Correlates of domestic violence in the urban slum of North Bengal, India

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Abstract: *Background:* Domestic Violence is a social curse prevalent since long time back. Changing socioeconomic scenario due to globalization, urbanization and changing behaviour, might keep its impact on the magnitude of domestic violence. *Objective:* To determine the pattern of Domestic Violence among the women of reproductive age group (15-44 years) in the urban area of Siliguri and to find-out the determinants associated in relation to Domestic Violence. *Method:* A community based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from June 2013 - May 2014 in a urban slum of Siliguri among the women of reproductive age (15-45 yrs) who were permanent resident of that area with a pretested, predesigned, structured schedule prepared with the guidance from NFHS-3 questionnaire and applied on total 284 respondents who consented to participate. *Result:* 'Physical violence' was found to be correlated with "age", "caste" of the women, "husbands' literacy status" as well as "husband's addiction to alcohol"; whereas the 'sexual violence' was associated with "age of the women", "literacy level of the couple" "child's gender" and "husband's addiction". Emotional violence was associated with "child's gender" and "marriage-duration". Spousal 'controlling behaviour' was found to be significantly associated with "gender of the child" and "duration of marriage". *Conclusion:* This search for the pattern of domestic violence as well as its different determinants is expected to be helpful for future policy making and awareness programme.

Keywords: Abuse, Emotions, Poverty Areas, Sex Offences, Spouse, Violence,

Introduction

"We cannot make poverty history unless we make Domestic Violence history. We cannot stop the spread of HIV unless we stop discrimination and Domestic Violence and girls. We cannot build a world of peace, development, security until we end Domestic Violence and girls".-Statement of Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA, 10 October 2006 [1].

Since from very ancient times of our great Indian epics, till today, the domestic violence against women is prevalent throughout the world in almost equal wavelength as a silent crime to the mothers of past, present and future; only its forms and causes differ depending upon a wide-spectrum of determinants in different corners of the world. Most unfortunate is that the perpetrators are often well related to the victims. Violence evolves in part from women's subordinate status in society. Many cultures have beliefs, norms, and social institutions that legitimize and therefore perpetuate violence against women. Violence is the ultimate expression of brutal instinct of mankind. 'Gender based violence' is a big burden to the society which has it existence in every corner of world cutting across the boundary of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity, religion and age. Domestic Violence continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and maims - physically, psychologically, sexually and economically.

The United Nations Declaration on the elimination of domestic violence General Assembly in 1993 defined Violence Against

Women (domestic violence) as-"Any act of gender based violence that result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women including threat of such act, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life" [2].

Domestic Violence is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms throughout their lives. Even at the very beginning of her life, a girl may be the target of sex-selective abortion or female infanticide where son preference is prevalent. During childhood, violence against girls may include enforced malnutrition, lack of access to medical care and education, female genital mutilation, early marriage and bonded labour. Some go on to suffer throughout their adult lives-battered, raped and even murdered at the hands of intimate partners.

Violence can be classified as physical, sexual, emotional and controlling behaviour according to nature of abused. Slapping, beating, arm twisting, kicking, and murder etc are the examples of physical violence. Sexual violence may include coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, forcing sex with others. Psychological abuse may includes behaviour that is intended to confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.

On this background considering the changing socioeconomic scenario due to globalization, urbanization and changing behaviour, there may be change in the magnitude and forms of violence. By conducting a study, it was helpful to address the serious and avoidable consequences of gender-based Domestic Violence. It is vital to have more information on the prevalence and correlates of gender-based violence in the community. Keeping in this mind the present study was undertaken to address the problem of Domestic Violence in an urban area of Siliguri with the following objectives:

1. To determine the pattern of Domestic Violence among reproductive age group (15-44 years) in the urban area of Siliguri.
2. To find-out the determinants associated in relation to Domestic Violence.

