PERCEPTION AND PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG MARGINALIZED POPULATION IN INDIA

Dr. A. K. Ravishankar

In recent years, there has been a greater understanding of the problem of domestic violence - more particularly spousal violence, its causes and consequences, and an international consensus has developed on the need to deal with the issue. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly some 20 years ago, the decade-old Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, all reflect this consensus. But progress has been slow because attitudes are deeply entrenched and, to some extent, because effective strategies to address domestic violence are still being defined. As a result, women worldwide continue to suffer, with estimates varying from 20 to 50 per cent from country to country[1].

Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age[2]. No society can claim to be free of such violence the only variation is in the patterns and trends that exist in countries and regions. Specific groups of women are more vulnerable, including minority groups, indigenous and migrant women, women in institutions and detention, women with disabilities, female children and elderly women. This paper focuses specifically on spousal violence – the most prevalent yet relatively hidden and ignored form of violence against women/wives.

Spousal violence (Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

Physical abuse may include spitting, scratching, biting, grabbing, shaking, shoving, pushing, restraining, throwing, twisting, slapping (with open or closed hand), punching, choking, burning, and/or use of weapons (e.g., household objects, knives, guns) against the victim.

Emotional abuse is a tactic of control that consists of a wide variety of verbal attacks and humiliations, including repeated verbal attacks against the victims' worth as an individual or role as a parent, family member, friend, co-worker, or community member. The verbal attacks often emphasize the victims' vulnerabilities (such as her/his mental health diagnosis, language abilities, skills as a parent, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or HIV status).

Some perpetrators sexually batter their victims. Sexual battering consists of a wide range of conduct that may include pressured sex when the victim does not want sex, coerced sex by manipulation or threat, physically forced sex, or sexual assault accompanied by violence. Victims may be coerced or forced to perform a kind of sex they do not want or at a time they do not want it (e.g., when exhausted, when ill, in front of children, after a physical assault, when asleep). Some perpetrators attack their victims' genitals with blows or weapons. Frequently perpetrators deny victims contraception or protection against sexually transmitted diseases. Sexual violence can result in a range of gynecological and mental health effects.

According to available statistics from around the globe, at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Most often the abuser is a member of her own family. This is an average based on available national surveys across industrialized and developing countries[3]. Despite this widespread prevalence, however, such violence is not customarily acknowledged and has remained invisible - a problem thought unworthy of legal or political attention. The social construction of the divide between public and private underlies the hidden nature of domestic violence against women[4].

Under this background, this paper aims to explore the perception towards Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against wife among the marginalized group, and to examine the prevalence of intimate partner physical, emotional and sexual violence and its correlates with socio-economic and demographic, reproductive and sexual health variables.

Methods and Materials

Data for this study were drawn from National Family Health Survey - III conducted during 2005-06. Domestic violence, as defined for this study, includes violence perpetrated by intimate partner and manifested through: Physical abuse such as pushed, shook or threw something, slapping, punched with fist or something harmful, kicked or dragged, tried to strangle or burn, threatened or attacked with knife/gun or other and twisted her arm or pull her hair.   Emotional violence involving such as insult or make feel bad, constant humiliation and threatened her and Sexual violence such as use of physical force to compel/engage in a sexual act against her will and forced other sexual acts when not wanted.

The sample size was 14796 currently married marginalized women. Special training was provided to interviewers to sensitize them to the issue of intimate partner violence and impress upon them the necessity of ensuring privacy when asking these questions. Spousal physical, emotional and sexual violence is measured by set of questions (annexure - I).

The Logistic regression technique has been tried to examine the effects of SED on attitude towards and prevalence of IPV against dalits women in India. In spite of data limitation, an attempt has been made to study in detail the IPV and its association with reproductive health problems among the marginalized group of women (SC women) in India.

Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Marginalized women in India

It is quite important to have a comprehensive understanding of socio-economic and demographic backgrounds of the people before going for investigation of any aspects of population. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population are closely linked with their knowledge attitude and behaviour concerning various aspects of their life. Hence, this section presents a detail summary of the socio-economic and demographic conditions of the marginalized women (Scheduled Caste) in terms of age, place of birth, religion, educational attainment, occupation, wealth index, age at marriage, age at first birth, marital duration, number of living children, experience of terminated pregnancy, etc., and also explains the prevalence of IPV among the SC population in India.

Table 1 reveals that around thirty-nine percent of the currently married SC women were found in young age groups (20-24: 18.5 percent and 25-29: 20.2 percent). It is also observed from the table that about seven percent of the respondents were below the age of 20 years old. The mean age of the SC women was 31.2 years. The median age of marginalized women was indicating a high proportion fall in the youth population. The table discloses that a significant proportion of the respondents (59.1 percent) residing at rural place, and the remaining forty percent at urban place.

Of the 14798 SC women, majority of them were Hindus (88.6 percent) and more than half of the women were illiterate (51.5 percent) and only very little proportion were completed the higher education (3.2 percent). It is also noticed from the analysis that above half of the women were not working (56.1 percent) and only eleven percent of them were engaged in white collar jobs. While looking to their husbands' education level, around thirty percent were not educated and a considerable proportion was working in blue collar jobs (70.8 percent). With regard to Wealth Index framed by NFHS-III, more than one-third of SC women were fall in the low wealth index (poorest 17.9 and poorer 20.1 percent respectively) and only seventeen percent of the respondents belong to richest category. The result shows that majority of the marginalized women in India living under deprived economic condition.

