



Effect Of Domestic Violence On Women Empowerment-Special Reference To Marginalized Women

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Citation: R.L. Mangayarkarasi, et.al (2023), Effect Of Domestic Violence On Women Empowerment-Special Reference To Marginalized Women, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 29(4), 3695-3698
Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v29i4.8368

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Women are considered to be the sub-ordinates of men in the society, from time immemorial. They are also prone to the domestic violence done against them. Domestic violence is an indicator of the violation of the basic human rights and is found to be dependent over the subordinating position of the women in society. Domestic violence is said to have terrible effects over the life of women in all aspects, which includes physical violence, sexual abuse and psychological violence. Hence, WHO (World Health Organization) had acknowledged domestic violence as the hidden global pandemic. Keeping these points in view, an attempt has been made in the study to explore the probable effect of domestic violence over the empowerment of women. Population of the study is the marginalized working women from Pondicherry. Simple random sampling method has been used to select the respondents and questionnaire has been issued to the sample population for data collection. Sample size is 100 and statistical tool adopted for analysis is Regression. Results of analysis proved that there is positive relationship between domestic violence and marginalized women empowerment.

KEYWORDS: Domestic Violence, Women Empowerment, Marginalized Women

INTRODUCTION

The abusive behaviours which seem to happen within households is referred to as the domestic violence. Domestic violence is inclusive of sexual abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse, emotional abuse or physical abuse. Domestic violence has got the possibility of affecting the individuals in general and women community in particular, irrespective of their social background, financial status, race, gender and age. In the words of Ackerson and Subramanian (2008), domestic violence may be sexual, emotional and physical. Chang et al.,(2022) stated that the injury or harm done in physical terms by the intimate partner or any family member is referred to as physical abuse; like attacking by any device, slapping, kicking, punching or hitting. According to Aizer (2010), emotional or psychological abuse comprises of behaviours intended to lower the mental health, confidence and self-esteem of a person; like isolation from others, humiliation, manipulation, intimidation or verbal threats. As per the statements of Bonnes (2016), sexual abuse comprises of forcing or coercing a person to get into sexual activities in the absence of their consent; such as unwanted touch, sexual harassment or rape. Domestic violence is proved to pose long-lasting and severe impacts on the victims like anxiety, depression, physical injuries and in extreme cases, it leads to death. The children experiencing or witnessing the household violence may be the victims of developmental challenges and emotional trauma.

Women Empowerment

The term women empowerment refers to the freedom of women from the brutal hands of gender, caste, political, economic and social discriminations. In other words, women empowerment gives women the independence of making choices in their life. This doesn't mean to be worshipping women as idols, rather it is the replacement of male domination with parity.

Through the process of women empowerment, women get the control and power over their life and also obtain the capability of making strategic decisions. Empowerment of women comprises of five elements and they are their capability of influencing the social change for the creation of a justified economic and social order, right of having control and power over their life, right of having access to resources and opportunities, right to determine the choices and a sense of self-worth. In this regard, empowerment of women can be made possible through

gender equality, actions implemented for transforming the structures, establishing self-confidence, giving them access to resources, increasing their awareness, training and education.

Effect of Domestic Violence on Empowerment of Women

All through their life, women experience domestic violence, both at home and in the society. They are the victims of offenses like coercive abortion in case of girl child detection or death of the same. Yet another terrible crime done against women is rape. To be more specific, marital rape is also a domestic violence which is not punishable under law. In many nations, the girl children are often neglected and are victims of cruelty by the family members, death due to dowry, abduction, kidnapping and abuse. The position of the widows is worst. As a result of all these acts, the productivity level of women gets affected and they lose interest to do household works. In case, they are working in any organization, most of their income goes for medical expenses on account of harm caused due to domestic violence. One crucial effect of domestic violence is losing the job. In cases of violence by intimate partner, women often go in for a divorce, which makes their life miserable. All these incidences may negatively affect their empowerment, may it be economic empowerment or social empowerment.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Women are generally the victims of domestic violence. Such a condition is prevailing from time immemorial and such a condition can be eliminated only through mass-realization of the fact that it is through women empowerment that a nation can progress in all aspects.

OBJECTIVES

The intention with which the study has been done is to explore and examine the potential impact of domestic violence done on women on their empowerment.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Paul and Karmakar (2022) had studied about the domestic violence done against women from an Indian context. The authors had also studied the role of empowerment in this regard. Previous studies regarding domestic violence, in the Indian context, had focused over the economic empowerment of women to be the factor which may reduce the domestic violence. The present study had explored the relationship of women empowerment with the spousal violence. On the basis of the data reported by NHFS (National Family Health Survey)-5, the authors had stated that the afore-stated relationship is argumentative in nature. But, it had been explored through the study that women education and usage of mobile phones by women experience lesser domestic violence when compared with others.

Bulte and Lensink (2019) performed an experimental study regarding the relationship of women empowerment with the domestic abuse. The study was done with respect to Vietnam. The violence done by the intimate partner is regarded as a crucial problem in the context of global health. This type of violence is addressed by the policy makers through a number of interventions like efforts for promoting the women empowerment. The data for the study had been collected on the basis of a random control trial and explored that such a strategy may prove to be a backfire for the women who took active part in programs related with entrepreneurship training through a series of abuses which were less for the women in a control group. The authors had made a guess that improved income level of the women was the method which related the training programs with the domestic violence.