Material and Methods

A community based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from June 2013 - May 2014 in a urban slum of Siliguri among the women of reproductive age (15-45 yrs) who were permanent resident of that area. After conceiving the study plan, in detail discussion was carried on with the authorities of Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) for feasibility. The-then Head of the department of Forensic Medicine of North Bengal Medical College helped for the communication with the police personnel. After assurance from all spheres, the study plan was submitted before the Ethics Committee and requisite permission was obtained.

Out of total 47 wards under siliguri municipal corporation two (2) wards were chosen according to the service zone of the urban health centre of North Bengal Medical College. List of slums in those two wards were collected from the office of the SMC. From that list, two slums were chosen randomly and further on systematic random sampling was undertaken to choose study subjects. The data was collected by the author with proper security and sanctity. In the entire process of data collection the health worker female (s) from the UHTC assisted the author.

The sampling interval (k^{th}) was 15; so every 15th study subjects was selected for interview fulfilling the eligibility criteria. A pretested, predesigned, structured schedule was prepared with the guidance from NFHS-3 questionnaire. The case definition was taken according to United Nations Declaration on the elimination of Domestic Violence General Assembly in 1993; and different types were defined on the basis of WHO Multi-Country study.

The study involved collecting quantitative data with structured questionnaires. The questionnaire included items on socio-economic details and Domestic Violence experience. To assess Domestic Violence exposure, women were asked several questions on various behaviours of violence. The subjects was excluded from the study who are severely physically and or mentally

ill, non-resident of that area, and also not willing to participate in this study. Considering the prevalence of Domestic Violence 41.8%, 95% confidence level, 15% relative precision and 10% non-response, thus the final sample size was 297.

Assistance from a number of the health workers of those wards was taken to make the entry easy and acceptable. House to house visit was made. First rapport was established with the study subjects & after gaining their trust the interview was undertaken. Women found eligible were explained about the purpose of the study and informed consent for the survey was obtained at the start of the individual interview. Security and confidentiality reasons also dictated that men not be asked questions about the experience or perpetration of violence. Interviews took place in a private place in respondents' home, and in absence of any other family/ community members.

Minimum three visits were made for the individuals to minimize the non-response. Necessary permission was sought before the onset of data collection. Data were analyzes for test of significance e.g. Pearson's chi-square, chi-square for linear trend and binary logistic regression wherever applicable using software package SPSS-16.0 version.

Results

The study was conducted among women of reproductive age group between 15-44 yrs of age. Though sample size was calculated 297 considering 10% additional non-response rate, finally 284 women were interviewed. In this study we have found that 78.2% (222) of study subjects had experienced Domestic Violence in either form in their life time.

Majority of study population suffered more than one type of violence. Almost one third of women (33.1%) experienced both emotional violence and controlling behaviour, almost one-fourth (24.6%) of them have suffered from sexual violence along with marital control followed by a nearly similar number of women, who faced physical and emotional violence. All the four types of violence occurred to 18.5% of the study population. Only emotional violence was faced by 8.1% women, physical violence was faced by 7.7% women, marital control was faced by 5.9% cases and

sexual violence solely was faced by the 2.7% of the entire study population (Table 1).

Table-1: Patterns of domestic violence amongst the study population [N=284]		
Forms of violence	**Frequency**	**%age**
Physical violence only	17	5.98
Sexual violence only	6	2.11
Emotional violence only	18	6.33
Controlling behaviour only	13	4.57
Physical and Sexual	83	29.22
Physical and Emotional	86	30.28
Physical and Controlling behaviour	92	32.39
Sexual and Emotional	68	23.94
Sexual and Controlling behaviour	70	24.64
Emotional and Controlling behaviour	94	33.09
Physical, Sexual and Emotional	52	18.30
Physical, Sexual and Controlling behaviour	56	19.71
Physical, Emotional and Controlling behaviour	63	22.18
Sexual, Emotional and Controlling behaviour	53	18.66
All four types positive	41	14.43
*multiple response		

