



Status Of Women In North-East India

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Abstract

Violence against women includes physical, sexual, psychological abuse. It is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violation, denying women the equality, security, dignity, self-worth and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. Many countries have strong laws to protect women from violence but fail to implement them because of lack of awareness of women regarding legal provision. The study was done to assess the awareness of women regarding legal provision towards domestic violence. The lower part of Bihpuria Mouza was selected for the study and sixty women were selected as sample respondents. A self-prepared interview schedule was used for collecting the data regarding awareness of women.

Introduction:

Domestic violence includes physical, Sexual, psychological and economic abuse. Domestic violence in simple terms in an act or acts of violence taking place within the domestic or household set up. There are certain myths related to domestic violence. It is presumed to happen only to the poor and uneducated women but in reality, it is not restricted with the education or economic condition as such incident are happening in poor as well as influential households.

In 2005 the Indian Parliament passed Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which is proactive and his wider application and implication. Under the Act women is given protection from various forms of violence which includes not only physical, verbal and psychological abuse but also economic abuse. Under this Act order can be given to police to provide protection to any victim and the police are bound to follow it.

Objectives:

The main objective of the study was to assess the awareness of women of lower part of Bihpuria Mouza regarding legal provision towards domestic violence.

Methodology:

Both primary as well as secondary data were collected. The primary data were collected directly from 60 women from three different categories based on their educational qualification. For this purpose, an interview schedule was prepared for obtaining necessary information. The secondary data relating to domestic violence were collected from the books, articles, journals and internet. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed properly in accordance with the objectives of the study.

Result and Discussion**1. Profile of selected women –****Table – 1 shows the Profile of selected women –**

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Age (18-30 yrs.)	20 (100)	20 (100)	20 (100)
2	Family	Nuclear	Nuclear	Nuclear
3	No. of family members			
	Below – 4	13 (65)	10 (50)	16 (80)
	5 to 7	7 (35)	10 (50)	4 (20)
	8 and above	-	-	-
4	Victim of domestic violence			
	Yes	4 (20)	7 (35)	11 (55)
	No	16 (80)	12 (60)	9 (45)

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

Table 1 shows the profile of selected women of 18 to 30 yrs. All the selected women belong to nuclear family. Majority of women i.e. 65 percent of below 10th standard, 50 percent of 10th to graduate and 80 percent of post graduate and above were having below 4 members.

Table also reveals that only 20 percent of 10th standard, 35 percent of 10th to graduate and 55 percent of post graduate and above were the victims of domestic violence.

2. Violence faced by the women at home –

Table – 2 shows the type of violence faced by the women

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Division of labour and responsibilities based on sex.	20 (100)	20 (100)	20 (100)
2	Treat you badly in front of family and friends	17 (85)	4 (20)	1 (5)
3	Sexual harassment	7 (35)	3 (15)	2 (10)
4	Dowry related harassment	11 (55)	3 (15)	-
5	Involvement in decision making	9 (45)	14 (70)	18 (90)
6	Medical care taken by husband	17 (85)	19 (95)	18 (90)
7	Not fulfilling the basic requirement such as fabric, cosmetics etc.	7 (35)	2 (10)	18 (90)

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

Table 2 reveals that division of labour and responsibilities based on sex were found in the home of all selected women. 85 percent of below 10th standard, 20 percent of 10th to graduate and 5 percent of post graduate and above were treated badly in front of family and friends. Regarding sexual harassment 35 percent of below 10th standard and 10 percent of women of post graduate and above were facing the problems. Dowry related problems were faced by 55 percent of below 10th standard and 15 percent of 10th to graduate. Involvement in decision making were seen by 45 percent of below 10th standard, 70 percent of 10th to graduate and 90 percent of post graduate and above. Table also reveals that medical care taken by husband was found in all the selected women belongs to 10th to graduate and post graduate and above. It was also seen that 35 percent of below 10th standard and 10 percent of 10th to graduate were facing not fulfilling of basic requirements such as fabric, cosmetics etc.

