



Original Research Article

Partner violence in married women

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Abstract

Introduction: Violence against women is the highest in Australia, Canada, Israel and South Africa and women make up 40 to 70% of homicide victims. Forced marriage is still practiced in the parts of South Asia, East Asia and Africa and among immigrants to the West from these regions. The objectives of the study were to explore and compare the violence in the married women living in urban and rural areas.

Material and methods: The study adopted a comparative research approach. The study was conducted on married women of age group between 16-40 years. The population comprised of 60 married women (30 subjects each from urban and rural areas respectively) was drawn by convenient sampling technique. Data was collected through interview, by using socio demographic proforma and structured intimate partner violence questionnaire. Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The overall prevalence of violence among women was high. There was no significant difference between rural and urban area with respect to psychological and physical violence. The findings showed that majority of violence in urban area women were more than the rural area women.

Conclusion: Women are more frequent victims of violence. Violence is a universal phenomenon, so effective actions should be taken to stop intimate partner violence at no time.

Key words

Intimate partner violence, Abused women, Domestic violence, Family violence, urban women, Rural women.

Introduction

It is a relationship of with persons living in a shared household who are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a

relationship in the nature of marriage or adoption. In addition, relationships with family members living together as a joint family are also included. It is a relationship of with persons



of a family (unitary or joint family) living in a shared household.

violence followed by infertility and not having a son [2].

This Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act (2005) recognizes 4 types of domestic violence such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional or economic abuse. For the purposes of this Act, any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it-

Domestic violence is the biggest problem in India. The rationale behind undertaking this particular research topic can be understood by the motivating factor firstly the increasing awareness as to the prevalence of domestic violence has sparked interest with numerous researcher. Secondly and perhaps the more influential of the two, is the fact that we have had the experience in working directly with perpetrator of domestic violence as a facilitator on the south east domestic violence intervention program. Presence of property, higher per capita income and social support were protective factors against domestic violence were as alcohol addiction and multiple sex partner were the important contributory factors for it. The study recommended more social support, awareness and income generation for women in the slum area [3].

(a) Harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or

(b) Harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or

(c) Has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause(a) or clause (b); or

(d) Otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.

Both rural and urban women play a significant role in household activities of their families. Urban life is more critical than rural life. Domestic spousal violence against women in developing countries like India is now beginning to be recognized as a widespread health problem impeding development. Domestic violence in urban and rural area has not been studied well in the Indian population especially in Northern India. Domestic violence is likely to be different in women living in urban area compared to women living in rural area or those with physical illness. This has not been adequately researched. Examples of risk factors were as per **Chart – 1** [4].

Violence against woman by intimate partner is increasingly recognized as a global health problem. Count, et al. (1992) found that where women have a higher economic status they are seen have higher economic status they are seen as having sufficient power to change traditional gender roles and it is at this point that violence is at its highest [1]. The prevalence of verbal abuse was 97% by the in laws the prevalence of physical abuse was 80% and 57.5% by the husband in law respectively [1]. Financial issues were the commonest reason for domestic

Material and methods

This was a descriptive study, using quantitative approach performed at a selected area of Varanasi, over a period of three months.

Samples of 30 rural and 30 urban married women age up to 16-40 years were selected. Data was collected using demographic proforma which consisted of four items such as age, occupation status, type of family, and structured domestic violence questionnaire [5]. The Domestic violence questionnaire was a 20 item questionnaire which enquires about the frequency of domestic violence in the past one year. It was intended to be a short, simple, self-administered, discriminative instrument. It was designed with the intention of capturing the major dimensions of the concept of physical and psychological violence. The questionnaire had 13 items for psychological violence and 7 items for physical violence. It had been standardized on the Indian population. The reliability of the tool was confirmed by using Karl Pearson correlation coefficient formula and spearman's brown prophecy formula that obtained 'r'= 0.86, which showed that the tool was reliable. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS 16.