It has been revealed that in maximum cases near relatives abused the women. In 57.2% cases husbands committed violence, followed by 16.2% cases the abuser was mother-in-law. Only 1-2% cases women had experienced violence from their maiden house, (Figure 1) Distribution of responses; upon the person who caused violence in majority times.
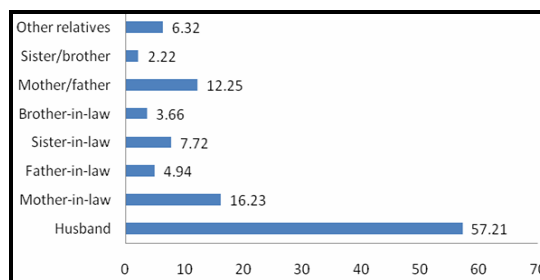
Fig-1: Perpetrators of domestic violence

Table 2 illustrates the prevalence of various forms of Domestic Violence during the life time reported by women by different socio-economic characteristics. In each category, percentage of women experienced violence to the total number of women belonged to that particular category of socio-economic characteristic was given.

Table-2: Prevalence of various forms of domestic violence by socioeconomic characteristics (N=284)				
Socio-economic characteristics	**Prevalence of violence against women***			
	Physical	**Sexual**	**Emotional**	**Controlling behavior**
Age group(in yrs)				
≤20	18 (36.00%)	12 (24.00%)	25 (50.00%)	27 (54.00%)
21-30	103 (55.68%)	69 (37.29%)	82 (44.32%)	89 (48.10%)
31 & above	27 (55.10%)	25 (51.02%)	32 (65.30%)	23 (46.93%)
Religion				
Hindu (n=253)	127 (50.19%)	89 (35.17%)	122 (48.22%)	120 (47.43%)
Islam (n=31)	21 (65.62%)	17 (54.83%)	17 (54.83%)	19 (61.29%)
Caste				
General caste (n=140)	58 (41.42%)	50 (35.71%)	64 (45.71%)	59 (42.14%)
Schedule caste (n=85)	55 (64.70%)	33 (38.82%)	41 (48.23%)	48 (56.47%)
Schedule tribe (n=40)	21 (52.50%)	11 (27.50%)	21 (52.50%)	19 (47.50%)
OBC (n=19)	14 (73.68%)	12 (63.15%)	13 (68.42%)	13 (68.42%)
Socio-economic status				
Upper-middle (n=33)	10 (30.30%)	7 (21.21%)	19 (57.57%)	17 (51.51%0
Lower-middle (n=94)	40 (42.55%)	26 (27.65%)	44 (46.80%)	34 (36.17%)
Upper-lower (n=157)	98 (62.42%)	73 (46.49%)	76 (48.40%)	88 (56.05%)
Type of family				
Nuclear (n=140)	76 (54.28%)	55 (39.28%)	64 (45.71%)	64 (45.71%)
Joint (n=144)	72 (50.00%)	51 (35.41%)	75 (52.08%)	75 (52.08%)
Education level				
Illiterate (n=67)	48 (71.64%)	35 (52.23%)	33 (49.25%)	42 (62.68%)
Primary school (n=20)	10 (50.00%)	10 (50.00%)	10 (50.00%)	11 (55.00%)
high school and above (n=197)	90 (45.68%)	61 (30.96%)	96 (48.73%)	86 (43.65%)
Marital status				
Currently married (n=262)	132 (50.38%)	93 (35.49%)	124 (47.32%)	127 (48.47%)
Divorced/separated/ widow (n=22)	16 (72.72%)	13 (59.09%)	15 (68.18%)	12 (54.54%)
Age at marriage (in yrs)				
< 15 (n=32)	18 (56.25%)	15 (46.87%)	13 (40.62%)	15 (46.87%)
15-18 (n=157)	92 (58.59%)	56 (35.66%)	77 (49.04%)	79 (50.31%)
>18 (n=95)	37 (38.94%)	34 (35.78%)	46 (48.42%)	42 (44.21%)
Duration of marriage (yrs)				
≤5 (n=105)	40 (38.09%)	30 (28.57%)	50 (47.61%)	53 (50.47%)
6-10 (n=88)	52 (59.09%)	32 (36.36%)	46 (52.27%)	42 (47.72%)
>10 (n=91)	55 (60.43%)	43 (47.25%)	40 (43.95%)	41 (45.05%)