Table No.1: Percentage distribution of Marginalized women by Selected SED variables in India

Socio-economic, and Demographic variables	Marginalised currently married women	
	Number	**Percent**
Age 5-year groups		
15-19	1060	7.2
20-24	2733	18.5
25-29	2986	20.2
30-34	2587	17.5
35-39	2369	16.0
40-44	1789	12.1
45-49	1274	8.6
Total	14798	100.0
Mean age	31.2 years	
Type of place of residence		
Urban	6050	40.9
Rural	8748	59.1
Religion		
Hindu	13113	88.6
Muslim	280	1.9
Christian	349	2.4
Others	1042	7.0
Educational level		

No education	7627	51.5
Primary	2415	16.3
Secondary	4279	28.9
Higher	477	3.2
Occupation		
Not working	8308	56.1
White collar job	1640	11.1
Blue collar job	4847	32.8
Partners educational attainment		
No education	4328	29.2
Educated	10438	70.5
Partners occupational status		
Not working	291	2.0
White collar job	4000	27.0
Blue collar job	10471	70.8
Wealth Index		
Poorest	2644	17.9
Poorer	2981	20.1
Middle	3354	22.7
Richer	3323	22.5
Richest	2496	16.9
Age at Marriage		
>18 years	9568	64.7
18-20	3423	23.1
Above 21	1807	12.2
Mean age at Marriage	16.4 years	
Age at first birth		
>18 years	4907	33.2
18-20	4716	31.9
Above 21	3719	25.1
Mean age at first marriage	18.9 years	
Marital Duration		
>5 years	2734	18.5
5-9 years	2923	19.8
10+ years	9141	61.8
Total no. children ever born		
No children	1456	9.8
1-2 children	5364	36.2
3-4 children	5177	35.0
Above 5 children	2801	18.9

Average children ever born	2.94	
Total no. of Living Children		
No children	1573	10.6
1-2 children	5992	40.5
3-4 children	5411	36.6
Above 5children	1822	12.3
Average children living	2.59	
Currently used Contraceptive method		
Not Using	6191	41.8
Temporary method	2634	17.8
Permanent Method	5973	40.4
Age at Sterilisation		
>25 years	2641	44.2
25-29	2131	35.7
Above 30	1201	20.1
Parity at Sterilization		
>2	1448	24.2
3-4	3174	53.1
5+	1351	22.6
Total	5973	100.0
Ever had a terminated pregnancy		
No	12184	82.3
Yes	2613	17.7
Partner drinks alcohol		
No	6209	55.0
Yes	5072	45.0

Though the fertility is a biological phenomenon, the age of entry into sexual union is affected by the societal customs, values and norms related to various aspects of marriage. Nearly two-third of the SC women got into marital life before they reached the legal age at marriage (64.7 percent at >18 years) and their mean age at marriage was 16.2 years. About one-third of the women were given their first birth at the age of less than 18 years and their average age at first birth was 18.9 years. It can be concluded that a substantial proportion of marginalized women are entering in to the marital life at the very early stage.

Nearly one-fifth of the SC women had more than five ever born children and the mean CEB (Children Ever Born) was 2.94, however the mean number of living children was 2.59. It is inferred that this difference may be because of higher incidence of infant mortality in the marginalized group. About forty-two percent of the respondents among the marginalized group currently not using any method of contraception and only eighteen percent were using temporary/spacing methods. Of the 5973 respondents who selected permanent method of contraception, more than one-fifth of them accepted it when they had more than four children. It is inferred that though a considerable

proportion of the marginalized group women are accepted the family planning methods (58 percent), majority preferred the permanent method (40 percent) that too after they had more than 4 children. More than two-fifth of the respondents (44.2 percent) were undergone sterilization before they reached 25 years old. It implies that the marginalized women were completed their preferred family size at their early young age itself.

Intimate partner violence among Marginalized women

Perception towards Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

In recent years, there has been increasing concern about violence against women in general and intimate partner violence in particular, in both developed and developing countries[5]. While violence against women is a serious women's issue being discussed at national and international levels and strategies are planned to reduce such violence, it is surprising to observe that many Indian women accept or justify women being beaten or physically mistreated by their husbands.

In India, about half of the marginalized women (SC) have justified, the intimate partner violence for some reasons. The reasons indicated by married women for justifying wife being beaten by her husband were 'if wife goes with out telling husband' 'neglects house or children' 'argues with husband' 'refuse to have sex with husband' and 'does not cook food properly'. Table 2 shows reasons for justifying husband beating by currently married women by socio economic, demographic and reproductive health variables among the marginalized women in India.

According to the NFHS-III data, about half of currently married SC women (50.4 percent) have justified, their spousal violence - physical, emotional and sexual violence - for some reasons. The most important reason indicated by them was wife's negligence in house and child care (38.1 percent), followed by wife's visit outside home without husband's permission, argues with husband (each 31.9 percent), lack of care in cooking food (21.6 percent) and refuses to have sex with husband (21.6 percent). Thus, the husbands want their wives to be most responsible in housekeeping and childcare and therefore negligence of this responsibility leads to wife beating by husband among the SC women.

The percentages approving/justifying of wife beating by husband were comparatively high among women living in rural areas (53.5 percent), illiterate women (54.1 percent), poorest families (56.7 percent), illiterate's partner (54.7 percent) and women with long marital duration (52.1 percent). Among the marginalized women, majority of them living in deprived socio economic conditions, moreover wife beating is common affair in many families. Women this category never considers it as a serious matter and they are accustomed to it.

There was no marked difference between the current age of women and their attitude towards wife beating, but the proportion of approval in the lower standard of living condition - poorest (56.7 percent), those working in blue collar jobs (56.4 percent), living in rural areas (53.5 percent) was relatively high due to their mental make–up to tolerate it. There is a clear cut decreasing percentage of justifying with improving their educational status.

