

Intimate Partner Violence Among Married Women Aged (15-49) In Tamil Nadu- Secondary Data Analysis From National Family Health Survey (Nfhs) Round 4 & 5

Priyadharshini Raju¹, Susmitha Baskaran¹, Jasmine. S. Sundar² S Valarmathi²,
S Kalpana², G Srinivas²

Public Health Pg Student, Department Of Epidemiology, The Tamil Nadu Dr Mg Medical University, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India 600032

Department Of Epidemiology, The Tamil Nadu Dr Mgr Medical University, Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
600032

Abstract:

Background:

Intimate partner violence remains a pervasive public health issue and has devastating consequences on the health of women and their children. The present study uses NFHS 4 and 5 data to study intimate partner violence among ever-married women in Tamil Nadu.

Methods:

The present study is based on the NFHS 4 & 5 data of Tamil Nadu, which has data available in round 4 for 26033 women aged between 15 and 49 years and for 25650 women in round 5 were surveyed. This analysis pertains to those ever-married women who were surveyed 3281 in round 4 and 2368 in round 5. The study aimed to identify the various forms of IPV experienced by women and compared the data from NFHS 4 and 5.

Results:

Intimate partner violence had decreased significantly in NFHS 5 as compared to NFHS 4. Physical violence seems to be the most prominent form of IPV with ever-married women, and it decreased from 39% to 38%. Sexual violence also decreased from 8% to 2% compared to NFHS 5, and emotional violence decreased by a significant 21% to 11% in NFHS 4 to 5 all forms of IPV experienced by women decreased in round 5 to 40 far compared with NFHS 4 45% (CI 38-41 and 43-46) respectively. Overall, intimate partner violence was significantly decreased in NFHS 5 when compared to NFHS 4.

Conclusion:

The study indicates the significant reduction of IPV estimated between NFHS rounds 4 and 5. This trend signifies an encouraging drop in the rates of sexual and emotional violence among ever-married women in Tamil Nadu. While there has been a decrease in the overall IPV, the relatively minimal decrease in physical violence refers actually to a residual issue that has to be addressed with continued focus. Physical violence remains a persistent issue that requires an intervention.

Keywords: IPV, Domestic Violence, NFHS

Date of Submission: 01-08-2024

Date of Acceptance: 10-08-2024

I. Introduction

Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that includes physical, sexual violence and psychological emotional abuse. **Physical spousal: violence** is the most acknowledged form of physical cruelty and may involve actions like hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, burning, and strangulation. damaging personal property refusing medical care and/or controlling medication coercing a partner into substance abuse use of weapons. **Sexual violence:** is any sexual act attempt to obtain a sexual act or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim in any setting. It includes rape defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part, or object attempted rape, unwanted sexual touching, and other non-contact forms.(1) **Emotional violence or Psychological abuse:** when an intimate partner quests for the control of his or her loved one by name-calling, insulting, and blaming the partner for everything excessive jealousy intimidation Shaming humiliating isolation

Domestic violence is a human issue and is a bitter reality in most of the societies and countries of the world.(2) Women's status according to the UN, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender-based” violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.(3) The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals SDG also realised the importance of gender-based violence, which is an advanced step towards eliminating gender inequity and women's empowerment. (4) Women are being the receivers of different types of heinous crimes, namely foeticide, infanticide, and child abuse, Child marriage, honour killing, female genital mutilation, forced marriage , bride burning for dowry, sexual harassment at homes and workplaces ,rape, acid attack, forced prostitution and medical neglect.(5) More than one-third of women report experiencing physical and sexual violence. Worldwide lifetime prevalence rates are reported depending on the population surveyed to be between 10% and 69%, according to WHO reports.(6) The WHO 2018 analysis of prevalence data from 2000-2018 across participant countries and areas estimates that globally approximately 1 in 3 of women have been subjected to either emotional physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Approximately 38% of all murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.(2) **In Tamil Nadu**, 381 of women aged 18-49 have faced domestic violence by their spouses.(7)

Health consequences: Intimate partner and sexual violence are among the important causes of serious short- and long-term physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health problems for women. Fatal outcomes like homicide or suicide led to injuries, with 42 percent of women who experience intimate partner violence reporting an injury as a consequence of this violence.(3) India's Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005(PWDVA 2005) has by far been the most radical step taken to face domestic abuse in the history of India. It is particularly civil legislation to make up for the lacunae in India's already existing domestic violence legislation, 1983 Indian Penal Code 498A and 1986 Indian Penal Code 304B, concerned with dowry-related assault. PWDVA 2005 defines physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse based on the UN declaration on violence against women. (8) Despite this excellent act to protect the women, the prevalence of violence is not reduced. **The current study was conducted to find the pattern of intimate partner violence.**

II. Objective

To compare the prevalence and pattern of intimate partner violence among women in NFHS 4 and NFHS 5

III. Methodology:

Secondary data analysis of NFHS 4 and NFHS 5

Data Source

This study has used data from the fourth and fifth rounds of NFHS conducted during 2015-16 and 2019-21. The NFHS study is the Tamil Nadu version of the Demographic and health survey (DHS).