Socio-economic characteristics	Prevalence of violence against women*			
	Physical	**Sexual**	**Emotional**	**Controlling behavior**
No. of child				
0 (n=34)	6 (17.64%)	6 (17.64%)	12 (35.29%)	9 (26.47%)
1 (n=97)	45 (46.39%)	29 (29.89%)	45 (46.39%)	43 (44.32%)
≥2 (n=153)	96 (62.74%)	70 (45.75%)	79 (51.63%)	84 (54.90%)
Gender of the child				
At least one male child (n=158)	94 (59.49%)	59 (37.34%)	78 (49.36%)	81 (51.26%)
Only female child (n=92)	47 (51.08%)	40 (43.47%)	46 (50.00%)	46 (50.00%)
Husband's education				
Illiterate (n=62)	45 (72.58%)	34 (54.83%)	35 (56.45%)	41 (66.12%)
Primary school (n=103)	57 (55.33%)	42 (40.77%)	52 (50.48%)	49 (47.57%)
high school and above (n=119)	45 (37.81%)	29 (24.36%)	49 (41.17%)	46 (38.65%)
Husband's alcohol addiction				
Never drink (n=124)	51 (41.12%)	41 (33.06%)	52 (41.93%)	52 (41.93%)
Drink but not get drunk (n=89)	49 (55.05%)	32 (35.95%)	41 (46.06%)	41 (46.06%)
Get drunk sometimes (n=51)	35 (68.62%)	22 (43.13%)	30 (58.82%)	32 (62.74%)
Get drunk often (n=20)	12 (60.00%)	10 (50.00%)	13 (65.00%)	11 (55.00%)
* Prevalence is percentage of women reported violence to the total number of women in that category of socio-economic characteristic				

This table reveals that, physical violence was mainly prevalent in women at 21-40 years of ages (55.7%), where as highest prevalence of sexual violence was documented (51.0%) among women more than 30 yrs of age and lowest (24.0%) among below 20 yrs of age. Prevalence of emotional violence was also highest (65.3%) among women aged more than 30 yrs; in contrast prevalence of controlling behaviour was found to be highest (54.0%) in women aged below 20yrs (Table 2).

Muslim women experienced more physical violence than Hindu women (67.7% and 50.2% respectively) similar results was found in sexual violence (54.8% in Muslims) as well as emotional violence (54.8%).61.3% of Muslim women also had experienced controlling behaviour in her life time. Majority of OBC (73.7%) women had faced physical violence followed by schedule tribe (52.5%); similar experience was seen in sexual

violence where majority were OBC (63.2%). Prevalence of emotional violence and controlling behaviour was maximum among OBC 68.4% and 68.4% respectively (Table 2).

Prevalence of physical violence, sexual violence and controlling behaviour among upper lower class was highest 62.4%, 46.5% and 56.1% respectively ; where as in this study majority (57.6%) of upper middle class women had experienced emotional violence. Physical violence (54.3%) were higher in nuclear families, whereas emotional and controlling behaviour were more common (52.1%) in joint families. Prevalence of physical violence and sexual violence among study population was highest (71.6%) and (52.2%) respectively in women lacking any form of formal education. Highest prevalence (62.7%) of controlling behaviour was found amongst illiterate women But emotional

violence did not varying on the educational status of the women. It has been observed that 72.7% divorced/ separated/widow women had experienced all four type of violence (Table 2).

