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Wife battering: A study of Victims in Tirunelveli

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Introduction

A person's lifetime is ordinarily divided between families the one where he is born and the other where he is a parent. Birth and marriage, which initiate these two family systems, represent life's major activities. While the family of orientation may attune a person towards violent behaviour, the setting of the family of procreation is no less important in this regard. Even today when we are to hair 21st century women are not being allowed to live successfully the life of a human being oppression as a dramatic issue, has made headlines everywhere, and has received a certain degree of redreas but the endemic and frightening violence, has remained like women themselves, largely ignored.

Violence against women in the contest of marriage becomes move significant when a

husband who is supposed to love and protect his wife beats her. For a woman, being battered by a man, whom she trusted most, becomes a shattering experience. The violence can range from slaps and kicks to breaking bones, torture and attempted murder, and "injurious and destructive behaviour which damages the victims physically, mentally and / or financially". The three consequences of violence lent behaviour are:

- Pain to victims
- Social disapproval and public concern and
- Realizing the need for enacting legislation the fact that violence against women generally occurs in privacy of the home or in the

institutions away from the public eye sharply reduces the likelihood of a complaint.

to tolerate victimization and remain passive and docile.

Definition

Marriage in every society is a bond that in the present society is based on the companionship. In Indian Society, however, the woman enters into marriage with old values and convictions. She is expected to shift her loyalties from parents and siblings to husband and in laws. Socially after her marriage, she has no independent social or economic status of her own. Her social status is directly determined by and is dependent on her husband's status in the family. In some families, the husbands give equal status to their wives but in most cases, particularly in low and middle income groups, the illiterate and less-educated and economically dependent wives are made to feel empty and meaningless, whenever a family runs into problems, such problems are generally alleged as caused by a single member the wife even though the family consist of a number of individuals. For all marital problems also, it is the wife who is criticized for maladjustment. In power relations, it is the husband against the wife. Even if the wife gets the chance of expressing her anger, relating to aggressive behaviour and returns the insult, she prefers

One important difficulty in analyzing the problem of wife beating is the problem of operationalizing the concepts of 'wife-abuse' and 'wife-battering'. The two terms 'abuse' and 'battering' are pejorative, emotion-charged terms used to draw attention to behaviour considered deviant. These terms have been applied to the narrow issue of physically striking a member in the family and causing injury to the act of striking a person with the intent of causing harm or injury but not actually causing it, to acts of violence where there is high potential of causing injury, and to acts where there is no actual hitting at all but there are acts such as verbal abuse or emotional violence. Because of the variation in nominal definitions of battering, there is a resulting lack of comparability among various investigations of types of wife-abuse and wife beating. Here we use the term 'wife-beating' for our research defined as 'willfully striking wife by husband with or without injury'. This definition is limited to acts of physical violence directed towards spouse. Our definition, thus, does not include cases of

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wife's sexual abuse and marital rape. The focus of analysis is only the battered wife.

Research tools

Methodology

The methodology of the present study in discussed in this chapter, it includes the following.

In the present study the researcher constructed schedule interview for data collection to collect data from the respondents.

Results and Discussion

Objective of the Study:

- To study the pattern of adjustment after shocking incidents(s).
- To examine the types of abuse.
- To examine the various causes of violence in the family.

The battered and the batterers

The age

Of the 60 victims studied. 35.0 percent were very young (up to 20 years). 43.2 percent were young (21-30 years) and 21.7 percent were aged (31-50 years) Thus, women all age groups are victims of wife-beating. In was further found that 38.9 percent victims were passed since the marital life for 1 to 10 years, 31.7 percent for 10 to 20 years, and 30.0 percent for above 25 years. Thus two-thirds couples were those who were not able to adjust with each other even though they were living in the same house for 1 to 25 years.

Study area/ Universe

The data collected from victims, their family members, neighbors and friends. The data related to the family violence faced by the women in the Tirunelveli district area is collected.

Education

The education of the battered wives ranged from illiteracy to college level 46.7 percent

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling method was adopted in for the present study. The samples of chosen victims were from the case Tirunelveli district. The total respondents were 55 samples.

