



A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN AN URBAN FIELD
PRACTICE AREA OF BELAGAVI, NORTH KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Gender based violence is found to be recognized as a global public health and human rights problem which leads to high rates of morbidity, mortality, substance dependence, suicide and depression. Since India is a male dominant society, it is hard to believe that male can be a victim and female a perpetrator. In the absence of any systemic data, with more men coming up and reporting violence by women, it is important to understand the issue of violence against men by women and associated factors. **Objectives:** To find out the prevalence, characteristics, and reasons of violence against men, To determine the socio-demographic correlates of violence. **Methodology:** This is a community based cross sectional study using multistage random sampling in which a total of 500 married men in the age group of 21-49 were interviewed using modified conflict tactic scale. Household under an urban field practice area of Belagavi, Karnataka is taken as the study participants. Statistical analysis is done with SPSS version 20 and descriptive data is expressed in Percentages and frequencies. **Results:** In the present study, the prevalence of gender-based violence was found to be 47.2%. Out of this, 44.6% experienced violence at the hands of their wives/ intimate partner at least once in their lifetime and 8.8% in the last 12 months. The most common violence was emotional (46.4%) followed by physical violence (4.40%). In almost half of the cases, husband initiated physical and emotional violence. **Conclusion:** Besides women, men are also the victims of gender-based violence. This demands the future investigation and necessary intervention on gender-based violence against men in India.

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INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is acknowledged as a global public health and human rights issue that can lead to high rates of morbidity, mortality, substance dependence, depression, suicide, and posttraumatic stress disorder. ¹ For both the men and women, domestic violence is one among the most underreported crimes across the globe. It is a known fact that India has been a male-dominant society from ages, and it is difficult to believe that male can also be a victim of domestic violence and female the perpetrator. ²

Domestic violence against men is not acknowledged by the Indian law as well. ³ However, contrary to common belief, there are an increasing number of men who are at the other end of harassment and facing psychological and physical abuse by women. ^{4,5} Intimate partner violence (IPV) against men is a significant problem, that domestic violence researchers and feminist academics have ignored this in order to protect the fundamental gains of the battered women's

movement. When Man tries to tell his Torture / Struggle /Problems / Harassment of marriage and family, no one is ready to listen, instead they laugh at him and many men are not ready to or ashamed to talk about the domestic violence by their wives and her Family members. ⁶

So much for the law to promote domestic violence against Indian Husbands and wonder no social organizations have done any research on that, no one demanded the data of crime against men by women and crime against women by another woman. ⁶

Intimate partner violence (IPV) against men is less recognized by society when comparing to IPV against women, which is also acting as a further hindrance to men reporting their situation. Men who are reporting domestic violence can face social stigma regarding their perceived lack of machismo and other denigrations of their masculinity. ⁷

Different studies were conducted around the world highlight violations faced by women meanwhile the violence against

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man is not that mentioned anywhere. In the absence of any systemic data and with more men are now coming up and reporting violence by women, it is very important to understand the issue and problems of violence against men by women and associated factors.

The present study is done keeping these things in mind to find out the prevalence, characteristics, and reasons of violence against men and also to determine the socio-demographic correlates of violence

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the prevalence, characteristics, and reasons of violence against men
2. To determine the socio-demographic correlates of violence

METHODOLOGY

Study design, setting and participants

A Community based cross sectional study conducted among households under an urban field practice area of Belagavi, Karnataka, India.

Sample size

It is calculated by taking prevalence as 52.4% from a previous study and absolute error of 5 by using formula $4pq/d^2$ and sample size was found to be 400.¹ By taking 30% non-response rate final sample size was 500.

Sampling technique

Data collected by multistage random sampling. Two public health centers (PHCs) were randomly selected out of four. Among the selected Primary health centers, five villages were randomly selected. From each village 100 households were selected. The youngest married male was interviewed mainly to maintain the privacy, if in case a household had two or more eligible married males.