Highest prevalence of physical, sexual violence and controlling behaviour was depicted among women who had married less than 15 yrs of age i.e 56.2%, 46.8% and 46.8% respectively where as emotional violence did not depend upon age at marriage of the study participant. Prevalence of physical violence and sexual violence was highest (60.4%, 47.2%) among women with married for more than 10 years and decreasing trends was noted for currently married women. In contrast prevalence of controlling behaviour was not much varied with the increase of duration of marriage; it was highest among them, married for less than 5 yrs of duration. Prevalence of all four types of violence was highest among women with more than 2 children (62.7%, 45.7%, 51.6% and 54.9% respectively). It could be concluded that physical violence and marital control is more experienced by those women having all female child, but those having at least one male child, have faced more sexual and emotional violence. It was revealed that highest prevalence of all four types of violence(physical, sexual, emotional, controlling behaviour) was found in women with illiterate husband (72.6%,54.8%, 56.5%,66.1%) and the risk was gradually decreased with increase level of husband's education. It revealed that the prevalence of all four types of violence was highest among women those husband get drunk often where as lowest among those husband never drink (Table 2).

Table-3: Binary logistic regression model predicting different types of violence among study population					
Variables	**Wald (significance)**				
	Total violence	**Physical violence**	**Sexual violence**	**Emotional violence**	**Controlling behaviour**
Age	2.699 (0.100)	6.996 (0.008)	12.937 (0.000)	3.623 (0.057)	0.002 (0.967)
Religion	0.311 (0.577)	0.071 (0.791)	0.010 (0.922)	0.917 (0.338)	0.020 (0.888)
Caste	6.429 (0.093)	12.502 (0.006)	6.552 (0.088)	4.001 (0.261)	4.349(0.226)
Type of family	0.015 (0.904)	0.904 (0.342)	2.167 (0.141)	1.465 (0.226)	2.871(0.090)
Women literacy	14.237 (0.014)	13.112 (0.342)	12.813 (0.025)	8.417 (0.135)	8.088 (0.151)
Socio-economic status	0.818 (0.664)	6.901 (0.032)	7.081 (0.029)	1.341 (0.511)	6.185 (0.045)
CONSTANT	0.816 (0.366)	1.211 (0.271)	5.285 (0.022)	0.019 (0.891)	0.265 (0.607)

Table-4: Binary logistic regression model predicting different types of violence among ever-married women					
Variables	**Wald (significance)**				
	Total violence	**Physical violence**	**Sexual violence**	**Emotional violence**	**Controlling behaviour**
Husbands' literacy status	20.496(0.001)	16.222 (0.006)	15.706 (0.008)	9.326 (0.097)	6.572 (0.254)
Sex of the children	0.149 (0.700)	2.434 (0.487)	18.122 (0.000)	17.299 (0.001)	13.341 (0.004)
Number of child	5.178 (0.159)	1.286 (0.526)	1.387 (0.500)	10.973 (0.004)	3.997 (0.136)
Age at marriage	1.464 (0.481)	1.117 (0.572)	1.275 (0.529)	0.031 (0.985)	0.059 (0.971)
Husband's alcohol consumption	7.364 (0.061)	4.584 (0.205)	0.578 (0.902)	4.785 (0.188)	5.233 (0.155)
Duration of marriage	5.849 (0.054)	1.775 (0.620)	0.695 (0.874)	14.960 (0.002)	8.126 (0.043)
CONSTANT	0.051 (0.822)	6.698 (0.010)	10.577 (0.001)	1.373 (0.241)	12.999 (0.000)

The table 3 reveals that in binary logistic regression model, 'age' was significantly associated with physical and sexual violence. Only 'caste' was significantly associated with physical violence. 'Women's literacy' was significantly associated with total and sexual violence. Finally 'socio-economic status' was significantly associated with physical, sexual violence as well as controlling behaviour. Type of family and religion had no significant relation with domestic violence.