Dalal (2011) examined whether the economic empowerment protected the women from the violence done by intimate partners. The study was done by making a comparison amidst the working and non-working women, with respect to the violence done by intimate partner. The author had examined the relation of economic empowerment of women with the exposure of women towards IPV and their behavior for seeking help. The study had used a representative sample of India. The study was cross-sectional in nature. The sample population comprised of 1,24,385 married females selected from 29 Indian states. Analysis was done through Chi-square test and multi-variate regression. It was explored through the study that from the total of 1,24,385 women, 69,432 of them were found to be eligible to participate in the study. From this eligible number, working women comprised of 35%. It was found that Indian women faced emotional violence, physical violence and sexual violence too. When comparing with the working women IPV existence was low for the non-working group. Help was also sought by the working women category from varied sources. It was concluded that economic empowerment along with higher education as well as altered cultural norms can protect the women community from the intimate partner violence.

Sinha, et. al., (2017) stated that the structural violence done against women proved to be a barrier for their empowerment. Since ancient days, violence against women can be found to exist. The culture, values, morals and ethics of the society had been established in a structured way which promoted the exploitation of women, however, women are the roots of any developing society. Structural violence was framed by Johan Galtung, which means the violence practices against a person by not allowing that person to meet the basic requirements. Violence done on women has emerged as a global challenge which proves to have a great effect over the economic, sexual, psychological and physical life of women. The structural violence is said to be a curse over the

women community which can be evaded through the joint efforts of the government and the actual victims, the women, in fighting against this curse.

Shabnam(2022) Studied about the relationship of sexual violence with the empowerment of women. The study was done in the context of Indian women. As per the sustainable development agenda of United Nations (2030), the major components of this agenda were promotion of gender equality, women empowerment and the prevention of violence done on women. IPV (intimate partner violence) is regarded as the common form of violence which is gender-based and is practiced all through the world. For the purpose of evading the domestic violence, women empowerment is found to be an efficient method. Parameters like education, employment, decision-making ability of women etc., are used for measuring the women empowerment. The author of this study had analyzed the relationship of sexual violence of the spouse against women with the empowerment of women. The author had used ecological model for domestic violence, in the study. Data was collected from the fourth NFHS (National Family Health Survey). Findings showed that the general factors of empowerment such as education was not related with the experience of spousal violence by women. In fact, working women were the major victims of the sexual abuse done by husband. The study also explored that the contextual and relational factors such as the control of husband over wife and the cultural norms which ignored and forgave the husbands for practicing abuse against wife increased the chances of experiencing sexual abuse against women.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study has been done with respect to the women in the marginalized sector in Pondicherry. The scholar has adopted Simple random method of sampling for selecting the respondents and the number of respondents so selected is 100. The instrument used for collection of data is questionnaire and the statistical tool adopted for the study is Regression.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Domestic Violence on Women Empowerment

| R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | F | Sig. |
|----------|----------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| 0.980(a) | 0.961 | 0.960 | 820.013 | 0.000(a) |

a Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Violence

| | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|
| | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| (Constant) | .288 | .063 | | 4.593 | .000 |
| I feel bad that my current partner talks to me badly | .153 | .051 | .167 | 3.019 | .003 |
| I feel bad that my current partner answers me violently | -.128 | .033 | -.149 | -3.907 | .000 |
| I feel bad that my current partner denigrates me | .709 | .040 | .741 | 17.861 | .000 |
| I feel bad that my current partner punishes me | -.034 | .044 | -.035 | -.771 | .442 |
| I feel bad that my current partner don't defend me | .282 | .040 | .293 | 7.019 | .000 |
| I feel bad that my current partner doesn't want to protect me | -.045 | .018 | -.045 | -2.540 | .012 |

Dependent Variable: Marginalised women empowerment

Findings show that all statement of Domestic Violence on Marginalised women empowerment was significant. There was a relation found between the Marginalised women empowerment and the Domestic Violence. The analysis done through regression show signs of that among six indicators, five indicators was highly influence over the Marginalised women empowerment. The F value so got was 820.013 which means $p < 0.000$. It was also reported that Domestic Violence was seen to predict Marginalised women empowerment. Findings show that the Marginalised women empowerment is positively affected by Domestic Violence.

FINDINGS

It has been explored from the analysis of the study that the Domestic Violence positively affects Marginalized Women Empowerment.

CONCLUSION

The practice of domestic violence against women folks is found to be a global occurrence. The outcomes of such a violence are very intricate. Domestic violence has got an adverse effect over the safety and health of women, all through their life. This form of violence is also referred to as IPV (intimate partner violence). The age-old cultural norms framed in the society, which give women an under-rated position, are the basic reasons for the domestic violence against women. Hence, this violence is considered to be a barrier for the empowerment of women. The manner in which the women of a nation are treated determines the development of that nation. Hence, they should be motivated to come out of the traditional norms and organize themselves in self-help groups. Even a few successful women folks engage in activities for motivating the participation of women in political and social activities. The status of women can be elevated by providing them their privileges and rights and also through the type of roles given to them. Status of women can be measured with some parameters like revenue, education, access to resources, skills of employment and possession of properties. Gender equity will remain to be a nightmare, if the women are not given the right to participate in the process of making decisions, either in family or in society. Results of analysis proved that there is positive relationship between domestic violence and marginalized women empowerment. It has been explored from the analysis of the study that the Domestic Violence positively affects Marginalized Women Empowerment.

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