Table No.2: Percentage distribution of by Marginalized women by Reasons given for justifying their husband beating with their background characteristics

SED Characteristics		who agree with at least one reason	Goes out without telling him	Neglects children	Argues with him	Refuses to have sex with him	Not cook Properly	No. of women
Age	15-19	50.7	31.7	37.3	33.2	16.2	25.4	537
	20-24	48.7	29.6	36.3	29.6	13.8	17.7	1330
	25-29	49.5	31.2	38.0	31.5	14.7	19.6	1476
	30-34	50.6	32.2	39.0	31.3	15.2	21.2	1309
	35-39	51.2	32.8	38.5	32.5	15.2	21.5	1213
	40-44	50.5	31.5	37.1	31.9	16.8	23.0	902
	45-49	53.5	36.5	41.8	35.1	17.2	26.1	681
	Chi-Square	NS	21.020*	12.95**	14.10*	13.12*	39.25**	
Place of residence	Urban	45.8	26.5	34.8	26.1	11.7	17.1	2768
	Rural	53.5	35.6	40.5	35.6	17.7	24.7	4680
	Chi-Square	86.586**	135.32**	49.12**	148.62**	101.02**	124.26**	
Religion	Hindu	49.9	31.9	37.7	31.7	15.0	21.3	6539
	Muslim	57.1	41.4	44.6	43.2	19.3	25.7	160
	Christian	63.0	44.4	51.9	36.7	21.5	27.2	220
	Others	50.0	24.3	37.5	27.4	15.5	22.6	521
	Chi-Square	28.767**	64.744**	34.35**	29.80**	14.71*	10.69*	
Respondents Literacy Level	Illiterates	54.1	36.1	39.7	36.3	18.6	25.6	4127
	Primary	51.1	32.5	39.8	32.3	15.1	21.5	1234
	Secondary	45.9	26.2	36.3	25.7	10.8	16.3	1964
	Higher	25.8	11.1	20.5	10.6	3.1	5.7	123
	Chi-Square	192.551**	220.76**	76.59**	242.31**	187.73**	211.92**	
Respondents Working status	Not Working	47.4	28.9	35.5	29.4	13.1	19.0	3935
	White Color	47.4	28.9	37.0	27.9	14.3	18.8	778
	Blue Color	56.4	38.0	43.0	37.2	19.3	26.9	2735
	Chi-Square	106.609**	123.65**	74.71**	99.00**	90.32**	121.68**	
Husband Education	Illiterates	54.7	37.1	40.6	36.6	16.6	26.4	2368
	Educated	48.5	29.1	37.1	29.8	13.5	19.6	5061
	Chi-Square	47.539**	78.584**	16.07**	65.89**	89.55**	84.71**	
Husband Working status	Not Working	48.1	32.6	35.1	29.9	13.1	18.6	140
	White Color	43.1	25.6	32.8	25.3	11.1	16.5	1721
	Blue Color	53.2	34.2	40.2	34.3	16.9	23.6	5567
	Chi-Square	119.180**	99.713**	69.47**	107.82**	77.15**	87.23**	
Wealth index	Poorest	56.7	36.6	40.1	38.5	18.8	27.0	1497
	Poorer	54.6	37.2	41.5	36.8	18.6	25.4	1628
	Middle	53.9	35.4	42.1	34.2	17.6	25.1	1808
	Richer	48.0	29.6	37.3	28.6	13.0	17.9	1595
	Richest	36.9	18.8	27.6	19.6	7.6	11.5	920
	Chi-Square	269.900**	290.32**	161.0**	286.94**	190.6**	271.80**	
Marital Duration	< 5 year	47.9	29.2	36.1	29.4	31.4	20.0	1309
	5-10 years	47.3	28.8	35.5	29.0	13.8	19.2	1381
	> 10 year	52.1	33.6	39.6	33.3	16.3	22.9	4758
	Chi-Square	28.518**	34.941**	21.48**	27.09**	20.95**	23.06**	
Birth in last 5 years	No births	50.8	32.1	38.7	31.9	15.8	22.0	4347
	1-2 births	49.6	31.4	37.3	31.4	14.4	20.8	2909
	> 2 births	51.6	33.9	38.4	33.3	16.7	25.0	192
	Chi-Square	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
Ever had a	No	50.8	32.1	38.9	31.9	15.6	21.7	6143

terminated pregnancy	Yes	49.9	31.1	38.0	30.9	13.7	21.0	1304
	Chi-Square	**NS**	**NS**	**NS**	**NS**	**6.39***	**NS**	
Parity at Sterilisation	Lessthan 2	53.8	35.2	43.6	31.8	16.0	21.4	779
	3-4	52.0	32.9	39.8	32.5	17.1	22.9	1647
	Above 5	53.0	34.9	38.6	36.8	19.0	24.8	715
	Chi-Square	**NS**	**NS**	**8.19***	**9.99***	**NS**	**NS**	
Contraceptive method	Not Using	51.8	32.8	38.6	33.7	15.4	23.2	3203
	Temporary	41.9	24.9	31.7	23.7	10.5	14.7	1104
	Permanent	52.6	33.9	40.5	33.3	17.3	23.0	3141
	Chi-Square	**92.343****	**72.210****	**60.09****	**95.58****	**64.15****	**91.27****	
Total		**50.4**	**31.9**	**38.1**	**31.8**	**15.3**	**21.6**	**7448**

** and * refers to significant at 1% and 5% level respectively (chi-square results – SED conditions and Attitude) NS = Not significant

While looking by reasons, for justifying their husband beating, background variables viz current age, place of residence, respondent's educational level, respondent's occupation, husbands' educational attainment and working status, marital duration, wealth index and current contraceptive method showed significant variation with the five out of five reasons and ever had terminated pregnancy, and parity at sterilization showed significant variation only with the two out of five reasons.