In the table 4, in binary logistic regression model, 'husband's literacy status' was demonstrated to be significantly associated with total, physical and sexual violence. 'Sex of the child' was significantly associated with total, sexual, emotional violence as well as controlling behaviour. 'Number of child' was only significantly associated with emotional violence. Finally and duration of marriage was significantly associated with emotional violence and controlling behaviour.

Discussion

'Domestic Violence' is a common reality in the lives of women and girls in many parts of the world, developing and industrialized countries alike. Around the world 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. The sensitivities and stigma associated with Domestic Violence, the conceptualization of it primarily as a judicial and legal issue, and inadequate data on the dimensions of abuse, have hampered understanding and the development of appropriate interventions in developing countries [3].

In this present community-based cross-sectional epidemiological study conducted in urban area of Siliguri, District Darjeeling of West Bengal, under the guidance from Department of Community Medicine, North Bengal Medical College & Hospital; an attempt was taken to get the overview of this social curse that has maintained own existence in the tears of women. This study was conducted among 284 women in 15~45 years of age, where the non-responders were 13 out of total targeted sample size of 297. The mean age of responders and non-responders

(26.20 yrs and 27.35 yrs respectively) were not much different. The non-responders did not affect the result of the study regarding age wise prevalence.

Perpetrator: Here we have found in majority of the cases the women is assaulted by her husband. In India according to a survey of 6,902 men in the state of Uttar Pradesh showed that up to 45% of married men acknowledged physically abusing their wives [4]. Studies from WHO indicate that between 16% and 52% of women world-wide are physically assaulted by an intimate partner at least once in their lives [5]. Twenty-five percent of surveyed women said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their life; 1.5 percent of all surveyed women said they were raped [6].

The WHO multi-country study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence (2005) have reported that the proportion of ever-partnered women, who had ever suffered physical violence by a male intimate partner ranged from 13% in Japan to 61% in Peru province. Sexual violence was more frequent in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Thailand. Among ever-married women, 40% of physical violence and 37% of sexual violence reported in Dhaka [7].

'Age' of the women: Overall it has been also explored that women of more than 30 years of age were mostly victimized by violence (>50.0%). Here cumulative effect of exposure among elder women might cause higher prevalence of violence in 31-40 years of age-groups. Higher sexual violence in above 31 women could be explained in the light that decreasing libido in the peri-menopausal ages might play the role for dissatisfaction of their husbands.

These findings were somewhat contradicted by pertinent literature still searched for. From *NFHS (3)-2005-06,* it could be revealed that any type of violence was mainly faced by women at 30-39 years of age (41.5%) and minimum exposure was seen among 15-19 years of aged ladies. Physical violence was reported as maximum among 30-39 years of

age; sexual violence was found to be peaked in 25-39 years of age groups, but controlling behaviour was mainly exposed to teen-aged groups [8]. *L. Jeyaseelan et al.(2007)* have shown in his study in south India that physical violence to women had the trends to increase with age (OR=1.01) [9]. In the *WHO multi-country study (2005)* have explored that except in Japan and Ethiopia, almost everywhere teen aged women were the main victim of Domestic Violence. In urban Bangladesh almost half (48.7%) of the women of this age group shared the problem [7].

Study report from Egypt in 3322 women revealed that 'age' becomes inversely proportional to the incidence of violence and most predominant in 20-30 years of age group [10]. But the *WHO bulletin (2003)* has reported that in Uganda Domestic Violence to be commoner to below 25 years of age groups (OR=1.28) [11]. As reported in Gujarat, India by *Visaria L et al.(1999)* it has been seen that almost every three in four (74.3%) women of above 34 years of age had faced violence, but emotional violence was notably less among them (only 17% of them have experienced) [12]. In the by BabuVB et al. in eastern part of India the prevalence of all forms of violence were increased along with the age of the women. Women aged 20–29 years and aged above 29 years have reported higher prevalence of violence than women aged less than 20 years [13].

