

Original Research Article

## Female Domestic Violence: A Comparative Survey to Assess the Attitude of Male and Female Adults

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse, and intimate partner violence, is a pattern of behavior which involves the abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating or within the family. Domestic violence can take many forms, including physical aggression or assault or threats of; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation.

**Methods:** Total sample of the study was 200 (100 male and 100 female adults). A structured questionnaire and 5- point likert scale was prepared to focusing on knowledge and attitude of male and female adults regarding female domestic violence.

**Results:** The mean attitude score of female adults (104.91) was higher than the mean attitude score of male adults (95.18). It shows that female adults had favourable attitude towards prevention and management of female domestic violence. There was association of attitude of male adults with own income and victim of domestic violence and for female adults association comes with partner's income and type of family.

**Conclusion:** The study concludes that female adults had favourable attitude regarding prevention and management of female domestic violence as compared to the male adults.

**Keywords:** Attitude, Male adults, Female adults, Female domestic violence.

### INTRODUCTION

Women are the major and important source of not only a family but the society. A Woman in addition to the virtue of self effacement and self sacrifice, the feminine role crystallizes a Women's connection to others and her embeddedness in a multitude of familial relationship. Women had been equivalent to men in all fields like technology, education, politics, literature,

sports, medicine and many more. They proved that they are not lagged behind, but still many are suffering and struggling to lead a healthy and contended life even in 21<sup>st</sup> century. [1]

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse, and is a pattern of behavior which involves the abuse by one partner against another in an close

relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating or within the family. Domestic violence can take many forms, including physical aggression or assault or threats of; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; domineering; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation. [2]

In India, the problem of violence against women is a result of a long standing power imbalance between men and women. Men have control over access to property and resources. Women's in India subject to all forms of violence and all the women's are experienced at least one time in their life and is quite common in Haryana and Punjab because there is a preference for sons because male children carry on the family lineage. The education of sons is also considered much more important. In these two states, the sex ratio is lower than the national average. [2]

Domestic violence against women is highly prevalent in India and the women usually try to hide it. Particularly wife beating or physical mistreatment is a very common phenomenon in many Indian homes. The percentage of women who are exposed to violence by their husbands is 45% in India. Despite this widespread prevalence, such violence is not customarily acknowledged and has remained invisible. Background conditions of females are found to play a significant role in domestic violence. [3] Objectives of the study are to assess and compare the attitude of male and female adults regarding female domestic violence and to determine association of attitude of male and female adults regarding female domestic violence with sample characteristics.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present study was carried out in MMIMS & R Hospital, Mullana, Ambala, Haryana. A non- experimental research approach and descriptive comparative survey design was used. Male and female

adult visitors of patients admitted in the MMIMS&R hospital were the subjects. Total sample of the study was 200 (100 male and 100 female adults). Convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample. Each of them gave written consent for the study. 5-point likert scale was developed after detailed literature search. The items of these tools were grouped into four areas i.e. concept, types, causes and prevention regarding female domestic violence.

A performa was designed to collect the relevant sample characteristics data. The content validity has been established satisfactorily. Overall scales reliability was satisfactory for knowledge questionnaire by using KR20, it was found to be 0.8 and for attitude scale by using Cronbach Alpha, it was found to be 0.8.

## **RESULTS**

The data presented in Table 1 indicates that the mean attitude score and standard deviation of female adults was higher than mean attitude score and standard deviation of male adults. It shows that female adults had more favourable attitude towards prevention and management of female domestic violence as compared to male adults. There was association of attitude of male adults with own income and victim of domestic violence and for female adults association comes with partner's income and type of family.

