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Fatima Buchh
Research Scholar, Institute of
Home Science, University of
Kashmir, Srinagar-190006.

Prof. Nilofer Khan
Dean Students Welfare and Dean
Applied Sciences, University of
Kashmir, Srinagar-190006.

Prof. Naheed Vaida
Head of the Department,
Institute of Home Science,
University of Kashmir,
Srinagar-190006.

Severity of different forms of physical abuses in relation to age of Women – A comparative study of Jammu and Srinagar District

Fatima Buchh, Prof. Nilofer Khan, Prof. Naheed Vaida

Abstract

Women's age at the time of marriage is perceived to be at risk of experiencing domestic violence. Violence varies with age at marriage; women married at youngest age report most violence in past twelve months. Violence and abuse are continuous and usually intensifying. Violence may often commence with furious words, a shove or a slap. With frequent occurrence, of a paradigm of abuses established in a relationship ultimately result in permanent injury or even death. Domestic and an elder abuse have no boundaries and affect all ethnic, demographic and geographic groups. Violence that women experiences to a certain extent varies between age groups. Causatum revealed that the victim were being physically abused, slapped /pushed by their spouses all of the time and they were in the age group of 40 & above years. Whereas the victims in the age group of 21-30 years either were being slapped or pushed, so age in physical abuse has a pivotal role to play.

Keywords: Domestic violence, physical abuses, battering, paradigm, age.

1. Introduction

Domestic violence is also referred to as "wife beating", "wife battering" or intimate "partner abuse" (Heise 2000) ^[1]. In most of the traditional societies of Kashmir, wife beating is largely regarded as a consequence of a man's right to inflict physical punishment on his wife. In many settings like ours women are expected to look after their homes and children, show obedience and respect to their husband. If a man feels that his wife has failed to play her role or overstepped her limits, for instance, asking for expenses or stressing the need of their children then violence may be his response.

Brutality is hauled off on women not only outside her home but also within. Conjugal violence not only includes coercion and antagonism which pushes women to come out of patriarchal culture wherein she was taught to remain silent (Poonacha *et al.*, 1999) ^[22]. In Indian milieu women in her intimate relationship may experience looming acts by the family members (both men and women) of her nuptial family. Frequently such types of violence were overlooked in our societies, which inflict gender disparity by limiting a woman's liberty and right to self-determination. On the other hand violence against women outside the home can take place in form of eve teasing, rape, murder (after rape it's quite common), trafficking etc, both at their place of work and outside. Conjugal violence against women escort to various physical (corporal) and psychological culminations associated with some lethal or mortal consequences. Conjugal violence against women escort to various physical (corporal) and psychological culminations associated with some lethal or mortal consequences. Battering culminated into injuries ranging from bruises and fractures to chronic disabilities e.g. fractional or complete loss of hearing or vision and burns may lead to mutilation and in some cases severe medical complications which might emerge from FGM (female genital mutilation) and may even range from hemorrhage and sterility to rigorous psychological trauma. Several studies revealed high intensity of violence during pregnancy ensuing risk to health of both the mother and the unborn fetus and in most terrible cases domestic violence can lead to the death of a women even (Rajani *et al.*, 2001) ^[3].

Physical violence as a means of domestic violence

D.V has long been anticipated as a personal matter within the four walls of the home. Women are witnessed to be the one responsible for adjusting more abundantly to the consequences or

Correspondence
Fatima Buchh
Research Scholar, Institute of
Home Science, University of
Kashmir, Srinagar-190006.

episodes as advocated by the cultural values and norms or developing an accessible way of zing the pain silently. As a result of the extraordinary efforts made by the various versatile gender entwists this action or act is now being recognized' as a violating of human rights and atrocity. Intimate partner violence is any behaviors within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual barrier.