Table No.3: Odds ratios from logistic regression analysis examining the associations between Attitudes of Marginalized women towards IPV and SED variables

Socio-economic variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Religion**						
Hindu (r)			.000	1.000		
Muslim	.457	.147	.002	1.579	1.183	2.107
Christian	.534	.127	.000	1.706	1.331	2.188
Others	.086	.075	.256	1.090	.940	1.263
Education (wife)**						
No Education (r)			.000	1.000		
Primary	.022	.057	.702	1.022	.914	1.142
Secondary	-.057	.056	.302	.944	.847	1.053
Higher	-.699	.138	.000	.497	.379	.652
Occupation (wife)**						
Not Working			.001	1.000		
White Color	.010	.066	.877	1.010	.888	1.149
Blue Color	.164	.046	.000	1.178	1.077	1.289
Wealth Index**						
Poorest (r)			.000	1.000		
Poorer	-.080	.061	.189	.923	.818	1.040
Middle	-.070	.063	.266	.933	.825	1.055
Richer	-.196	.071	.006	.822	.715	.946
Richest	-.529	.087	.000	.589	.496	.699
Constant	.046	.175	.793	1.047		

-2 Log likelihood 15212.266 Note: ** and * refers to significant at 1% and 5% level respectively

The logistic technique was applied to examine the effect of the background variables on the attitude of women towards domestic violence (dependent

dichotomous variable: not accepted=0 and accepted at least once reasons=1). Odds refer to the probability of the achievement in dependent variable and the odd ratio is a measure of effect on the odds. The logistic regression analysis results indicate religion, women's education, occupation and wealth index as the principle SED variables influencing attitude towards IPV. In respect of wealth index, when compared to poorest wealth index women, the probability of having favourable attitude of women at richest wealth index is low (.589) and with respect to education, when compared to illiterates SC women, the probability of having favourable attitude of women at higher educated women is low (.497).

Prevalence of IPV

Intimate Partner Violence refers to violence committed by partners in a marital union. Since spousal violence is the most common form of domestic violence for women age 15-49, the NFHS-III collected detailed information on the different form of violence viz., physical, sexual and emotional – experienced by SC women at the hands of their husbands.

Table No.4: Percentage distribution of by Marginalized women by Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence

Types of Intimate Partner Violence	Marginalised currently married women	
	Number	Percent
Experienced any less severe violence	4557	40.4
Experienced any Severe violence	1582	14.0
Experienced any one kind of Physical violence	4574	40.6
Experienced any one kind of Emotional violence	1915	16.9
Experienced any one kind of Sexual violence	1194	10.6

Table 4 reveals that forty percent of SC women reported that they experienced less severe violence and fourteen percent recorded that their husband committed sever violence against them. Over all, two-fifth of the SC women in India experienced any one kind of Physical violence (40.4 percent), seventeen percent of the women experienced emotional violence and about eleven percent of the marginalized women experienced sexual violence.

The table 5 shows the percentage of currently married marginalized women who report different types of violence committed by their husband with the influencing variables viz: socio, economic, reproductive and sexual health variables. The prevalence of spousal physical violence among the marginalized women was 43.2 percent, which is higher when compared to national average (35 percent); it explains a deplorable situation of SC women in India.

Table No. 5: Prevalence of Physical, Emotional and Sexual violence among the Marginalized group of women in India by Selected variables

Background Variables	Physical violence	No. of women	Emotional violence	No. of women	Sexual violence	No. of women
Age						
15-19	27.5	185	12.2	82	11.5	77
20-24	37.0	761	15.0	309	10.4	214
25-29	42.0	1077	17.6	452	11.2	286
30-34	42.0	953	17.4	394	11.4	295
35-39	42.6	756	18.2	322	10.2	180
40-44	44.1	513	18.3	213	9.5	111
45-49	41.8	329	18.1	143	8.5	67
Chi-Square	**71.925****		**21.35***		**NS**	
Residence						
Urban	40.6	1862	15.6	716	8.6	395
Rural	40.5	2712	17.9	1199	11.9	799
Chi-Square	**NS**		**10.44***		**32.05****	
Religion						
Hindu	41.2	4104	17.1	1701	11.2	1115
Muslim	29.9	61	13.2	27	8.3	17
Christian	36.2	102	14.8	42	4.6	13
Others	37.5	304	17.9	145	6.0	49
Chi-Square	**16.452****		**NS**		**33.13****	
Respondents Educational						
Illiterates	46.0	2707	19.6	1154	12.2	720
Primary	43.4	795	18.5	339	12.4	228
Secondary	31.8	1015	12.4	397	7.4	237
Higher	15.0	57	6.6	25	2.4	9
Chi-Square	**282.27****		**107.59****		**82.24****	
Respondents working status						
Not Working	34.8	2173	13.5	845	9.2	576
Blue Color	44.4	563	21.3	270	10.3	131
White Color	48.9	1837	21.3	800	12.9	486
Chi-Square	**203.21****		**119.58****		**34.481****	
Husband Education						
Un Educated	46.1	1563	20.5	696	13.0	440
Educated	38.1	3002	15.4	1216	9.6	753
Chi-Square	**63.058****		**43.66****		**29.320****	
Husband working status						
Not Working	41.1	83	23.8	48	15.8	
Blue Color Jobs	33.4	988	13.1	389	7.7	
White Color Jobs	43.2	3496	18.2	1474	11.5	
Chi-Square	**86.733****		**46.230****		**39.214****	
Wealth Index						
Poorest	49.1	1073	22.1	483	14.7	322
Poorer	46.6	1081	21.2	491	14.0	325
Middle	40.5	1047	16.6	429	9.9	256
Richer	38.2	941	14.6	359	8.0	198
Richest	25.0	432	8.9	153	5.4	73
Chi-Square	**279.49****		**160.58****		**135.77****	
Age at Marriage						