Inclusion criteria

Married men in the age group of 21-49

Exclusion criteria

Married men older than 49 years were excluded to minimize the recall bias and to avoid the heightened sensitivity about the discussion of sexual matters in this older age group.

Study tools

We used a standardized pretested, semi-structured questionnaire. Physical, sexual, emotional violence was measured using the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) domestic violence questionnaire which in turn based on modified conflict tactics scale ($\alpha = 0.86$).^{8&9} Socioeconomic status was calculated using B J Prasad's classification.¹⁰

Data collection

Data was collected for a period of 7 months July 2019 January 2020. Written informed consent was obtained from the participants. Any participant who didn't wish to disclose the information were automatically excluded from the study. The scope of the study was clearly explained to the participants in their local language. It took 15 minutes for the researcher to complete the interview with each participant.

A pilot study was conducted among 15 men prior to the study to assess the reliability and feasibility of the planned study. All interviews were done face to face by researcher itself. In the entire survey, privacy was maintained. Rapport has been maintained with the participants before interview by telling them the purpose of the study, by taking only one member from one household, and by assuring them the full confidentiality of their responses.

Statistical analysis

All the data entered in Microsoft Excel spread sheet and analysed using SPSS (statistical package for social science) software version-20. Descriptive data is expressed in percentages and frequencies. Chi-square test is used to study the association between categorical variables. A value of $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Ethical considerations

Got from institutional ethical committee

RESULTS

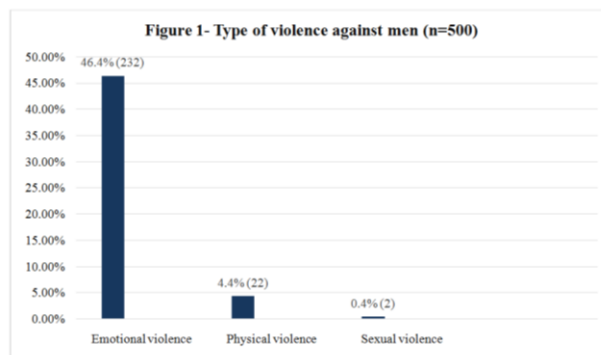
The study achieved full response rate; 500 households were approached for 500 participants. The study subjects were interviewed among which majority (42.3.4%) belonged to the age group >40 years.

The prevalence of gender-based violence was found to be 47.2%. Out of this, 44.6% experienced violence at the hands of their wives/ intimate partner at least once in their lifetime and 8.8% in the last 12 months (Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the overall prevalence of emotional, physical, and sexual spousal violence. The most common violence was emotional (46.4%) followed by physical violence (4.40%). In almost half of the cases, husband initiated physical and emotional violence.

Table 1 Prevalence of gender-based violence among men (n=500)

Perpetrator of violence	Ever experienced	In last 12 months
Any female	236 (47.2%)	112 (22.4)
Spouse	223 (44.6%)	44 (8.8%)
Female other than spouse	13 (2.6%)	3 (0.6%)



The most common reason for violence was unemployment (50.4 %) then violence followed by arguing (31.8%) followed by addiction of perpetrator (7.2%) (figure 2)