**Table 1** shows majority of male adults out of 100 subjects, 30(30%) were in the age group of 33-38, 39-45 and in female adults out of 100 subjects, 31(31%) were in the age group of 33-38. Among the male adults 30(30%) subjects were having graduate level education and in female adults 28(28%) subjects were having higher secondary and graduate level education. Among the male adults partner's educational status 30(30%) subjects were having primary level education and in female adults

partner's educational status 37(37%) subjects were having graduate level education. As per the own income per month, among the male adults 27(27%) subjects were having 15001-20000 rupees/month and in female adults 56(56%) subjects were not having any income per month. In male adults 68(68%) subjects

were not having any partner's income per month and in female adults 40(40%) partners were having  $\geq$  20001 rupees partners' income per month. Both the male and female adult subjects were not victim of any domestic violence i.e. 95(95%) and 78(78%) respectively.

**Table 1. The socio-demographic details of the subjects. N=200**

S.no.	Sample characteristics	Male (n=100)		Female (n=100)	
		f	(%)	f	(%)
<b>1.</b>	<b>Age in years</b>				
1.1)	21-26	17	(17%)	13	(13%)
1.2)	27-32	23	(23%)	30	(30%)
1.3)	33-38	30	(30%)	31	(31%)
1.4)	39-45	30	(30%)	26	(26%)
<b>2.</b>	<b>Educational status</b>				
2.1)	Primary	12	(12%)	04	(04%)
2.2)	Secondary	15	(15%)	20	(20%)
2.3)	Higher secondary	23	(23%)	28	(28%)
2.4)	Graduate	30	(30%)	28	(28%)
2.5)	Post graduation	20	(20%)	20	(20%)
<b>3.</b>	<b>Partner's educational status</b>				
3.1)	Primary	30	(30%)	03	(03%)
3.2)	Secondary	15	(15%)	13	(13%)
3.3)	Higher secondary	20	(20%)	23	(23%)
3.4)	Graduate	20	(20%)	37	(37%)
3.5)	Post graduation	15	(15%)	24	(24%)
<b>4.</b>	<b>Religion</b>				
4.1)	Hindu	71	(71%)	57	(57%)
4.2)	Sikh	19	(19%)	38	(38%)
4.3)	Muslim	09	(09%)	04	(04%)
4.4)	Christan	01	(01%)	01	(01%)
<b>5.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>				
5.1)	Homemaker	00	(00%)	56	(56%)
5.2)	Self employed	33	(33%)	04	(04%)
5.3)	Govt. sector	23	(23%)	26	(26%)
5.4)	Private sector	44	(44%)	14	(14%)
<b>6.</b>	<b>Own income in rupees per month</b>				
6.1)	Nil	00	(00%)	56	(56%)
6.2)	$\leq$ 5000	10	(10%)	03	(03%)
6.3)	5001-10,000	21	(21%)	05	(05%)
6.4)	10001-15000	16	(16%)	08	(08%)
6.5)	15001-20,000	27	(27%)	09	(09%)
6.6)	$\geq$ 20,001	26	(26%)	19	(19%)
<b>7.</b>	<b>Partner's income in rupees per month</b>				
7.1)	Nil	68	(68%)	00	(00%)
7.2)	$\leq$ 5000	04	(04%)	02	(02%)
7.3)	5001-10,000	10	(10%)	09	(09%)
7.4)	10001-15000	06	(06%)	19	(19%)
7.5)	15001-20,000	06	(06%)	30	(30%)
7.6)	$\geq$ 20,001	06	(06%)	40	(40%)
<b>8.</b>	<b>Type of marriage</b>				
8.1)	Arrange marriage	85	(85%)	91	(91%)
8.2)	Love marriage	12	(12%)	06	(06%)
8.3)	Love cum arrange	03	(03%)	03	(03%)
<b>9.</b>	<b>Duration of marriage</b>				
9.1)	From 6 months to 5 years	34	(34%)	30	(30%)
9.2)	6-10 years	22	(22%)	28	(28%)
9.3)	11-15 years	20	(20%)	19	(19%)
9.4)	More than 15 years	24	(24%)	23	(23%)