>18 years	45.5	3302	19.4	1409	12.4	903
18-20	35.0	910	13.6	354	8.4	218
Above 21	25.5	362	10.9	155	5.1	73
Chi-Square	**240.19****		**87.363****		**84.165****	
Marital Duration						
Less than 5 year	25.7	480	11.5	215	8.8	164
5-10 years	40.3	966	15.6	375	9.9	238
Above 10 years	44.6	3128	18.9	1325	11.3	792
Chi-Square	**218.42****		**60.716****		**11.216***	
Number of Living Children						
0	25.2	273	12.1	131	8.8	96
1-2	37.7	1801	15.5	742	9.9	472
3-4	44.4	1848	19.1	793	11.1	460
Above 5 children	52.0	652	19.8	249	13.2	166
Chi-Square	**316.31****		**45.68****		**16.254****	
Ever had a terminated pregnancy						
No	38.0	3524	15.9	1470	9.4	88
Yes	52.1	1049	22.0	444	16.1	325
Chi-Square	**135.39****		**44.952****		**80.193****	
Birth in the last 5 years						
No births	39.6	2462	16.9	1051	9.8	609
1-2 births	41.3	1961	16.7	793	11.4	512
3-4 births	47.6	151	22.4	71	13.6	43
Chi-Square	**10.82***		**7.08***		**10.737***	
Parity at Sterilization						
> 2	37.2	450	15.9	192	8.9	108
3-4	43.3	1043	18.9	56	9.1	218
Above 5	52.3	483	21.0	194	12.5	115
Chi-Square	**48.89****		**9.67***		**9.959***	
Contraceptive method						
Not Using	39.7	1857	17.2	803	10.7	500
Temporary Method	35.9	741	13.1	270	12.3	253
Permanent Method	43.5	1976	18.5	842	9.7	441
Chi-Square	**36.623****		**30.325****		**9.739***	
Had STD in last 12 months						
Yes	60.0	87	26.9	39	12.4	253
Chi-Square	**23.025****		**10.31****		**NS**	
Had Genital Sore ulcer in the last 12 months						
Yes	63.1	140	39.0	87	28.3	63
Chi-Square	**47.669****		**78.41****		**75.326****	
Had Genital Discharge in last 12 month						
Yes	56.3	581	26.8	277	20.2	208
Chi-Square	**171.18****		**78.53****		**110.66****	
Reason for not having sex: Husband has STD						
Yes	40.7	3700	16.5	1502	106	968
Chi-Square	**NS**		**6.99***		**NS**	
Reason for not having sex; Husband has affair with other women						
Yes	40.7	3770	16.9	1564	10.9	1010
Chi-Square	**NS**		**NS**		**5.980***	

Alcohol Drink						
Yes	53.2	2697	23.1	1172	14.3	727
Chi-Square	**609.14****		**246.65****	**246.65**	**136.82****	
Total	4574		1915		1194	
	40.6		17.0		10.6	

Note: ** and * refers to significant at 1% and 5% level respectively (chi-square results – SED conditions and Attitude) NS = Not significant

Any one form of spousal **physical violence** was significantly associated with current age of women, religion, respondent's literacy and working status, partner's literacy and working status, wealth index, age at marriage, marital duration, number of living children, ever had a terminated pregnancy, parity at sterilisation, current contraceptive method, had STD, genital sore ulcer and discharge in last12 months, and partner drinks alcohol. The multi-dimensional analysis results show that among the marginalized group, the women who were in the poor socio-economic condition and women with poor reproductive and sexual health conditions are more exposed to the probability of spousal physical violence.

The prevalence rate of **emotional violence** was relatively less among higher educated women (6.6 percent), richest families (8.9 percent), higher age at marriage (10.9 percent), lesser marital duration (>5 years: 11.5 percent), and adolescent age group (12.2 percent). Such prevalence rate is high among poorest families (22.1 percent), women working in blue collar jobs (21.3 percent), illiterate women (20 percent) and women with above 5 children (19.8 percent). The incidence of emotional violence was comparatively high among women with sexual health problems specifically women who had genital sore/ulcer in the last one year are more exposed to the probability of sexual violence (39 percent). The incidence of emotional violence declines with improving educational attainment and families' wealth index. Emotional violence is significantly associated with respondent's literacy level and working status, wealth index, age at marriage, marital duration, number of living children, had a terminated pregnancy, contraceptive method used, all sexual health problems and partner drinks alcohol.

In the same way, **sexual violence** was strongly associated with place of residence, religion, respondent's education and working status, wealth index, age at marriage, number of living children, ever had a terminated pregnancy, had genital sore ulcer, genital discharge and partner drinks alcohol.

It is more obvious from the above analysis that all the three spousal violence (physical, emotional and sexual violence) is significantly associated with respondent's educational and working status, wealth index, age at marriage, number of living children, ever had terminated pregnancy, genital discharge and genital sore ulcer in last12 months, and partner drinks alcohol.

The influence of SED variables in determining the prevalence of physical violence are examined by logistic regression. The logistic regression analysis results in the table 6 show that in general the probability of experiencing any one kind of physical violence increases with higher age of the women, higher occupational status, higher marital duration and with husbands' drinking alcohol habit.