In the inception phase of the defamatory relationship, several forms of abuse are prevalent. They can tend to have a physical, sexual, or emotional brunt but among the majority of victims, it tends to have a bottled up impact usually in the form of a verbal or lexical allegation (Walker., 1989; Weiss., 2000) ^[4, 5]. Usually the inactive episode tends to be corporal in nature. After the preliminary episode of physical abuse, the persecutor may not usually need to batter his partner to gain or sustain control. The threat of violence may usually prove to be sufficient, to make her follow through his instructions (Slaber and Taliaferro., 1995) ^[6].

WHO (2005) documented that in Japan and Peru, the amplitude of ever – partnered women have suffered physical violence by a male intimate partner ranged from 13% to 61% with most sites falling between 23% and 49% respectively. The frequency of rigorous physical violence included a women being battered, kicked, dragged and hit or have unwanted sex with the partner especially in situation when she is sick, if she is not willing to have sex, if the husband is drunk, or mistreats her. Besides it was also reported that in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and the united Republic of Tanzania and Samoa, about 10-20% of the women reported of not having the right to refuse sex under any of the given circumstances.

The inevitability of wife persecution is reported to survive because of the corporal and psychological aspects (Essen, 1999) ^[7]. Domestic violence against women consists of a great predicament to the family members at a small scale and the society at large. It commences at home, in public places, families (home of friend or relatives), offices and workplaces which involve highly positioned officials and personalities; even churches and mosques. Spousal violence that occurs in an undisclosed manner with the family includes corporal punishment, rape, acid attack and sexual abuse. These tend to affect the physical and psychological well-being of women and as a result; they disintegrate the position of women both inside the family and home and in the society at large.

Women are more susceptible to be harassed or oppressed by someone who is very close or affectionate with is usually called as intimate partner violence (IPV). According to a report given by WHO, (2002) ^[12] 40 -70% of assassinations of women, are executed by their spouse or boyfriend. It was seen that violence is not always accomplished as a form of corporal violence but can also be psycho somatic and lingual (Pourreza, Batebi and Moussavi, 2004) ^[8].

INCLLEN undertook a study in 1997 and 1999 at seven varied regional sites in India namely Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, Nagpur and Thiruvananthapuram and Vellore. It was revealed in this study that domestic violence in India constituted of 35.5% of psychological violence and 36.9% physical violence. In Kerala it was seen that the rates of the corresponding values was higher i.e. 62.3% and 61.6% respectively. Generally in India; the prevalence of physical and psychological violence is 51.7% and 49.7% respectively.

A study was carried out in North India by Stephenson *et al.*, (2006) ^[10] confirmed that there was an extensive physical as well as sexual violence present among the society. 37% of the men agreed having abused their wives in the past one year. Out of them 12% admitted of having physically assaulted their

wives whereas 17% were indulged in sexual violence only 9% of them however reported of having involved in both physical as well as sexual violence. 34% of women simultaneously reported of having undergone at least one symptom of foetal or early infant deaths.

One year preceding the study, the prevalence of physical and sexual violence in Vietnam was found to be 9.2% women who experienced violence during the previous year tend to run a considerably increased risk of dementia, pain, discomfort, sadness or depression and also used to have suicidal tendency compared with those who had not experienced violence in the past year. About 50% of the women reported to have suffered from injuries during the period of violence and of those 58% had to opt for medical intervention (Vung *et al.*, 2009) ^[14].

Objective: The main objective of the study was to find out the severity of different forms of physical abuses in relation to age of women respondents.

2. Material and Methods.

Sample: Primary data was collected from Jammu and Srinagar Districts. From each district 25% of the required sample was selected from the respective Talukas/ halkas/ Blocks or villages which comprised of 200 women from each district; both from rural and urban areas. Further on 25% of married females were randomly selected for final evaluation. Thereby a sample size of at least 400 married women became a part of the study i.e. 200 women from each District were selected randomly.