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were educated up to primary or secondary level, about 3.3 percent were educated up to higher secondary level, and about 3.3 percent were educated up to college level. Educated women are as much beaten by their husbands as illiterate or less educated. 18.3 percent victims lived in urban areas. 81.7 percent victims were lived in rural place. 20.0 percent victims were working and (home making) did not earn. 1.7 percent was government works. 43.3 percent were in agriculture, 35.0 percent were daily wage (coolie) earners. Against this 13.3 percent batters were government in service. 18.3 percent were in business. 8.3 percent were daily wage earners and 60.3 percent were in agriculture. In may be said that wife beating are none common among low status occupational groups.

The data shows that 40.0 % of respondents got married by to the arranged marriage. 41.7% of the respondents got married by come love marriage. 10.0% of the respondents were compulsory marriage. 8.3 percent for inter caste marriage. Most of the respondents got married by the victims of love marriage. The income is concerned, it was found that while 71.7 percent batters came from low- income families (with an income, of less than Rs.

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2500 per month) 18.3 percent belong to middle class families ,(with an income, Rs. 3000 to 5000 per month) and 10.0 percent to upper class families, (with an income of Rs. Above 5000 above per month). From the data it can be inferred that majority of the respondents monthly income is in the group of low income families.

Patterns in wife beating- Frequency in beating

How frequently do husbands use violence against their wives? of the 60 respondents studied. 46.7 percent reported that they illiterate and less educated women and women belonging to low income families are wife beating. The data suggests the income is concerned, it was found that while 71.7 percent batterers came from low income families (with an income Rupees 2500 per month) cases.

Causes of beating

A phenomenon such as wife beating cannot be explained on the basis of a single factor. When asked to give reasons for being beaten, the victims in our study gave the following reasons; 93.3 percent were reason behind the problems of victims. The

husbands (batterers) however, gave different reason for beating their wives, of the 60 respondents could be interviewed, 48.3 percent were dowry problem. 78.3 percent because they were suspicion. 88.7 percent because they didn't work, 73.3 percent were disability problems. 76.6 percent because they (wives) did not give them money for

drinking (drunken husband) 55.0 percent said that they occasionally battered their wives because they had illegal relations with some person or husband of the battered had 63.3 percent tobacco habits. Surprisingly almost all husbands who were interviewed accepted battering their wives.

Causes of wife beating

Causes	Frequency (percent)		Total
	Yes	No	
Dowry	29 (48.3)	31 (51.7)	60 (100)
Suspicion	47 (78.3)	13 (21.7)	60 (100)
Work	40 (88.7)	20 (33.3)	60 (100)
Disability	44 (73.3)	16 (26.7)	60 (100)
Drunken husband	46 (76.7)	14 (23.3)	60 (100)
Illegal connection	33 (55.0)	27 (45.0)	60 (100)
Tobacco	38 (63.3)	22 (36.7)	60 (100)

It they causes of beating as given by they batters and the battered are rearranged and given is sociological terms, it could be said that about half the beating were the result of husbands nature and/or his superiority or inferiority complexes. However, the understanding of violence in husband-wife relationship needs a holistic approach and

diagnosis of several causes. These causes are to be taken as complementary to each other and as interlocking pieces of a large whole. We will discuss there factors under three heads:

- Personality traits (of batterers and victims) in beating

- Situational factors in beating and social norms in beating

Conflict arises in the family due to role conflict the resultant conflict in the roles ultimately leads to tension and the victim's abuse of power in the family.

The victims of violence

Harassment in-law house

Victim of crime	No	%
Mother in law	24	40.0
Father in law	6	10.0
Sister in law	14	23.3
Brother in law	9	15.0
Nothing	7	15.0
Total	60	100

In the joint families, added to the husbands fault findings is the constant nagging by the in laws. Tensions were aggravated where the mothers in law was over possessive or where the husband was under the thumb of his mother and joined league with her in law for securing his wife.

In laws disagreement

The resulting strained relations may cause familial violence. Similarly the structure of the family affects the type of relations among individual members. The joint families and the nuclear families may create

different situations for family violence. About 55.0 percent have faced verbal attacks and 30.0 percent because they were physical violence. The majority of the incidents of verbal behaviour were caused by the physical violence.

