violence | Physical violence | Sexual violence | Physical or sexual violence | Emotional or physical or sexual violence |
| India | 15.8 | 35.1 | 10.0 | 37.2 | 39.7 |
| East | | | | | |
| Bihar | 19.7 | 55.6 | 19.1 | 59.0 | 60.8 |
| Jharkhand | 18.0 | 34.7 | 12.5 | 36.9 | 40.9 |
| Orissa | 19.8 | 33.5 | 14.7 | 38.4 | 41.2 |
| West Bengal | 12.3 | 32.7 | 21.5 | 40.3 | 41.8 |
| Northeast | | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 16.6 | 37.5 | 9.5 | 38.8 | 43.0 |
| Assam | 15.6 | 36.7 | 14.8 | 39.5 | 42.1 |
| Manipur | 13.9 | 40.7 | 14.0 | 43.8 | 46.2 |
| Meghalaya | 7.1 | 12.6 | 1.6 | 12.8 | 15.0 |
| Mizoram | 11.0 | 22.0 | 2.0 | 22.1 | 25.1 |
| Nagaland | 12.6 | 14.0 | 3.0 | 15.3 | 21.3 |
| Sikkim | 10.2 | 14.8 | 4.8 | 16.3 | 18.8 |
| Tripura | 22.8 | 40.9 | 19.0 | 44.1 | 46.6 |
| West | | | | | |
| Goa | 12.0 | 16.5 | 2.8 | 16.8 | 19.6 |
| Gujarat | 18.5 | 25.7 | 7.5 | 27.6 | 33.8 |
| Maharashtra | 17.5 | 30.6 | 2.0 | 30.7 | 33.4 |
| South | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 13.3 | 35.0 | 4.1 | 35.2 | 36.8 |
| Karnataka | 8.1 | 19.5 | 4.0 | 20.0 | 21.5 |
| Kerala | 10.1 | 15.3 | 4.8 | 16.4 | 19.8 |
| Tamil Nadu | 16.8 | 41.9 | 3.2 | 41.9 | 44.1 |

Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

Note : Husband refers to the current husband for currently married women and the most recent husband for widowed, divorced separated, or deserted women. Source: NFHS-3 Final Report

Figure 8 : Spousal Violence by State

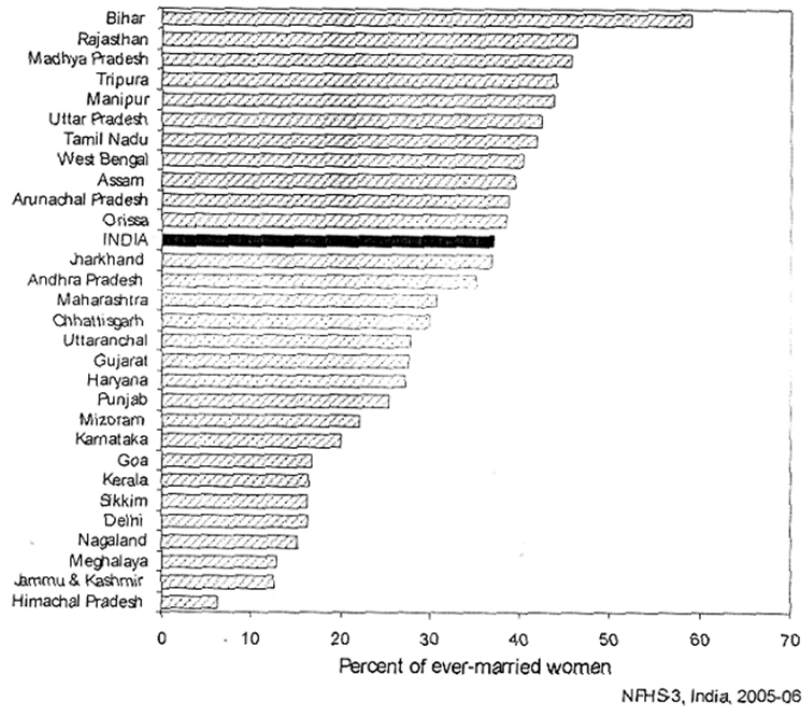
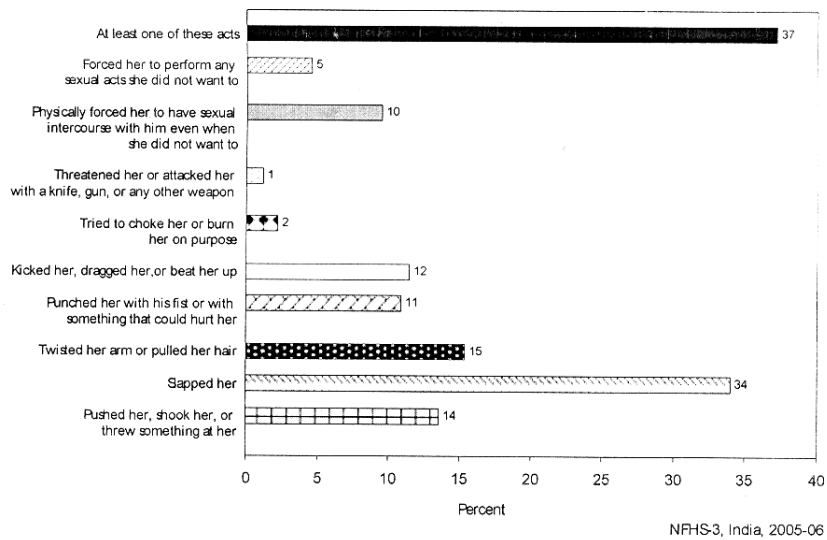