Tools: The tool used to gather information from women was questionnaire cum interview schedule. The questionnaire for this purpose was designed to obtain maximum information from the sample and assurance was provided to the respondents that the information revealed by them will be strictly confidential and will be only used for academic purpose. Questions that measured the types and frequency of violent acts against women by their husbands were used, this is a scale developed by WHO multi- country study on women's health and domestic violence (2005). It was administered on women to check the incidence of domestic violence in their lives; in addition to it all the respondents were asked to rate the questions on 7 points scale, pertaining to their experience of any form of violence within 12 months prior to data collection. Physical violence included physically abusive acts like slapping, pushing, hit with fist, kicking etc. After collecting the data, coding of the responses of the questions was imperative for statistical processing and analysis. Every item of the questionnaire was coded and was transformed into XL sheet, data was further processed on computer using SPSS version- 20. The data was analyzed using Pearson chi-square test and p-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

3. Results and Discussion

A physical abuse is defined as the use of corporeal force that will precipitate in bodily lesions; it may append pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping, hitting or punching. Lifetime occurrence or any kind of violence was defined and respondents were asked to report any experience / or any act of violence from a current or former husband. There were seven possible responses for each item of abusive act: "none of the time," "very rarely", "a little of the time," "sometime of the time," "a good part of the time", "most of the time" and "all of the time," were recorded to indicate the responses of different forms of violence. The intensity of each violence experience

was measured by quantifying frequency, duration, number of suffered acts and use of coercive instruments. In order to compare the overall responses of various forms of abuses with different variables of the study “none of the time”, and “very

rarely “ were considered to suffer no violence and rest of the responses were considered as “yes” thus indicating the lifetime experience of different forms domestic violence which is presented in association with age of the respondents.

Table 1: Age in relation to physical abuses.

Age Group (in Years)	Slapped you/ threw something at you/ pushed you (ever in life time)								Chi- Square	p- Value		
	District Srinagar											
	All of the time	Good part of the time	Little of the time	Most of the time	None	Some of the time	Very rarely	Total				
15-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25.864	0.011		
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
21-30	4	1	6	3	9	4	7	34				
	11.8%	2.9%	17.6%	8.8%	26.5%	11.8%	20.6%	100.0%				
31-40	10	13	15	6	16	4	38	102				
	9.8%	12.7%	14.7%	5.9%	15.7%	3.9%	37.3%	100.0%				
41 & above	9	9	12	12	3	6	13	64				
	14.1%	14.1%	18.8%	18.8%	4.7%	9.4%	20.3%	100.0%				
Total	23	23	33	21	28	14	58	200				
	11.5%	11.5%	16.5%	10.5%	14.0%	7.0%	29.0%	100.0%				
	District Jammu											
15-20	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3			31.77	0.023
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%				
21-30	3	4	23	8	9	17	16	80				
	3.8%	5.0%	28.7%	10.0%	11.2%	21.2%	20.0%	100.0%				
31-40	2	6	25	6	6	16	21	82				
	2.4%	7.3%	30.5%	7.3%	7.3%	19.5%	25.6%	100.0%				
Above 41	1	5	6	2	4	7	10	35				
	2.9%	14.3%	17.1%	5.7%	11.4%	20.0%	28.6%	100.0%				
Total	6	15	54	16	22	40	47	200				
	3.0%	7.5%	27.0%	8.0%	11.0%	20.0%	23.5%	100.0%				

The table indicates the violence by intimate partner or partner abuses also known as domestic violence. The information was collected about the frequency and severity of different forms of physical abuses, examining the extent to which different forms of physical violence occurred in lifetime of women respondents in combination with different demographic characteristics. The experience of violence to a certain extent varied between age groups. In District Srinagar it was found that 14.1% of the respondents were victims of being pushed /slapped by their spouses all of the time were in the age group of 40 and above. However 18.8% of the respondents of the same age group admitted that they experienced physical violence most of the time, whereas 17.6% respondents reported that they are being slapped or pushed were in the age

group of 21- 30 years. In Jammu district women experienced more violence in the age group between 21-40 years i.e. 147 respondents out of 200 experiencing violence in this particular age group (28.7%) and 30.5 % experienced violence little of the time in their life span. Age was found to be significantly associated with physical abuses.

