

Women Teaching Faculty and Domestic Violence Act, 2005

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Abstract: *Domestic violence against women is a part of day to day life in many Indian families. Women are considered as secondary citizens and those who could be exploited. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to women. In a country like India, mostly women are expected to be a “good” daughter, wife and mother by not revealing the domestic violence faced by them. Domestic violence is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional/psychological or economic actions or threat of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound someone. The women teaching faculty members in colleges plays a predominant role in shaping the life of young citizens. This study has made an attempt to know the level of awareness about the Domestic violence Act, 2005 and the forms of Domestic violence faced by the women teaching faculty members of co educational Arts and science colleges.*

Keywords: *Awareness, Domestic Violence, Women Teaching faculty.*

I. Introduction

Domestic violence against women is accepted as a normal event in our society. Women were always considered as secondary citizens and those who could be exploited easily. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to women. The societal culture, practices of many religions, political and economic conditions also either directly or indirectly provides space for the violence against women in our nation. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional/psychological or economic actions or threat of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound someone. Dutton (1995) has defined “Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful or harassing behavior”[1]. Globally Domestic violence is a common hidden problem for women and is a major cause of mental ill health. Domestic violence is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm[2]. Such behavior includes acts of physical aggression, psychological abuse, forced intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion, and various controlling behaviors. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition, Domestic violence is "the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another; also a repeated / habitual pattern of such behavior." [3] The term "intimate partner violence" (IPV) is often used synonymously with Domestic abuse/domestic violence [4].

Some of the common causes of Domestic violence’s are not doing Household work properly, Alcoholism, Dowry demands, closeness with friends, Doubt of extra-marital relation, complex (about beauty, education, socio-economic status), No child bearing capability and Low job satisfaction. To maintain power and control, the abuser makes different forms of abuses over the victim and the main aim of the abuser is to achieve power and control over the intimate partner. To create fear, shame and helplessness, the abuser may make list of rules or tasks to the victim to do without fail.

1.1 Forms of Domestic violence

(i) Physical Abuse

Most common and frequently used forms are slaps, beating, kicking, and throwing objects, burning with rod and sexual coercion or assault.

(ii) Emotional abuse:

Using abusive/filthy language, insulting her in the presence of children or others, blaming her for everything and small or negligible issue, making feel guilty for no fault of her, threat of divorce, treating her like a servant, strict watch on her every moments, prohibiting her from events of the family, suspecting her about extra-marital issue, demeaning her family background, criticizing her for lacking intelligence, threaten her to commit suicide.

(iii) Economic Abuse:

Preventing her from taking job, force her to leave the present job, not allowing to purchase things of her liking or choice, pressurizing to bring money from the parents and not giving basic amenities.

(iv) Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse in violent relationships is often the most difficult aspect of abuse for victims and it includes any form of forced sex or sexual degradation.

Women teaching faculty members in co educational academic institutions could bring enormous positive development in gender relations as they handle students of both the gender and also they work with opposite gender. They could very well discuss with the students about the domestic violence, issues faced by both the gender in marriage life and how to lead a successful marriage life without domestic violence. For this, the women teaching faculty should know about the provisions of this Act. This study makes an attempt to know the level of awareness that the women teaching faculty members of co educational arts and science colleges have about the Domestic violence Act, 2005.

II. Review of Literature

Boruah, Rickey rani (2015). "A study on awareness of women regarding legal provision towards domestic violence"[5] Data were collected from 75 women with different educational background by using self prepared interview schedule. This study focused about the violence faced by women at home, awareness about legal provisions towards domestic violence, awareness about the rights of women, provisions for victims, penalty for offenders mentioned in domestic violence Act. The result of the study reveals that very less percentage of women know about the various provisions of Domestic violence Act. Lack of confidence, Lack of proper education are the main reasons for the unawareness and the economic dependency, family pressure and societal pressure makes the women not to reveal the violence faced by them. Jain, Ranu (2014). "A study on awareness and implementation of Domestic violence Act, 2005 amongst women of Agra District.[6]

The objective of the study is to find out the different types of domestic violence prevalent in Agra District and to study the awareness amongst women about the Domestic violence Act. 25 victimized women were taken as sample and interview schedule and Focus Group Discussion method were used to collect data. The study identifies that most of the violence are related to Alcoholism, Dowry, Financial crisis, extramarital affairs, personality disorders, property disputes and drug addiction. The study suggests that Women education would protect the women from various forms of violence.

III. Materials And Methods

3.1 Objectives of the study:

- To understand the socio-demographic details of the respondents.
- To find out the level of awareness the respondents have about the Domestic Violence Act
- To know the forms of domestic violence highly experienced by the respondents.

3.2 Hypotheses

- There is an association between the Age of the respondents and the level of Awareness on Domestic Violence Act.
- There is an association between the Form of marriage and the level of Awareness on Domestic Violence Act.