'Religion' of the women: From this study it was revealed that every type of violence i.e. physical, sexual, emotional as well as spousal controlling behaviour were mostly experienced by ladies belonging to Muslim communities, where different cultures and custom of Muslim communities might precipitate more violence to them. This findings are quite at per to *NFHS (3)-2005-06,* where it was reported that total domestic violence was more in Muslim communities than among Hindus (43.0 and 39.7% respectively) [8]. Prevalence of physical and emotional violence were though quite similarly frequent (Physical violence 34.6 and 33.7% respectively among Muslims and Hindus and Emotional violence in both the cases 15.9%), but sexual violence and controlling behaviour were more among Muslims. Previously the *WHO bulletin* [11] have also reported that Muslim women are more victim of Domestic Violence,

where odd's ratio was 1.17. *Visaria L et al. (1999)* [12] from Gujarat, India have reported that 58% of Muslims women have suffered from domestic violence. Among them 23% suffers from emotional violence, 33% suffered from both emotional as well as physical violence.

'Caste' of the women: So far the *caste* was concerned; the physical, sexual, emotional violence side by side the controlling behaviour were most prevalent among OBC communities; as in this study most OBC women were Muslim. So why higher prevalence of violence could affect. But *NFHS (3)-2005-06* have shown that physical and sexual violence were more common in Scheduled caste communities than others (prevalence 41.7, 11.0% respectively; highest among all castes), though among Scheduled tribe population emotional violence and marital control were seen to be predominant [8]. From the study report of *Visaria L. et al. (1999),* it would be evident that among the women of scheduled communities, whatever was caste and/or tribe prevalence of emotional violence was 23% and along with physical violence, it raised at 48%. Study of *Mahajan et al. (1995)* in Punjab has reported that 75% of SC women suffered domestic violence in their life [12, 14].

'Socioeconomic status' of the family: This variation in types of violence in different strata of *socioeconomic classes* could be explained in view of economic hardship might induce physical violence in lower classes and women empowerment in effluent societies probably raised their consciousness, for which marital control and emotional violence get reflected readily to them. Again lower literacy standard in poorer classes and usual addiction for alcohol till the level of getting drunk among males after full-day laborious job used to increase their urge for sex with their wives. Thus sexual violence might become more in poorer families.

Report of *NFHS (3)-2005-06* have revealed that every type of violence was more prevalent in women from families of lowest wealth index and decreasing trends of domestic violence has been noticed in higher

wealth families (prevalence of physical, sexual, emotional violences and marital control in lowest wealth households were 44.5%, 13.2%, 20.7%, 33.9% respectively) [8]. *Mahajan et al.(1995)* have also reported the same in words of 76% prevalence of domestic violence in lower caste households [14],

'Type of the family' where the woman belonged: Among the study population it has been found that not only that physical violence was more prevalent among nuclear families, but other types of violence were more among those belonging to joint family. Actually among the sole two/three members in nuclear families, it is easy for the husband to beat his wife or forcing for sex; but in joint families such should get hindrance from other members. On the other hand it was easier to get verbally abused/ dominated, when more seniors/elderly persons are present in the family.

Report of *NFHS (3)-2005-06* could show that overall domestic violence was commoner in nuclear families (42.7% in comparison to joint families, where it was 36.6%), but except physical violence all other types were reported to be almost equally frequent in families of both nuclear and joint type (Sexual violence in both cases 8.5%, marital control in both cases 26.3%, emotional violence in nuclear families 16.7% and in joint families 14.8%) [8]. Physical violence in nuclear families reported as 35.7% prevalent than in joint families, where it is 31.2%. *Mahajan et al.* have reported also similar message in his study [14].