Table No. 6: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected SED variables on Prevalence of Physical violence against SC women in India

SED Variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Age*						
15-19 (r)			.086	1.000		
20-24	.330	.112	.003	1.391	1.117	1.731
25-29	.349	.130	.007	1.418	1.098	1.831
30-34	.285	.146	.051	1.330	.999	1.771
35-39	.285	.151	.060	1.330	.988	1.789
40-44	.364	.156	.019	1.439	1.061	1.952
45-49	.301	.162	.064	1.351	.983	1.855
Residence**						
Urban (r)				1.000		
Rural	-.441	.051	.000	.644	.582	.711
Edu. Status (Wife)**						
No education (r)			.000			
Primary	.049	.059	.405	1.051	.935	1.180
Secondary	-.141	.059	.017	.868	.773	.975
Higher	-.616	.168	.000	.540	.389	.750
Occupational Status**						
Not Working (r)			.000	1.000		
Blue Color	.247	.069	.000	1.280	1.117	1.467
White Color	.300	.048	.000	1.350	1.229	1.483
Edu. Status* (Husband)						
Uneducated (r)				1.000		
Educated	.086	.049	.079	1.090	.990	1.201
Wealth Index**						
Poorest(r)			.000	1.000		
Poorer	-.117	.063	.064	.890	.786	1.007
Middle	-.389	.066	.000	.678	.596	.771
Richer	-.507	.075	.000	.602	.519	.698
Richest	-.994	.095	.000	.370	.307	.446
Age at Marriage**						
>18 years (r)			.000	1.000		
18-20	-.223	.054	.000	.800	.719	.889
Above 21	-.465	.084	.000	.628	.533	.741
Marital Duration**						
> 5 year (r)			.000	1.000		
5-10 years	.420	.084	.000	1.522	1.290	1.795
10+ years	.439	.111	.000	1.551	1.247	1.928
Alcohol Drink **						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.878	.041	.000	2.405	2.218	2.607
Constant	-.859	.190	.000	.423		

-2 Log likelihood 13903.153

The prevalence of physical violence among women who have lesser duration of marital life (<5years) was, 1.5 times higher among the women who have more duration of marital life (>10years). Likewise the incidence of physical violence was 2.4 times higher among women whose husband had the alcohol drinking habit. The women educational status also shows the well established link between the variables, when compared the

illiterates, the prevalence of physical violence on higher educated women was low (odd ratio .540).

The logistic regression technique was applied to examine the influence of reproductive variables in determining the physical violence among marginalized married women in India. The analysis results table 7 indicates that terminated pregnancy, age at sterilisation and parity at sterilisation as the principle reproductive health variables influencing the incidence of physical violence.

Table No. 7: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining effect of selected Reproductive health variables on Prevalence of Physical violence against SC women

Reproductive health variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Ever had pregnancy terminated**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.545	.086	.000	1.724	1.458	2.039
Parity at sterilization**						
> 2 (r)			.000	1.000		
3-4	.551	.139	.000	1.736	1.322	2.280
Above 5	.956	.175	.000	2.602	1.847	3.667
Age at sterilization**						
<25 years (r)			.001	1.000		
25-29 years	-.183	.071	.010	.833	.725	.957
Above 30 years	-.336	.092	.000	.714	.596	.856
Constant	-.679	.736	.356	.507		

-2 Log likelihood 6109.818

The probability of experiencing physical violence is 1.7 times higher among women who had terminated pregnancy. The chance of occurring physical violence decreases with higher age at sterilisation (the odd ratio is 0.507 for above 30years). The prevalence of physical violence among women who have low parity (less than 2) at the time of sterilization was, 2.6 times higher among the women who have higher parity at the time of sterilization. Likewise, the result of logistic regression analysis implies that the prevalence of sexual violence was 2.2 times higher among women who had genital discharges and 1.8 times higher among women whose husband had the habit of drinking alcohol.

Table No. 8: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected Sexual health variables on Prevalence of Physical violence against SC women

Sexual health variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Had Genital Discharge**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.801	.293	.006	2.229	1.255	3.959
Partner drinks alcohol**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.638	.184	.001	1.893	1.320	2.715
Constant	-.684	.317	.031	.505		

-2 Log likelihood 722.077

The influence of Socio and economic variables in determining the experience of emotional violence among currently married women has been examined by Logistic regression and the results were tabulated in Table 9.

Table No. 9: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected SED variables on Prevalence of Emotional violence against SC women in India

SED variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Residence*						
Urban (r)				1.000		
Rural	-.144	.065	.027	.866	.763	.983
Educational Status (wife)*						
No education			.080	1.000		
Primary	.096	.074	.193	1.101	.953	1.271
Secondary	-.079	.078	.312	.924	.794	1.077
Higher	-.411	.239	.086	.663	.415	1.059
Occupation (wife)**						
Not Working (r)			.000	1.000		
Blue Color	.458	.084	.000	1.581	1.341	1.864
White Color	.254	.060	.000	1.289	1.145	1.451
Occupation (Husband)*						
Not Working (r)			.056	1.000		
Blue Color	-.436	.182	.017	.647	.452	.925
White Color	-.408	.176	.021	.665	.471	.940
Wealth Index**						
Poorest(Ref)			.000	1.000		
Poorer	-.061	.075	.416	.941	.812	1.090
Middle	-.360	.081	.000	.698	.595	.817
Richer	-.496	.095	.000	.609	.506	.733
Richest	-.935	.127	.000	.393	.306	.504
Age at Marriage**						
>18 years (r)			.001	1.000		
18-20	-.236	.071	.001	.790	.687	.908
Above 21	-.307	.111	.006	.736	.592	.915
Constant	-1.64	.227	.000	.194		

-2 Log likelihood 9697.554

The result shows in table 9 that place of residence, education and occupational status of women, age at marriage and wealth index as the most important background variables influencing spousal emotional violence. Prevalence of emotional violence was more among urban women than the rural women. In respect of educational status, when compared the illiterates, the probability of experiencing emotional violence by higher educated women is low (odd ratio .663) and when compared to poorest wealth index women, the probability of prevalence of emotional violence among women at richer wealth index is low (.393). The incidence of emotional violence among not working women was, 1.5 times higher among the women who have working in white collar jobs (this may because empowerment of women those who were working in white collar jobs reporting the emotional violence).