In NFHS-4 in all 31 districts, while in NFHS-5 all 32 districts had been covered. The main sample included women aged between 15-49 and 5 for both NFHS-4 and 5. The research design is comparable to a cross-sectional study it's because of the secondary data we using here.

Dependent Variable

The primary dependent variables for this analysis are the ever-experience of different types of domestic violence, which are physical, emotional, and sexual violence by a partner of ever-married women aged 15 to 49 years in both NFHS-4 and 5. The definition of DV includes violence by spouses; in fact, one of the well-documented facts is that DV is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by married women. The set of questions in NFHS actually tries to elicit information pertaining to detailed physical, sexual, and emotional IPV, including domestic violence perpetrated by others besides intimate partners. Violence from anyone is elicited among never-married women from boyfriends. independent variables.

Independent Variable

The independent variables of this analysis are as follows: various sociodemographic factors, such as the ecological model for IPV women's marital status schooling women's employment spouse characteristics, independent variables for IPV, concerning the respondent's current husband for women currently married and most recent husband for women formerly but not currently married. The following types of, **Physical IPV** questions were asked to women pushing, shaking, throwing something at, and slapping. **Sexual IPV** questions, such as physically forcing the woman to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to and physically forcing the woman to perform sexual acts she did not want. **Emotional IPV** humiliated women in front of others embarrassed to hurt or harm them, yelled insults at, or otherwise emotionally hurt.

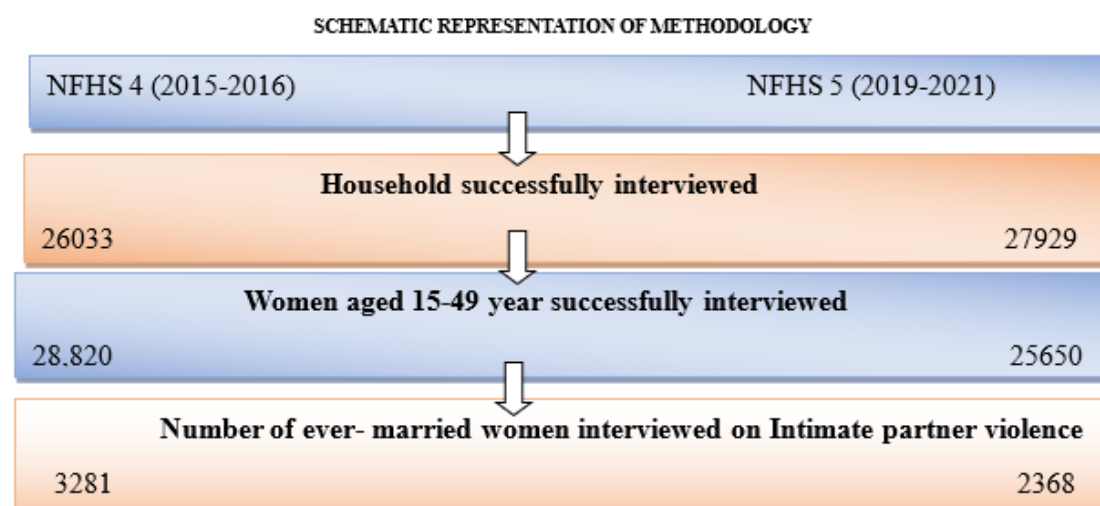


Fig 1 Flow diagram of sampling of ever-married women aged 15-49 years who participated in NFHS-4 & NFHS-5 in Tamil Nadu.