WHO (2013) [13] reports that most of the studies and survey reports by DHS or RHS found that women above 50 years and older experience lower level of intimate partner violence. Boardhurst *et al.*, (2013) [15] in his study found that women in the age group of 18-24 years are at increased risk of violence subsequently risk decreases for those in the age group between 25 and 45 years and decreases further for older women.

Table 2: Age in relation to physical abuses

Age (in Years)	Hit you with fist/ kicked you (ever in life time)								Chi- square	p-value		
	District Srinagar											
	All of the time	Good part of the time	Little of the time	Most of he time	None	Some of the time	Very rarely	Total				
21-30	4	6	5	3	8	1	7	34	19.207	0.084		
	11.8%	17.6%	14.7%	8.8%	23.5%	2.9%	20.6%	100.0%				
31-40	11	12	13	6	24	5	31	102				
	10.8%	11.8%	12.7%	5.9%	23.5%	4.9%	30.4%	100.0%				
41 & above	10	8	11	9	3	8	15	64				
	15.6%	12.5%	17.2%	14.1%	4.7%	12.5%	23.4%	100.0%				
Total	25	26	29	18	35	14	53	200				
	12.5%	13.0%	14.5%	9.0%	17.5%	7.0%	26.5%	100.0%				
	District Jammu											
15-20	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3			19.691	0.350
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	100.0%				
21-30	3	3	20	9	9	18	18	80				
	3.8%	3.8%	25.0%	11.2%	11.2%	22.5%	22.5%	100.0%				
31-40	2	7	26	10	8	13	16	82				
	2.4%	8.5%	31.7%	12.2%	9.8%	15.9%	19.5%	100.0%				
Above 41	3	1	5	5	4	8	9	35				
	8.6%	2.9%	14.3%	14.3%	11.4%	22.9%	25.7%	100.0%				
Total	8	11	51	24	23	39	44	200				
	4.0%	5.5%	25.5%	12.0%	11.5%	19.5%	22.0%	100.0%				

Current frequency of physical abuses was assessed by another two factors i.e. hitting with fist and kicking. In District Srinagar 51% respondents; 31-40 years old, 17% in the age group of 21-30 and 32% respondents of 41 and above years old women reported that they have experienced physical abuses as a form of gender based violence in their life time. It was found that physical abuse was significantly associated with age. In District Jammu data indicates that 8.6% of women respondents above 41 reported being hit or kicked all of the time by their spouses ever in life time and 31.7% of woman in the age group of 31-40 years reported being beaten by their husbands a little of the time. Violence was found to lead to insignificant associations at $p > 0.05$. Numerous studies reported that 41% in Uganda, 30% in India, 28% in USA, 35% of women in Egypt, 16 % in Cambodia and 19% in Columbia stated being physically abused by their husbands (Okumba Miruka *et al.*, 2005) ^[16]. Approximately 28,000 women in Multi country study (13.9%) were being physically abused by their counterparts during the past 12 months and 1 out of 7 women aged 18-64 were physically abused by their intimate partners in the same span of time.

4. Conclusion

Life time experience of physical abuses in the form of being slapped/ throwing something at their wives / pushing them was estimated 23% in the age group of 21- 40 years and above in District Srinagar (all of the time and a good part of the time) and 10.5% in District Jammu in same age groups (all of the time and a good part of the time). Simultaneously 25.5% of respondents in District Srinagar revealed that their husbands hit them with fist/ kicked them (all of the time and a good part of the time) and 9.5% from District Jammu (all of the time and a good part of the time) reported being abused, although some variations were found in the prevalence of physical abuse by geographical region: the frequency of physical abuse in District Srinagar was 24 % and in District Jammu it was estimated about 7% (all of the time). It was found that domestic violence is an all stratum paradox; it is vivid that courtships in several primitive settings are more exposed than others.

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