Figure 9 : Forms of Spousal Violence Experienced by Ever-married Women



Ten percent of women report experiencing one or both types of acts of sexual violence; most of these women report experiencing the violence in the last year. Being physically forced to have sexual intercourse is more common (10 percent) than being forced to perform any other sexual acts that she did not want to perform (5 percent) (Figure 9).

Sixteen percent of ever-married women report having experienced emotional violence. Thirteen percent said that their husband had said or done something to humiliate them in front of others, 8 percent said that their husband had insulted them or made them feel bad about themselves, and 5 percent said that their husband threatened to hurt or harm them or someone close to them. The majority reporting any emotional violence also experienced the violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Overall, 37 percent of ever-married women have experienced spousal physical or sexual violence, and 40 percent have experienced spousal physical, sexual or emotional violence. Smaller proportions of women report experiencing both spousal physical and sexual violence (8 percent), as well as spousal physical and sexual and emotional violence (4 percent).

The most common causes for women stalking and battering include dissatisfaction with the dowry and exploiting women for more of it, arguing with the partner, refusing to have sex with him, neglecting children, going out of home without telling the partner, not cooking properly or on time, indulging in extra marital affairs, not looking after in-laws etc. In some cases infertility in female also leads to their assault by the family members. The greed of dowry, desire for a male child and

alcoholism of the spouse are major factors of domestic violence against women in rural areas.

Women are socialized to accept, tolerate and even rationalize domestic violence and to remain silent about such experiences. Violence of any kind has a detrimental impact on the economy of a country through increased disability, medical costs and loss of labour hours, however, because women bear the brunt of domestic violence, they disproportionately bear the health and psychological burdens as well. A psychological set back and trauma because of domestic violence affects women's productivity in all forms of life. The suicide case of such victimized women is also a deadly consequence and the number of such cases is increasing.

Domestic violence was recognized as a criminal offence in India in 1983. The offences chargeable under section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code that relates to domestic violence is any act of cruelty by a husband (or his family) towards his wife. However, until recently, there was no separate civil law addressing the specific complexities associated with domestic violence. After a decade long process of consultations and revisions, a comprehensive domestic violence law, known as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, took affect in 2006. Key elements of the law include the prohibition of marital rape and the provision of protection and maintenance orders against husband and partners who are emotionally, physically, or economically abusive.

The response to the phenomenon of domestic violence is a typical combination of effort between law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, the courts and corrections/probation agencies. The role of all these has progressed over last few

decades and brought their activities in public view. Domestic violence is now being viewed as a public health problem of epidemic proportion all over the world and many public, private and governmental agencies are seen making huge efforts to control it in India.

The irony is that international Human Rights instruments and many domestic laws prohibit and condemn such violence. And still, it occurs. In reality, the societal responses to domestic violence, to date, primarily focus on crisis intervention after the harm has occurred. What is needed is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the prevention of domestic violence.

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