Results

Majority of the women [18 (30%)] were in the age group of 26-30 years and majority of women [17 (28.3%)] were educated up to intermediate. Majority of men [24 (40%)] were educated up to graduation and above. Majority [52 (86.7%)] of the subjects belonged to the joint family. Regarding occupational status of women (wife), majority [58 (96.7%)] was unemployed, followed by 2 (3.3%) professional. Regarding occupational status of men (husband), majority [20 (33.33%)] were professional, followed by 19 (31.33%) were skilled worker as per **Table - 1**. Distribution of domestic violence in women was 63.33% as per **Table - 2**.

Distribution of pattern of domestic violence in women was as per **Table - 3**. The mean score of psychological violence in rural area was $06.93 \pm$

10.36 and urban area was 7.83 ± 10.42 followed by mean score of physical violence in rural area was 01.96 ± 05.50 and urban area was 02.26 ± 03.60 . There was no significant difference between rural and urban area with respect to psychological and physical violence as per **Chart - 2**.

Association between domestic violence and demographic variable was as per **Table - 4**. The Mean age of women in rural area was 27.37 ± 04.90 years and of urban area was 32.40 ± 06.80 years. The mean duration of marriage in rural area was 08.87 ± 06.10 years and in urban area 12.80 ± 07.20 years. The mean of total family income per month in rural area was Rs. 24137 ± 11715 and in urban area was Rs. 26762 ± 14076.20 . The mean of per capita income per month in rural area was Rs. 3680 ± 2179 and in urban area was Rs. 4585 ± 2257 . There was significant difference between rural and urban areas with respect to age of women and duration of marriage.

Association between domestic violence and demographic variables according to education status of women (wife), men (husband), type of family, occupation status of women (wife) and men (husband) was as per **Table - 5**. Regarding education status of women in rural area, 3 (10%) graduates and above, 8 (26.3%) intermediate, 7 (23.3%) high school, 7 (23.3%) primary and middle school and 5 (16.7%) were illiterate. From urban areas, 9 (30%) intermediate and high school, 7 (23.30%) graduates and above, 5 (16.7%) primary and middle school, 0% was illiterate. Regarding education status of men in rural area, 13 (43.33%) intermediate, 8 (26.67%) graduation and above, 5 (16.67%) high school, 2 (6.67%) were primary and middle school and illiterate. Regarding type of family in rural area, 25 (83.30%) joint and 5 (16.70%) nuclear while 27 (90%) joint and 3 (10%) nuclear from urban area. Regarding occupation status of women, 30



(100%) unemployed and 0% professionals were from rural and 28 (93.30%) unemployed and 2 (6.70%) professionals were from urban area. Regarding occupation status of men, 13 (43.33%) skilled, 8 (26.60%) unskilled, 5 (16.67%) clerical shop owner, 1 (3.33%) professional and 3 (10%) unemployed from rural area while 19 (63.33%) professional, 6 (20%) skilled, 5 (16.67%) clerical shop owner and 0% unemployed and unskilled from urban area.

Domestic violence among rural and urban women was as per **Table - 6**. Mean and SD of domestic violence in rural area was 08.23 ± 14.52 and urban area was 09.33 ± 13.30 as per **Chart - 3**.

Discussion

Domestic violence was present in majority (63.33%). The mean score of psychological violence in rural area was 06.93 ± 10.36 and urban area 7.83 ± 10.42 followed by mean score of physical violence in rural area was 01.96 ± 05.50 and urban area 02.26 ± 03.60 . There was no significant difference between rural and urban area with respect to psychological and physical violence. This finding was supported by the study carried out by Ali and Bustamante (2007) [2] in which result showed that the prevalence of domestic violence. The prevalence of verbal abuse was 97.5% by the husband and 97.0% by the in-laws; the prevalence of physical abuse was 80.0% and 57.5% by the husband and in-laws respectively area. Other study conducted by Sinha (2012) showed psychological violence was more common than physical violence [3]. The Mean age of women in rural area was 27.37 ± 04.90 years and of urban area was 32.40 ± 06.80 years. Domestic violence was more in urban area than in rural area due to their life style and over expenditure in urban area.