Table No. 10: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected Reproductive health variables on Prevalence of Emotional violence against SC women

Reproductive health variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Terminated pregnancy**						
No (Ref)				1.000		
Yes	.433	.100	.000	1.542	1.267	1.877
Constant	-.189	.822	.819	.828		

-2 Log likelihood 4320.318

Table No. 11: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected Sexual health variables on Prevalence of Emotional violence against SC women

Sexual health variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Partner drinks alcohol**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.828	.278	.003	2.288	1.326	3.947
Constant	-2.355	.504	.000	.095		

-2 Log likelihood 376.279

The influence of reproductive health variables in determining the experience of emotional violence among currently married women has been examined by Logistic regression and the result shows in table 10 that out of six reproductive health variables, the terminated pregnancy variable alone influencing spousal emotional violence (1.5 times higher). Table 11 clearly shows that that Partner drinks alcohol alone important sexual health variable which influencing the emotional violence among the currently married marginalized women.

Similarly the logistic regression technique was applied to examine the influence of socio-economic variables in determining the sexual violence among marginalized women (table 12). The regression analysis disclosed that out of nine socio economic variables only four variables found to have significant contribution in determining the sexual violence.

Table No. 12: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected SED variables on Prevalence of Sexual violence against SC women in India

SED variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Religion**						
Hindu (r)			.000	1.000		
Muslim	-.024	.260	.927	.977	.587	1.625
Christian	-.764	.289	.008	.466	.264	.820
Others	-.546	.154	.000	.579	.429	.783
Edu. Status (Wife)*						
No education			.013			
Primary	.171	.087	.049	1.186	1.001	1.406
Secondary	-.087	.095	.359	.917	.761	1.104
Higher	-.739	.364	.042	.478	.234	.974
Occupation (wife)*						
Not Working (r)			.014	1.000		
Blue Color	-.618	.212	.004	.539	.356	.817
White Color	-.567	.203	.005	.567	.381	.845
Wealth Index**						
Poorest(Ref)			.000	1.000		
Poorer	-.015	.087	.865	.985	.830	1.169
Middle	-.344	.097	.000	.709	.587	.857
Richer	-.460	.116	.000	.631	.503	.792
Richest	-.633	.154	.000	.531	.393	.718
Age at Marriage**						
>18 years (r)			.001	1.000		
18-20	-.231	.087	.008	.794	.669	.942
Above 21	-.472	.148	.001	.624	.467	.834
Constant	-1.613	.255	.000	.199		

-2 Log likelihood 7238.605

Prevalence of sexual violence was less among women who had higher educational status, who working in white collar jobs, higher wealth index, higher age at marriage than the respective remaining categories. In respect of educational status, when compared the illiterates, the probability of experiencing sexual violence by higher educated women is low (odd ratio .478) and when compared to poorest wealth index women, the probability of prevalence of emotional violence among women at richer wealth index is low (.531).

Table No. 13: Odds ratios from logistic regression examining the effect of selected Sexual Health variables on Prevalence of Sexual violence against SC women

Sexual Variables	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)	95.0% C.I.for EXP(B)	
					Lower	Upper
Had Discharge**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.890	.405	.028	2.435	1.101	5.383
Partner drinks alcohol**						
No (r)				1.000		
Yes	.768	.293	.009	2.155	1.214	3.826

Last Intercourse condom used**						
No (r)						
Yes	-.883	.304	.004	.414	.228	.750
Constant	-1.908	.474	.000	.148		

-2 Log likelihood 343.855

The logistic regression analysis result discloses that 'had genital discharges' and 'Partner drinks alcohol' important sexual health variables which are influencing the sexual violence prevalence rate among the marginalized women in India.

Conclusion and Policy Implication

The findings drawn from the study reveal that

- Half of the marginalized women in India, justified beating by their husbands for any one of the reasons. They would have justified on the ground that it is a common affair between husband and wife in day today's life.

- The percentage of women who justifies husband beating with at least one reason found to be significantly high among women with higher age, women living at rural area, illiterate women, women living in poorest wealth condition, and women with long duration of marital life. The results clearly indicate that the marginalized women in India are at the deplorable conditions.

- Among the marginalized women, the prevalence percentage of spousal physical violence was moderately significant (40.6 percent); again this condition explains the deplorable situation of marginalized women in India. Around 17 percent have experienced emotional violence and about ten percent of currently married SC women experienced the sexual violence.

- Women's educational and working status, wealth index, age at marriage, marital duration number of living children are SED variable which influencing all the three physical, emotional and sexual violence. It is obvious that physical and emotional violence significantly influenced by marital duration, working status of women and wealth index among the currently married women. Physical, Emotional and Sexual violence are influenced by Genital sore and ulcer, Genital Discharges and Partner Drinks alcohol.