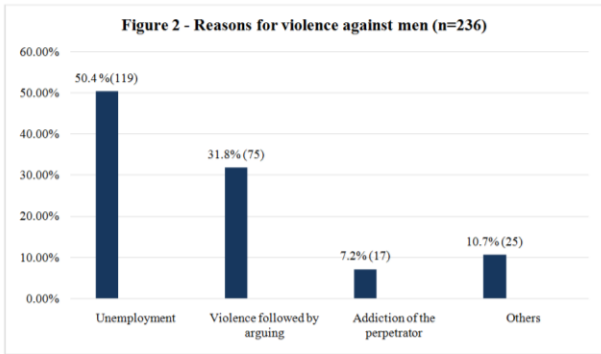
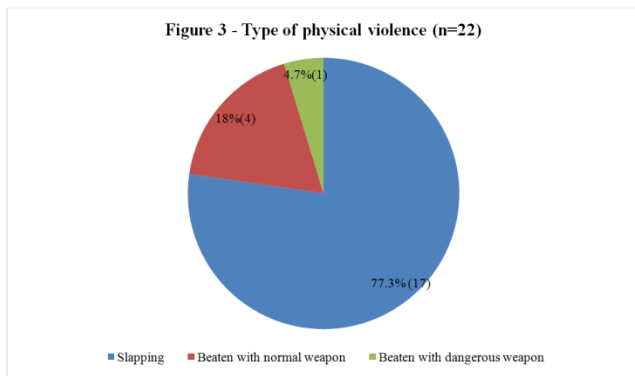
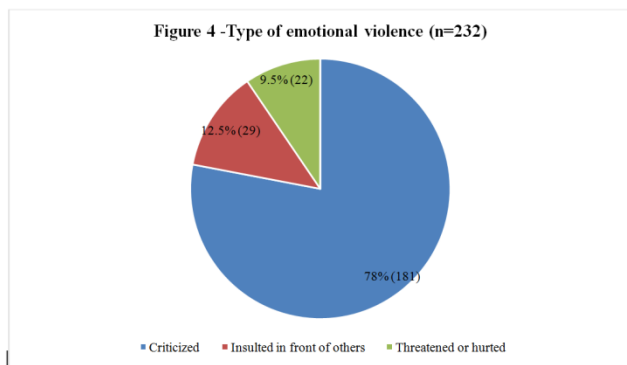


Figure 3 shows the type of physical violence and most common method was slapping(77.3%) followed by beaten with a normal weapon(18%) then beaten with a dangerous weapon which was 4.7%



Out of 232 who has suffered emotional violence most common method was criticized by female perpetrator(78%) followed by “insulted in front of others(12.5%) and threatened/hurted(9.5%)



Violence was most commonly seen men belonging to class V socioeconomic class (42.85%) and in men belongs to broken family (70.89%). If the female perpetrator is alcoholic, chances of violence was more (73.33%). All these were statistically significant after doing chi square test as test of significance, since the p value was less than 0.05. violence was most common in men who studied up to middle class(51.05%) but this was not significant.

Table 2 shows the association of various socio demographic factors with violence against m

Table 2 Association of various socio-demographic factors with violence against men (n= 500)

Socio-demographic	Violence not present - n	Violence present –	Chi-square	P value
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factor	(%)	n (%)	value (X ²)	
I) SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS				
Class I	90(60.81%)	58 (39.19%)	33.9795	<0.00001*
Class II	164(84.98%)	29 (15.02%)		
Class III	72(82.76%)	15 (17.24%)		
Class IV	34(77.27%)	10 (22.72%)		
Class V	16(57.14%)	12 (42.85%)		
II) MALE EDUCATION STATUS				
Studied up to middle (8 th)	93(48.95%)	97 (51.05%)	0.2587	0.6110
Above middle	159(51.30%)	151 (48.70%)		
III)ALCOHOLIC STATUS OF PERPETRATOR				
Alcoholic	8(26.66%)	22 (73.33%)	9.1658	0.002466*
Nonalcoholic	259(55.11%)	211 (44.89%)		
IV)TYPE OF FAMILY				
Nuclear	60 (33.71%)	118 (66.29%)	45.1457	<0.00001*
Joint	151 (62.14%)	92 (37.86%)		
Broken	23 (29.11%)	56 (70.89%)		