Conclusion

The domestic violence was higher in women living in urban area comparison to rural area. Better management should be provided who is suffering from domestic violence. Awareness program for changing mind towards women and education on prevention of domestic violence exposures provides unique opportunities of the individual.

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Chart – 1: The ecological framework: Examples of risk factors at each level [4].

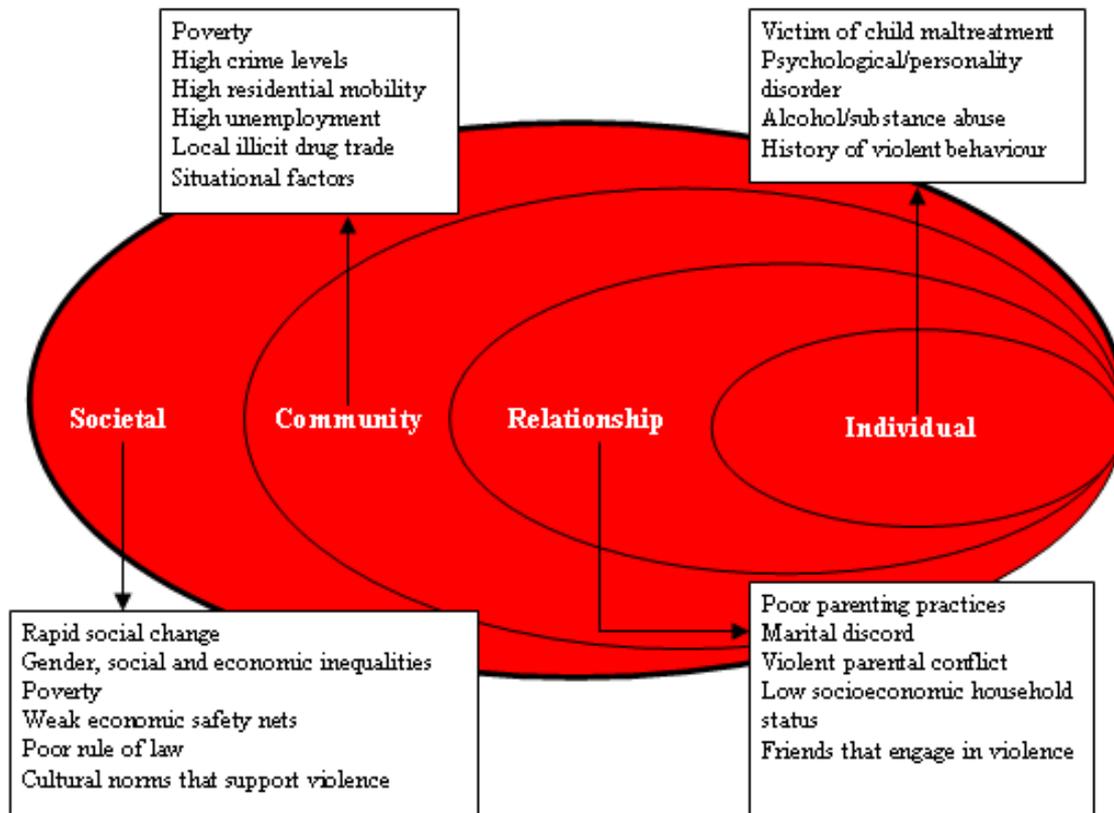


Chart – 2: Physical and psychological violence in rural and urban areas.