- Women who experienced more spousal violence are easily susceptible to reproductive problems like genital discharge, genital sore or ulcer. A high proportion of women who have been beaten by their husbands reported genital sore ulcer and genital discharges when compared to women free from such treatment. In particular, a significant association has been found between spousal violence against wives and terminated pregnancy. A statistical significance of the association between the two variables has also been found.

- Improving the status of marginalized women in terms of literacy - educational attainment and involving in economic activity is expected to improve the women empowerment and in turn it will reduce the spousal violence. Ultimately the reduced the spousal violence will decrease the reproductive problems and to achieve better quality of life.

Recommendations

Intimate partner violence is a health, legal, economic, educational, developmental and human rights problem. Strategies should be designed to operate across a broad range of areas depending upon the context in which they are delivered.

➢ Women's attitudes towards justifying their husband beating for simple reasons could be changed by successfully planned mass media programmes and some intervention programmes such as

- advocacy and awareness raising
- education for building a culture of nonviolence
- training
- resource development
- networking and community mobilization
- legal reform
- data collection and analysis

➢ Empower the women with self employment and make them work for cash

➢ It is necessary to teach the house wife with reproductive and sexual health rights

➢ It is well established that there is a close relationship between alcohol and abuse. Hence, the Government should take necessary steps in creating social awareness and organize programs on "say no to alcohol".

➢ Finally, women should be given understanding about the "domestic violence act" and make them protect from spousal abuse.

REFERENCES

Heise, Lori, Mary Ellsberg, and Megan Gottemoeller. 1998. Ending violence among women. Population Reports, Series L, No. 11. Baltimore: Population Information Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

International Institute for Population Sciences. 2007. National Family Health Survey-III, Tamil Nadu –2005-06, Mumbai: IIPS.

Jainsingh, 1. 1995. Violence Against Women: The Indian Perspective. In J. Peters and A. Wolper (eds.), Women's Rights, Human Rights. New York: Routledge.

Jejeebhoy, S and Cook RJ. 1997. "State accountability for wife-beating: the Indian Challenge" Lancet, 349 (suppl.1) 10-12

Jejeebhoy, Shireen J. 1998. Associations between wife-beating and fetal and infant death: Impressions from a survey in rural India. Studies in Family Planning 29(3): 300-308

Karlekar, M. 1998. "Domestic violence." Economic and Political Weekly 33(27): 1741-1751.

Leela Visaria, 1999. Violence against Women in India: Evidence from Rural Gujarat, Gujarat Institute of Development Studies, Ahmedabad.

Prasad, Shally. 1999. Medico legal response to violence against women in India. Violence Against Women 5(5): 478-506

Rob Stephenson, Michael A. Koenig and Saifuddin Ahmed. 2006. "Domestic Violence and symptoms of gynaecologic morbidity among women in North India", Family Planning Perspectives, vol.32, No.4, pp: 201-208

Ramasubban, R and Bhanwar Singh. 1998. "Ashaktapana (weakness) and Reproductive Health in a slum population in Mumbai, India", in: Carla M. Obermeyer (Ed), Cultural Perspectives in Reproductive Health, Oxford University Press

United Nations General Assembly. 1991. Advancement of women: Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, Report of the Secretary-General. New York: United Nations

World Health Organization. 1997. Violence against Women. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Annexure - I

In NFHS-3, spousal physical, sexual and emotional violence is measured using the following set of questions:

Evidences of **Physical** (Less and Severe) Violence: (d105a – d105j)
  (Does/ did) your husband ever does any of the following things to you:
  Less Violence
- Spouse ever pushed, shook or threw something   d105a
- Spouse ever slapped   d105b
- Spouse ever punched with fist or something harmful   d105c
- Spouse ever kicked or dragged   d105d
  Severe Violence
- Spouse ever tried to strangle or burn   d105e
- Spouse ever threatened or attacked with knife/gun or other   d105f
- Spouse ever twisted her arm or pull her hair   d105j

Evidences of **Emotional** Violence:
- Spouse ever humiliated her   d103a
- Spouse ever threatened her with harm   d103b
- Spouse ever insult or make feel bad   d103c

Evidences of **Sexual** Violence
- Spouse ever physically forced sex when not wanted   d105h
- Spouse ever forced other sexual acts when not wanted   d105i

Annexure II

LIST OF VARIABLES

Type of Variables	Description
Dependent Variables	Have ever experienced Physical violence since age 15
	Have ever experienced Emotional violence since age 15
	Have ever experienced Sexual violence since age 15
Socio-economic variables	Age in 5 years group
	Place of residence
	Religion
	Marital Duration
	Wealth index
	Work status of the respondent
	Partners educational level
	Partners work status
	Age at Marriage
	Age at First birth
Reproductive Health variables	No. living children
	Ever had terminated pregnancy
	Birth in last five years
	Parity at sterilization
	Current contraceptive method
	Age at sterilization
Sexual Health variables	Reason for not having sex: husband has STD
	Reason for not having sex: husband has affairs
	Last intercourse used condom
	Had STD in last 12 months
	Had genital sore ulcer in last 12 months
	Had genital discharge in last 12 months
	Partner drinks alcohol

Foot Note

1. WHO 1996. 'Violence against Women: WHO Consultation', p26- 27. Geneva: WHO.
2. Karlekar, M. 1998. "Domestic violence." *Economic and Political Weekly* 33(27): 1741-1751.
3. World Health Organization. 1997. *Violence against Women.* Geneva: World Health Organization.
4. Anagol-McGinn, Padma, 1994. "Sexual harassment in India: a case study of eve-teasing in historical perspective." *In Rethinking sexual harassment*. London; Boulder, Colo.: Pluto Press.
5. United Nations General Assembly. 1991. *Advancement of women: Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women,* Report of the Secretary-General. New York: United Nations.