*Significant with chi-square test

DISCUSSIONS

The prevalence of gender-based violence/domestic violence in the present study (47.2%) was less as found by jagbir *et al.* (India) where 52.4% men had suffered domestic violence.¹ The prevalence of gender-based violence against men in the present study (47.2%) was less as found by Sarkar *et al.* (India) where 98% men had suffered domestic violence. This could be due to the difference in methodology and sample selection, and here, only six males were interviewed from Haryana. For their study, nonrandomized 1650 husbands mainly from upper middle class and middle class were interviewed between the ages of 15 and 49 years from all over India using a schedule adapted from WHO multicounty study on husband's health and domestic violence, which contains 14 items for emotional and 8 items for economic violence.⁷ Estimated numbers of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales during 2012–2013 reported that 4.4% of men had experienced domestic abuse in the last year which is much lower than present study (22.4%), this might be because former estimates are based on people reporting actions against them perceived as crimes but in our study we only actively interviewed.¹¹

The prevalence of spouse/intimate partner violence (47.2%) in the present study was found to be higher than data collected for domestic violence under partner abuse state of knowledge project (PASK) from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. (19.3%).¹² This might be because of different methodology and the wider range of participants (students, married, and unmarried participants); however, in the present study, only married male between ages 21–45 years included.

The trend of different form of violence in the present study is almost similar to the jagbir *et al.* In their study the majority (51.6%) of the subjects experienced emotional violence followed by physical (6%), then sexual violence (0.4%). It is

also similar to PASK (80% emotional abuse and 0.2% sexual violence) but different from that reported by Sarkar *et al.*, in which physical violence (25.2%) was more common than emotional (22.2%) and sexual violence (17.7%).^{1,6&11} Tjaden and Thoennes (U.S. Department of Justice) reported ever physical intimate partner violence in 7.4%.¹³ These results are almost similar to our study (4.2). Lövestad and Krantz (Sweden) did a cross-sectional population-based study using random sampling in which 173 men and 251 women of age 18–65 was interviewed using conflict tactics scale. In this study, the incidence of physical violence was much higher (11%) than the present study (4.2%).¹⁴

Jagbir *et al.* and Sarkar *et al.* found slapping as the most common (98.3%) form of physical violence similar to the present study (77.3%).^{1&6} In Jagbir *et al.* study, among victims of emotional violence, 85% were criticized, 29.7% were insulted in front of others, and 3.5% were threatened or hurt. This variation is similar to our study where most common method was criticized by female perpetrator (78%) followed by “insulted in front of others” (12.5%) and threatened/hurted (9.5%).¹

Unemployment of the husband at the time of violence was the major reason (60.1%) for violence followed by arguing/not listening to each other (23%) and addiction of perpetrator (4.3%) in study done by Jagbir *et al.* which is similar to our study (The most common reason for violence was unemployment (50.4 %) then violence followed by arguing (31.8%) followed by addiction of perpetrator (7.2%)

Low socioeconomic status and addiction of the perpetrator were also found to be major and statistically significant reason for gender-based violence; these results are similar to given Jagbir *et al.* (Haryana). Violence was common in male education status as studied up to middle (63.3) in their study which is similar to our study (51.3%) and more common if the perpetrator is alcoholic (in our study 73.33% and their study it is 93.1%). This difference was statistically significant in both the studies.¹

Strengths and Limitations

Strengths: Every participant was interviewed by the male researcher himself who is a competent investigator. Hence the men who suffered gender-based violence could open up and give their honest answers. Flexibility was maintained in our study. We selected villages from different directions under the same health centre to make the sample refers whole population.

Limitations

Assessments were based on self-report, and chances of recall biases were therefore likely to underestimate the true prevalence of violence. Chances of women's physical violence, motivated by self-defense, and fear cannot be ruled out.

CONCLUSION

The prevalence of gender-based violence against men in this study is found to be 47.2%. The most common violence was emotional followed by physical violence. Unemployment was the most common reason for violence followed by violence after arguing. Lower socioeconomic class, presence of alcoholism and those belongs to broken family are having a positive association with gender-based violence against men.

Recommendations

Besides women, men are also the victims of gender-based violence. This demands the future investigation and necessary intervention on gender-based violence against men in India. Education (particularly at school level) to enhance mutual respect among spouses can address this problem at its roots. The family can also help by resolving the conflict at the earliest stage taking in view the rights of both spouses.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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