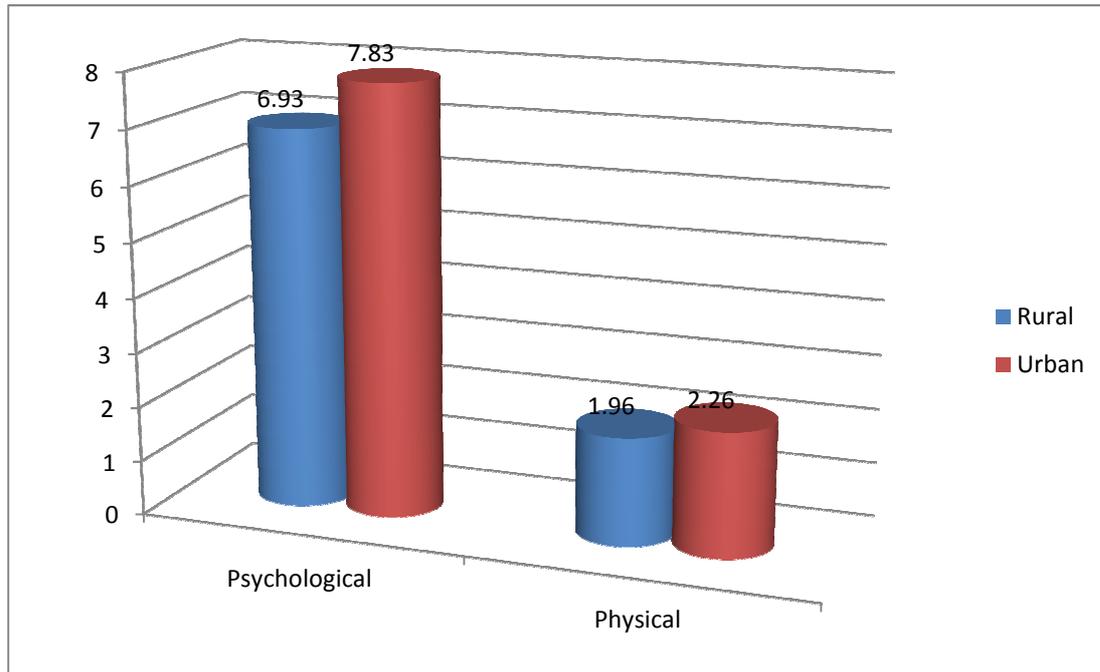


Chart – 3: Mean distribution of subject according to community.