Causes behind violence

The husband family batterers) however, gave different reason for harassment, of the 60 respondents could be interviewed. 50.0 percent because they were dowry problem. 15.0 percent because they were love marriage. 45.0 percent many a times these

dispute take a violent turn and result in illegal behaviour. Being it a simple or big family the problem of ego and family centri issues is common in Indian Situations.

However ladies are adjustable or accept each other will end several local and silly family problems among the family members especially the in-laws and new comer.

Forms of Violence

Method	No	%
Verbal	1	1.7
Physical	56	93.3
Keep quite	3	5.0
Total	60	100

The above table shows that 93.3 percent of the respondent's husband was torture at time the respondent's response is physically. 1.7% of the respondent's husband was tortured at time the respondents response is verbal attacks 5.0% of the respondent response is quite. The majority of the

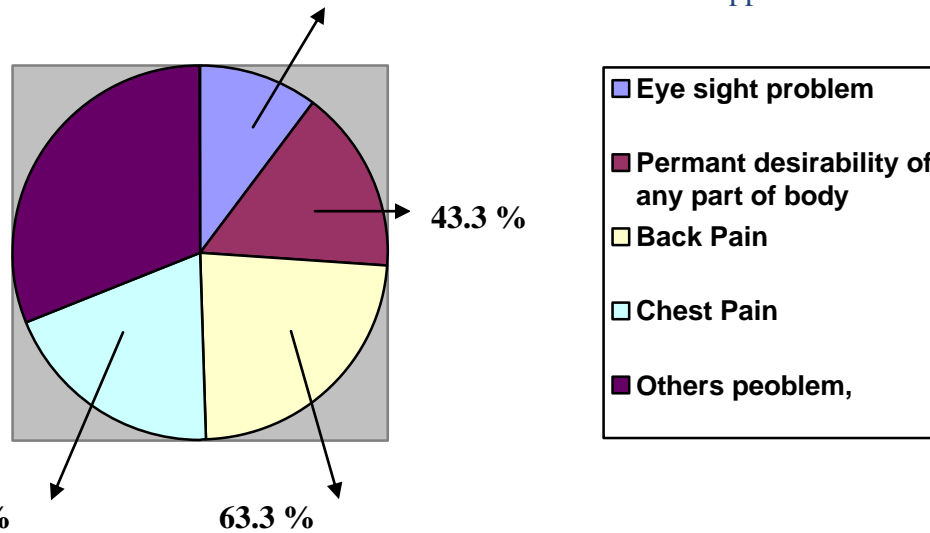
respondents response was physically when the husband torture.

The shows that 40.0 % of the respondents tell their problems their husband torture to their relatives. 30.0 % of the respondents were tell about their husband torture to their neighbors.

Impact of victimization

Physical impact





The figure represents the multiple responses of the respondents about various forms of physical impact of victimization. 63.3% of the respondents said that they suffered due to back pain as a physical impact of victimization 53.3% of the respondents said that they suffered due to chest pain, 23.3% of the respondents said that they suffered due to short term physical impact of eye sight problem and 43.3% of the respondents also said that they suffered due to permanent disability any part of body and others problem of teeth, eye hands, hair etc., the problem of 51 respondents.

Physical impact

The shows that the multiple responses of the respondents about various forms of psychological impact of victimization. A

majority of the respondents 93.3% had feeling of loss of self respect. 76.7% of the respondent also said that avoiding of husbands and 83.3% of the respondents felt that the nervousness (anxiety) 71.1% of the respondents felt a sense of pain in affected parts of body. The above result of psychological impact clearly shows that were in “post traumatic stress disorder symptoms” (PTSD).

Financial impact

A majority of the respondents 91.7% of the respondents said that they others problems of loss valuable things, jeweler, and lost money due to the necessary medical treatment. 38.3% of the respondents were not able to work for some time because of the physical abuse they suffered in the wife battering.

Situational factors in Beating

The degree and nature of wife beating may be affected stressful situational in family, like poverty, unemployment, conflict between mother-in-law, sister-in-law and so forth. Poverty provides an economic environment with insufficient discretionary resources to generate conflicts in family leading to wife-abuse. Our study showed that 20.0% wife-batterers were unemployed. Taking into consideration the total income of the husband (only husband and not any other earning member in the family) and the number of family members he had to support, the percent capita income in batterers families was found to be Rs 1000 to 2500 in 71.7 percent cases, when the husband tries all possible means to find and his wife keeps on asking him for money to make both ends meet, he becomes irritated. In some emotional situations he even beats his wife when she asks for money.