3. Awareness about the legal provision toward domestic violence

Table – 3 shows the awareness about the legal provision toward domestic violence

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Yes	5 (25)	12 (60)	20 (100)
2	No	15 (75)	8 (40)	-

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

Table – 3 shows that 25 percent of below 10th standard, 60 percent of 10th to graduate and 100 percent of post graduate and above were aware about the legal provision toward domestic violence.

4. Source of Awareness:

Books, Movie, Magazine, Television Programme, Social Media and Verbally

5. Awareness of women regarding rights to Domestic Violence Act

Table – 4 shows the awareness of women regarding rights to Domestic Violence Act.

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Right to complain of abuse	8 (40)	17 (85)	20 (100)
2	Right to complain against health risk due to domestic violence	8 (40)	15 (75)	20 (100)
3	Right to maintenance from spouse on expulsion	4 (20)	14 (70)	20 (100)

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

Table -4 shows that all the selected women belong to post graduate and above were aware of Right to complain of abuse. Right to complain against health risk due to domestic violence and right to maintenance from spouse on expulsion. Table also reveals that 40 percent of below 10th standard and 85 percent of 10th to graduate aware about the Right to complain of abuse, 40 percent of below 10th standard and 75 percent of 10th to graduate aware about the Right to complain against health risk due to domestic violence and 20 percent of below 10th standard and 70 percent of 10th to graduate aware about the Right to maintenance from spouse on expulsion.

Lack of confidence and education level may be the causes of unawareness of this provision. As a result, most of the women were not reporting in the police station against domestic violence. This also shows the lack of awareness regarding domestic violence meted out on them.

6. Awareness regarding provisions in the Domestic Violence Act for victims –

Table – 5 Awareness regarding provisions in the Domestic Violence Act for victims

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Free medical care	2 (10)	7 (35)	18 (90)
2	Alternative accommodation	-	-	5 (25)
3	Custody of children	-	-	10 (50)
4	Counseling support	5 (25)	13 (70)	18 (90)

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

Table – 5 reveals that 10 percent of below 10th standard, 35 percent of 10th to graduate and 90 percent of post graduate and above were aware about the free medical care. Table also reveals that only 25 percent of post graduate and above were aware about the alternative accommodation. It was also seen that 50 percent of post graduate and above were aware about custody of children. Table also reveals that 25

percent of below 10th standard, 70 percent of 10th to graduate and 90 percent of post graduate and above were aware about counseling support.

7. Awareness about provision of penalty for offenders in Domestic Violence Act –

Table – 6 shows the Awareness about provision of penalty for offenders in Domestic Violence Act

Sl. No.	Criteria	Education Qualification (N-60)		
		Below 10 th (n-20)	10 th passed to Graduate (n-20)	Post Graduate and above (n-20)
1	Jail	8 (40)	14 (70)	20 (100)
2	Fine	8 (40)	14 (70)	20 (100)
3	Both jail and fine	8 (40)	14 (70)	20 (100)

Figures in parenthesis indicating percentage

All the selected women belong to Post Graduate and above and 40 percent of below 10th and 70 percent of 10th passed to graduate were aware about the provision of penalty for offenders in Domestic Violence Act.

Conclusion:

Domestic violence against women in India is an age-old phenomenon. The reason is very obvious lack of proper education, economic dependency, family pressure, societal pressure, etc. 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. For every woman who complains, there is at least one woman who suffers in silence. Most women don't even talk to friends or colleagues if they are being abused by their husbands. They do not want to admit that they are victims or tell people what's going on their home. Action from courts and police will not sufficient if the community opposed to change. But the biggest responsibility will be that of the women themselves. There are certain myths related to domestic violence. It is presumed to happen only to the poor and uneducated women but in reality, it is not restricted with the education or economic condition as such incident are happening in poor as well as influential households.

The role of the parents to educate their child make them self-dependent, the role of educational institutions to formulate the curriculum regarding the respect of women and her rights, the role of media in making people aware of the existing legislations for the protection of women and the most important the role of society to change their mind-set with respect to women are of vital importance to bring women out of the hazard of the domestic violence.

References:

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