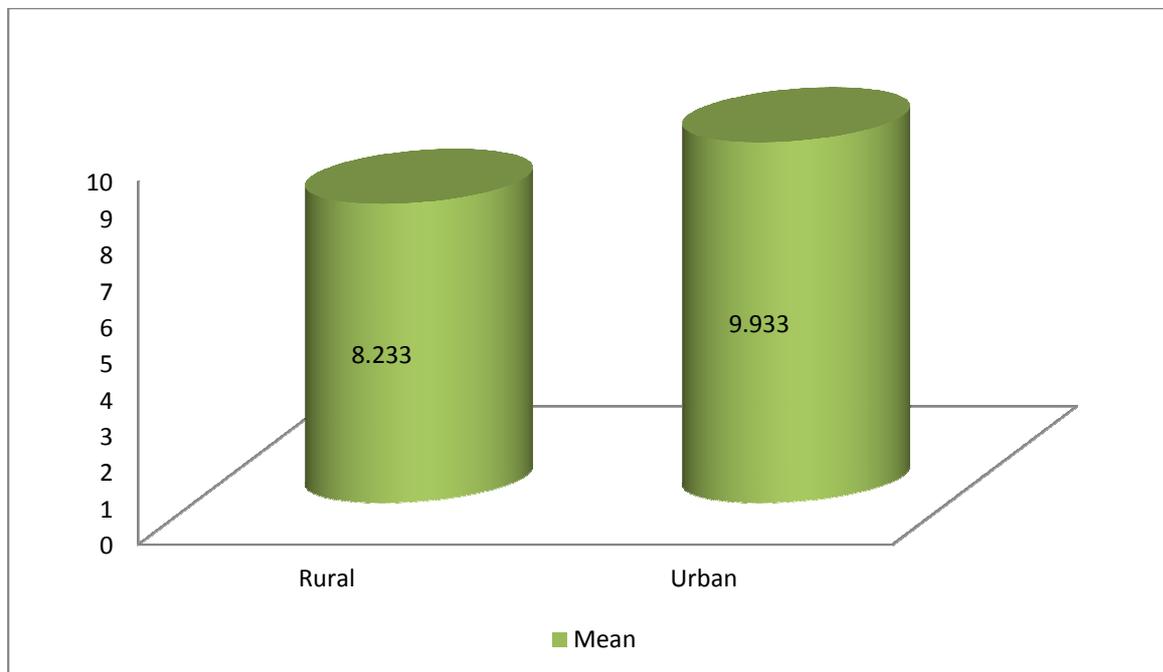


Table – 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of subject according to demographic variables. (N=60)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age in years		
16-20	02	03.33
21-25	16	26.67
26-30	18	30.00
31-35	11	18.33
36-40	13	21.67
Educational status of women (wife)		
Illiterate	05	08.30
Primary and middle education	12	20.00
High school	16	26.70
Intermediate	17	28.30
Graduate and above	10	16.67
Educational status of men (husband)		
Illiterate	02	03.30
Primary and middle school	05	08.30
High school	07	11.60
Intermediate school	22	36.67
Graduate and above	24	40.00
Type of family		
Nuclear	08	13.30
Joint	52	86.70
Occupational status of women (wife)		
Unemployed	58	96.70
Employed	02	03.30
Occupational status of men (husband)		
Unemployed	03	05.00
Unskilled	08	13.33
Skilled	19	31.33
Clerical shop owner	10	16.67
Professional	20	33.33

Table – 2: Assessment of domestic violence in women (N=60)

Domestic violence	f	%
Present	38	63.33
Absent	22	36.66

Table – 3: Pattern of domestic violence in women (N=60)

Domestic violence	Rural		Urban		t	df	P
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Psychological	06.93	10.36	07.83	10.42	-335	57.9	0.739
Physical	01.96	05.50	02.26	03.60	-250	49.9	0.804

Table – 4: Association between domestic violence and demographic variable. (N=60)

Demographic Variable	Rural (n=30)		Urban (n=30)		t	df	P
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Age of women (years)	27.37	4.90	32.40	6.80	-3.20	58	0.002*
Duration of marriage (years)	08.87	6.10	12.80	7.20	-2.20	58	0.027*
Total family income (rupees)	24137	11715.70	26762	14076.20	-1.57	58	0.122
Per capita income (rupees)	3680.7	2179.00	4585.9	2257.50	-1.58	58	0.120

Table – 5: Association between domestic violence and demographic variable.

Variable	Rural N = 30		Urban N = 30		X2	df	P value
	F	%	F	%			
Educational status of women (wife)							
Illiterate	05	16.7	0	0.00	10.90	6	0.09
Primary/middle school	07	23.30	5	16.67			
High school	07	23.30	9	30.00			
Intermediate	08	26.30	9	30.00			
Graduate and above	03	10	7	23.30			
Educational status of men (husband)							
Illiterate	02	6.67	0	0	8.77	6	0.187
Primary/middle school	02	6.67	3	10.00			
High school	05	16.67	2	06.67			
Intermediate	13	43.33	9	30.00			
Graduate and above	08	26.67	16	53.33			
Type of Family							
Joint	25	83.30	27	90	0.57	1	0.44
Nuclear	05	16.70	03	10			
Occupational status of women							
Unemployed	30	100	28	93.30	2.069	1	0.150
Profession	0	0	02	06.70			
Occupational status of husband							
Unemployed	3	10.00	0	00	30.28	6	0.00
Unskilled	8	26.60	0	00			
Skilled	13	43.33	6	20			
Clerical shop owner	5	16.67	5	16.67			
Professional	1	03.33	19	63.33			

Table – 6: Domestic violence in rural and urban women.

Variable	Rural (N = 30)		Urban (N = 30)		t-test	df	P value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Domestic violence	08.23	14.52	09.33	13.30	-0.47	58	0.63

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None declared.