Our study revealed that victims' husbands took alcohol in 46(or 76.7 of the total i.e. to batterers) cases, the husbands beat his wife in the state of intoxication. Our finding thus, is significant that contrary to the common belief, most of the beating husbands were drunkards; It is not clear

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whether alcohol induces violent behaviour directly or whether it acts primarily as a disinhibitor of pre-existing aggressive tendencies. The latter hypothesis is perhaps supported by the nation (Blumer, 1973) that some perpetrators drink for courage prior to beating wives. The use of alcohol in wife beating may, therefore be accepted as a co-operative factor rather than the basic or chief factor.

Social norms in beating

Finally, we come to the role of social norms in wife beating. Violence against wives grows out of the nature of society itself as already mentioned social norms in our society justify male violence against women. These norms are dominant not only in lower class but also in middle and upper classes. These norms are indicated more in the process of marital adjustment and maladjustment. Marital maladjustment can be described as the main cause of wife-beating. This maladjustment may arise both because of the personality characteristics of husbands and wives as well as environment in which their marriages function. They way Indian sons are socialized, they give more importance to their mother's briefing than their wife's protest. The poor wife is

always told that it is her fault, and fault may mean anything-from cooking, unwanted dishes to keeping house untidy and talking 'loudly' with the in-laws.

Findings of the study

- The majority of the respondents are belonged to the age group of 21-30 years.
- Most of the respondent are belonged to the passed since of marriage life for 1 to 10 years.
- Though illiterate and less educated wives in poor families are more vulnerable to husband-beating than educated wives, there is no significant relationship between beating and the education level an family income of the victims.
- Most of the respondents lived in rural place.
- Family composition and family size have joint family to wife-battering.
- Certain differences on socio-demographic variables between the batterers and the battered women



UGC Approval Number 63012 (occupation, income etc.) are high risk potentials in a battering relationship.

- Suspicion is the major causes for victimization. Drunken husband is also a major cause for victimization in Tiruvelveli districts.
- The other causes such as falsely implicated by husband family and abuse by mother-in-laws was over possessive.
- The most of the respondents husband family members harassment by verbal abuse.
- In-laws for dowry harassed majority of the respondents.
- The most of the respondents husbands torture by physical abuse.
- The majority of the respondents tell their problem of their parents.
- It has been found from the findings that the physical impacts of the victimization of the respondents were other problems. Back pain, chest pain, eye sight problem. Permanent desirability of any part of

body etc., due to the all aged attack by husband of physical abuse.

- The various forms of psychological impact of victimization of the respondents were feeling of loss of self respect, other impact, nervousness, avoidance of husband. It was found from the study that some of the respondents suffered due to post traumatic stress disorder syndrome.
- The financial impacts of victimization were other impact loss of money due to the forced bride and spending money for the necessary, medical treatments, and not able to work.
- The majority of the respondents' awareness of the legal provision of dowry harassment and aware of domestic violence act 2005.

Conclusion

In the present study, an attempt was made to understand the dynamics of intra-family violence through a continuous process of interview with families where violence had occurred. The women from all sections of

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the society belonging to different educational level, and from all socio economic classes are victims of wife battering. The immediate cause of wire battering appears to be suspicion, alcoholism, disability, his illegal connection. A husband low income was also an important cause of violent behaviour; violence with in-laws is largely female oriented. The wife battering is general phenomena among all sections of male community of the society. The awareness of the legal provision of the programme could provide. The special legislation on domestic crimes is needed to provide adequate protection to women victims of domestic violence.

Suggestion

Voluntary organizations of governmental institutions can start pre-marital counseling programmes in order to help prospective mates evaluate their relationship and to learn ways of building a happy and successful marriage. The programme could provide

- Education and information about married life to couples contemplating marriage,

- Help prospective spouses to work out whatever inter-personal difficulties they may be experiencing at the time and
- Marriage can be made an enriching experience to enable the couple to enjoy a mutually satisfying relationship.

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