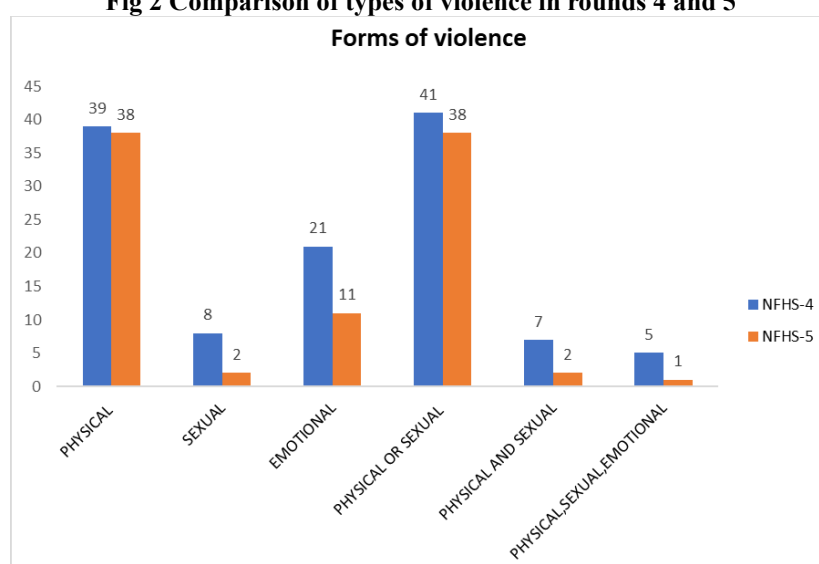
Table no.1 Demographic characteristics of ever-married women aged 15-49 years in NFHS 4 (9)and NFHS 5(10)

Background characteristics	Total Results NFHS-4	Total Results NFHS-5
Age		
15-19	850	494
20-24	644	524
25-29	795	564
30-39	1,416	1198
40-49	1,213	1013
Residence		
Urban	2,511	1760
Rural	2,283	2033
Schooling		
No schooling	910	306
<5 years complete	226	184
5-7 years complete	1,823	519
8-9 years complete	-	646
10-11 years complete	1,141	620
12 or more years complete	1,965	1,519
Employment (past 12 months)		
Employed	1,968	1,622
Employed for cash	1,847	1,548
Employed not for cash	120	74
Not employed	4,096	2,172
Marital status		
Currently married	4,472	2,759
Married, <i>Gauna</i> not performed	324	232
Widowed/divorced/ separated/deserted		803
Household structure		
Nuclear	3,573	2,383
Non-nuclear	2,491	1,410
Religion		
Hindu	5,485	3,436
Muslim	285	137
Christian	292	216
Caste/tribe		
Scheduled caste	1,614	1,044
Scheduled tribe	84	109
Other backward class	4,255	2,574

Table 2 Experience of physical, sexual & emotional violence

Forms of violence	NFHS-4			NFHS-5		
	N = 3,281 (%)	CI		N = 2,368 (%)	CI	
		LL	UL		LL	UL
Physical	39	37	40	38	36	40
Sexual	8	7	9	2	2	3
Emotional	21	20	23	11	10	12
Physical or Sexual	41	39	42	38	36	40
Physical and Sexual	7	6	8	2	1	3
Physical and/or Sexual and/or Emotional	45	43	46	40	38	41
Physical Sexual and Emotional	5	4	6	1	1	2

Fig 2 Comparison of types of violence in rounds 4 and 5



IV. Results

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of 3281 and 2368 ever-married women who responded to the domestic violence module of NFHS 4 and NFHS 5 in Tamil Nadu.

In both rounds of the survey variables are compared based on the Age distribution, Place of residence, Schooling, Employment status during the last 12 months, Marital status, household structure, Religion, and Community. However, a majority of the respondents completed their education up to higher secondary and more in NFHS-4, whereas in NFHS-5, respondents completed their education up to higher secondary and more, whereas the non-educated group was more prevalent in round 5 when compared to round 4. The majority of the women were not economically empowered in round 4, and when compared with NFHS-5, there were slight changes in employment between the two rounds. A large amount of the population was surveyed in NFHS 4.

Table 2

The objective of the study mainly concerned the pattern and trends of intimate partner violence against women. Intimate partner violence was drastically decreased when compared to NFHS 4.

The commonest type of IPV among ever-married women was physical violence. The overall physical violence decreased in round 5 if compared to round 4 from 38%, (36- 40% of 95% CI) to 39%(37%- 40%CI). Sexual violence is very high in NFHS-4 8% (7-9 %CI) it has fallen significantly in NFHS-5 2% (2-3% CI) Emotional violence decreased in NFHS-5 11% (10-12% CI) as compared to NFHS-4 21%(20-23%CI) Instances of physical or sexual violence reduced from 41%(39-42% CI)to 38%(36-40% CI).

All forms of IPV experienced by women, physical, sexual, and emotional, slightly decreased in round 5 40% (38-41% CI) from round 4 45% (43-46% CI).

The overall intimate partner violence was significantly decreased in NFHS 5 when compared to NFHS 4. According to NFHS 5 final results, 45% of ever-married women experience physical violence.

V. Discussion

This evidence suggests that there was a slight fall in domestic violence against ever-married women in Tamil Nadu between NFHS 4 and NFHS 5. It can be due to many reasons, such as government policies or by the reason of women empowerment.