10.	Type of family				
10.1)	Nuclear	58	(58%)	44	(44%)
10.2)	Joint	42	(42%)	56	(56%)
11.	Number of children				
11.1)	Zero	19	(19%)	11	(11%)
11.2)	One	20	(20%)	29	(29%)
11.3)	Two	37	(37%)	39	(39%)
11.4)	Three	18	(18%)	17	(17%)
11.5)	More than three	06	(06%)	04	(04%)
12.	Gender of children in numbers				
12.1)	Male	68	(54%)	76	(53%)
12.2)	Female	58	(46%)	69	(47%)
13.	Is your partner addicted?				
13.1)	No	100	(100%)	70	(70%)
13.2)	Yes If yes,, please specify which type of addiction	00	(00%)	30	(30%)
13.2.1	Smoking	00	(00%)	15	(50%)
13.2.3	Alcoholic	00	(00%)	15	(50%)
14.	Have you ever being victim of any domestic violence?				
14.1)	No	95	(95%)	78	(78%)
14.2)	Yes If yes,, please specify which type of domestic violence	5	(05%)	22	(22%)
14.2.1	Physical	01	(20%)	10	(45.4%)
14.2.2	Sexual	00	(00%)	02	(09%)
14.2.3	Emotional	04	(80%)	07	(32%)
14.4.4	Financial	00	(00%)	03	(13.6%)
15.	Exposure to any information regarding female domestic violence.				
15.1)	No	22	(22%)	13	(13%)
15.2)	Yes If yes,, please specify source of information	78	(78%)	87	(87%)
15.2.1	Mass media	39	(43%)	51	(47%)
15.2.2	Friends	23	(25%)	19	(18%)
15.2.3	Visitors	25	(28%)	34	(31%)
15.2.4	Health services	04	(04%)	04	(04%)

Table 2: Comparison of attitude scores of male and female adults

Group	Range	Mean	Mean%	Median	Standard Deviation
Male adults (n=100)	51-123	95.18	73.22%	97	+14.4
Female adults (n=100)	66-125	104.91	80.70%	108	+13.9

The data presented in **Table 2** indicates that the mean attitude score and standard deviation of female adults (104.91 and  $\pm$  13.9) was higher than mean attitude score and standard deviation of male adults (95.18  $\pm$  13.9). It shows that female adults had more favourable attitude towards prevention and management of female domestic violence as compared to male adults.

## DISCUSSION

The study findings reveal that 50% male adults had moderately attitude towards the prevention and management of female domestic violence, 70% female adults had favorable attitude towards the prevention and management of female domestic

violence. Similar findings were also reported by Dalal K, Lee MS, Gifford M that the gaps in knowledge about male adolescents and their attitude towards wife beating in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. This multicountry study indicates a general trend of male adolescents strong supportive attitude towards wife beating and hence may suggest that policy makers can specifically target young groups of the population for various interventions for reducing violence against women. [5] The study findings also reveals that female domestic is influenced by the selected sample characteristics i.e. own income in rupees per month, have you ever being victim of any domestic violence, partner's income in rupees and type of

family. Similar findings also reported by BK Babu, SK Kar that family income and size of the family also influences the risk of the domestic violence. [6]

The study concludes that Female adults have more favorable attitude towards prevention and management of female domestic violence as compared to male adults. The recommendations for the study are: A similar study can be conducted on a large sample too generalize the findings. And a comparative study can be conducted on assessing the knowledge and attitude towards female domestic violence among rural and urban community.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were drawn. Most of the female adults had favourable attitude regarding prevention and management of female domestic violence. The study findings indicate nurse need to conduct session for male adults, which will help to make their favourable attitude regarding female domestic violence. Nurses play an important role in giving supportive and educative care to the people in the hospital, especially to the females who were the victim of domestic violence. Nurse can give the intervention like awareness programme in community to increase the knowledge of the females and males about the prevention and management of domestic violence. The nurse administrator should take steps in formulating policies to sensitize people through periodic awareness programme in the community setting. Nurse administrator

can involve the adults of the community as change agents in creating awareness programme in the community.

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