3.3 Research Design

Descriptive design was adopted for this study the married women teaching faculty in co educational arts and science colleges in Madurai District are taken for this study.

3.4 Universe and Sampling:

There are totally 19 co educational arts and science colleges in Madurai District. The researcher randomly selected four colleges for the current study. There are totally 126 married women teaching faculty members in the selected four colleges and out of which 80 were selected through simple random sampling method.

3.5 Tools of Data Collection:

Self prepared questionnaire was used to collect the socio demographic data of the respondents. To know the level of awareness about Domestic violence Act, researcher prepared a Close-ended questionnaire consisted of 26 questions (True/false/don't know) and to know the respondent's personal experience of various form of Domestic violence, the researcher prepared an Itemized statements on forms of Domestic violence which consists of 32 statements (Likert format 5 point rating) based on Abusive Behaviour Inventory and Measure of wife Abuse compiled by Marlie P. Thompson, Kathleen C. Basile, Marci F. Hertz and Dylan Sitterle in 2006.

3.6 Data Analysis

The data collected from the respondents were subjected to statistical analysis, simple percentage tables and chi square test was applied to find the association between the selected variables.

IV. Figures And Tables

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the level of Awareness about Domestic violence Act

Level of Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Low	7	9
Moderate	71	89
High	2	2
Total	80	100

Regarding the level of awareness, majority of the respondents (89 per cent) have moderate level of awareness, and 9 per cent of the respondents have low level of awareness and only 2 per cent of the respondents have high level of awareness.

Table 2: Forms of Domestic violence highly experienced by the respondents

Forms of Domestic violence	f	%
Psychological violence	15	18
Verbal violence	50	62
Physical violence	11	14
Economic violence	2	3
Sexual violence	2	3
Total	80	100

In relating the form of Domestic violence highly experienced by the respondents, majority of the respondents (62 per cent) highly experienced verbal violence, 18 per cent of the respondents highly experienced psychological violence, 14 percent of the respondents highly experience physical violence, 3 percent of the respondents highly experienced economic violence and another 3 percent of the respondents highly experienced sexual violence.

V. Findings of The Study

- Majority of the respondents (89 per cent) have moderate level of awareness, and 9 per cent of the respondents have low level of awareness and only 2 per cent of the respondents have high level of awareness about Domestic violence Act,2005.
- Majority of the respondents (62 per cent) highly experienced verbal violence, 18 per cent of the respondents highly experienced psychological violence, 14 percent of the respondents highly experience physical violence, 3 percent of the respondents highly experienced economic violence and another 3 percent of the respondents highly experienced sexual violence.
- More than half of the respondents (56 per cent) belong to the age between 25-30 years.
- Majority of the respondents (74 per cent) educational qualification is M.Phil Degree.
- Nearly half of the respondents (49%) monthly income is between Rs.15000 and Rs.20, 000.
- More than half of the respondents (65 per cent) live in urban area.
- More than half of the respondents (69%) belong to nuclear family.
- Majority of the respondents (70%) form of marriage is arranged marriage.
- More than half of the respondents (63%) were got married between the age of 25 to 30 years.
- More than half of the respondent's partners (53%) belong to the age group of 31 to 40 years.
- Half of the respondent's partners (50%) have the academic qualification of under-graduation.
- More than half of the partner's (68%) occupation is Business.
- More than half of the partners (69%) are not dependent on alcohol.
- Nearly half of the partners (54%) do not have smoking habit.

5.1 Findings relating to Hypotheses:

- There is no association between the Age of the respondents and the level of Awareness about Domestic Violence Act.
- There is no association between the Form of marriage and the level of Awareness about Domestic Violence Act.

VI. Suggestions

- Women teaching faculty members should get enough opportunities to know about the various provisions of Domestic violence Act, 2005.
- Every educational institution should have a Women Legal cell to provide legal support to the women teaching faculty members
- Both the men and women students and faculty members should be given required exposure to realize the significance of gender relations and Acts relating to Protection of Women from violence.
- The academic institutions in collaboration with Non Government organizations can conduct awareness programme about Domestic violence Act.
- Media can play a major role in creating awareness about the various existing legislations relating to protection of women.
- More researches could be done about the violence faced by Women teaching faculty members, since it is not much explored.

VII. Conclusion

In ancient India women enjoyed a significant role not only at home but in the society as a whole. Earlier, women were considered as boon to the family, slowly and gradually situation became worse, because of strong patriarchic family system. The study has revealed that a very minimum percentage of the women teaching faculty know about the various provisions of Domestic violence Act, 2005. There is a general belief that educated women particularly the academicians know about various Acts relating to the protection of Women. But the reality is most of the women academicians are undergoing various forms of domestic violence without realizing it as violence. The academic institutions have a mammoth responsibility of creating awareness about various Acts relating to Women Protection for both the students and faculty members of all the genders.

References

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