In the research conducted by Ghoshal(11). The author had used data from NFHS 5 to examine the link between IPV and women's empowerment. The findings of the study were in line with the data, which reflected that women's empowerment had no significant relationship with the reduction in any type of IPV. There was a critical exception to this general overall pattern, which was sexual IPV. There was a critical association relating women's empowerment with its reduction in it. The interpretations of these findings are to be done considering the role played by socio-economic parameters. Cultural beliefs and support facilities for the survivors of IPV. In that case, comprehensive measures targeting these very issues might be more apt to bring a significantly greater reduction in all forms of IPV.

Data analysis was done by Masuma Yasmin in the secondary data of NFHS 3 from 2005-06 and NFHS 4 from 2015-16, in which data from 36 states and union territories showed that in comparison with the women's economic status, there is a considerable decline in all three categories of violence. Women's higher economic status meant they got lower levels of violence, consistent with the results of the current study confirming the importance of economic empowerment in achieving a reduction in levels of violence against women(12).

VI. Conclusion

- We have thus come to the understanding here that a more in-depth study on this topic is required, having identified so many IPV patterns and their risk factors, intimate partner violence can be prevented. Many different variables may either increase or decrease the risk of both experiencing and perpetrating intimate relationship violence.
- Women's empowerment and literacy are the most determinant factors about intimate partner violence in the community. It is easier for a woman to speak out about the violence they experience.
- Intimate partner violence is preventable by being able to identify and act on elements that put people at risk and protect them from violence.
- It reduces cases of IPV and promotes communities and relationships to become peaceful, polite, and healthy. Besides, it can reduce the harmful and persistent consequences of IPV.
- Although reports of violence against women appear to be decreasing, the threat remains persistent. Legally, it seems that intimate partner violence has decreased however, in reality, it remains prevalent, along with violence from in-laws. These issues can only be effectively reduced through the education of women and the moral support of their parents.

References

- [1] Bohra N, Sharma I, Srivastava S, Bhatia Ms, Chaudhuri U, Parial S, Et Al. Violence Against Women. Indian J Psychiatry. 2015 Jul;57(Suppl 2):S333–8.
- [2] Subhashchandra K, Selvaraj V, Jain T, Dutta R. Domestic Violence And Its Associated Factors Among Married Women In Urban Chennai: A Cross-Sectional Study. J Family Med Prim Care. 2022 Feb;11(2):633–7.
- [3] Un Women – Headquarters [Internet]. 2023 [Cited 2023 Dec 28]. Facts And Figures: Ending Violence Against Women. Available From: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
- [4] Manna S, Singh D, Barik M, Rehman T, Ghosal S, Kanungo S, Et Al. Prevalence Of Intimate Partner Violence Among Indian Women And Their Determinants: A Cross-Sectional Study From National Family Health Survey – 5. BMC Women's Health. 2024 Jun 22;24(1):363.
- [5] Prevalence And Correlates Of Domestic Violence Against Ever Married Women Of Reproductive Age In India: Changes During 2005-2015 - Pmc [Internet]. [Cited 2024 May 10]. Available From: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9805662/>
- [6] Garg P, Das M, Goyal Ld, Verma M. Trends And Correlates Of Intimate Partner Violence Experienced By Ever-Married Women Of India: Results From National Family Health Survey Round Iii And Iv. BMC Public Health. 2021 Nov 5;21(1):2012.
- [7] Women Against Abuse [Internet]. [Cited 2024 May 22]. Types Of Abuse. Available From: <https://www.womenagainstabuse.org/education-resources/learn-about-abuse/types-of-domestic-violence>
- [8] Kanougiya S, Sivakami M, Daruwalla N, Osrin D. Prevalence, Pattern, And Predictors Of Formal Help-Seeking For Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: Findings From India's Cross-Sectional National Family Health Surveys-3 (2005-2006) And 4 (2015-2016). BMC Public Health. 2022 Dec 20;22(1):2386.
- [9] Tamilnadu.Pdf.
- [10] Tamil Nadu Nfhs5.Pdf.
- [11] Ghoshal R, Patil P, Gadgil A, Nathani P, Bhandarkar P, Kale Db, Et Al. Does Women Empowerment Associate With Reduced Risks Of Intimate Partner Violence In India? Evidence From National Family Health Survey-5. Solanki Hk, Editor. Plos One. 2023 Nov 28;18(11):E0293448.
- [12] Dalal K, Yasmin M, Dahlqvist H, Klein Go. Do Electronic And Economic Empowerment Protect Women From Intimate Partner Violence (Ipv) In India? BMC Womens Health. 2022 Dec 9;22(1):510.