'Literacy status' of the women: On literacy status of the women their experience of violence were seen to differ well. Those women were also maximum victim of physical, sexual violence (72.7% and 53% respectively) as well as experienced controlling behaviour more in comparison to the literate ladies. Prevalence of different violence was found to decrease as the literacy status of the women increases. Again as per the expectation, statistical tests strongly correlated those facts. Incidentally it was found on the other hand that graduate women were mostly (63% cases) emotionally abused. Higher a woman gets educated her mental set up definitely changes; she becomes more conscious about self-esteem. So any sort of controlling behaviour and verbal abuse could raise her voice to disclose,

which were accepted as obvious by the less educated women. On the other hand less intelligence/dignity in illiterate women might lead to disorganized household works, lack of family planning leading to more children ultimately resulting economic hardship; for which she might be more tortured physically.

Similarly in *NFHS (3)-2005-06* it was mentioned that illiterate women used to face the violence in all sphere (physical, sexual, emotional violence as well as controlling behaviour) in their daily life at maximum magnitude in comparison to the women who have educated more than class XII standard, had to face least violence. Side by side like the present study it also could demonstrate that prevalence of domestic violence decreases as the literacy status of the women increases [8].

Study in Uganda, as published in *WHO bulletin (2003)* has also described that women having formal education more than 8 years, had less exposure to domestic violence [11]. *L. Jeyaseelan et al.(2007)* from their study in southern part of India, has also concluded that formal education of at least 7-8 years or more decreases propensity for experiencing violence. The education gap between the partners could lead to more violence, as the gap increases [9]. Babu VB et al. study in eastern part of India revealed that education has impact on the prevalence of domestic violence. The prevalence of violence decreased as educational levels of women increased [13].

'Marital status' of the women: Divorced/separated women, had to face more physical, sexual as well as emotional violence. Among the divorcees unlimited occurrences of different forms of violence in their lifetime were responsible for divorce or separation. Even they might get verbally abused/ physically tortured/socially isolated by her blood-relatives, when she takes shelter in her natal houses. On the other hand unmarried women living with her parents get naturally dominated by her family members. According to Kalokhe AS *et al.* it is seen domestic violence is more prevalent in married women in reproductive age group. In one study 18-45

% of married men in 5 districts of UP, large state of north India acknowledged that they physically abused their wives [15].

'Duration of marriage' of the women: Women who were married at below 15 yrs of age had highest experience of all type of violence in their life-time in our study. This was quiet obvious that in such an age, when her mental maturity not even fully grown; her voice did not get any value in in-laws' house, rather she sometimes get treated as a machine not a man. It was revealed that prevalence of violence in almost all spheres decreases as the age of marriage increases. Only emotional abuse was seen almost equally prevalent in every category without much bothering to age- at marriage. According to Rocca *et al*, 2009 in Bangalore among women aged 16-25 yrs found that Inconsistent associations of violence with the factors like age at marriage, and duration of marriage [16].

Those who were married for more than 10 years, among them almost nine out of every ten have experienced violence in their life-time. Sound statistical significance supported this fact. This might be due to the cumulative effect of the time of exposure, which has been seen to increase the risk of 3.42 times. But emotional violence was found maximum prevalent among those married for 6-10 years (52.3%), and marital control was mainly seen to currently married women which can be justified that women could have problem in adjustment with the in-laws that has been overcame as more they stay with in-laws.

While in *NFHS (3)-2005-06,* it was documented that though prevalence of physical violence was more in women married for more than 10 years(38.2%) and least among currently married group (21%), which was supported by the presented study; till sexual violence was found to be highest among those who were married for 5-9 years. Again in that report it was also elaborated that women married for more than 10 years had to face the maximum emotional violence and marital control was experienced by women married for below 10 years; which partially tallies with present study [8]. Study report of *Visalia L. et al.(1999)* from Gujarat, India has explored that women married for 11-14 years were mostly exposed to physical abuse with least exposure to marital duration of 1-5 years group [12].

'Numbers of children' of the women: Those women, who were the mothers more than two children were found to face more violence than those having less number of kids. They might have less attention to individual child, which like the vicious cycle led to get abused. Statistical association could be established following these findings. The WHO bulletin with report from Uganda in 2003, published that women with more than six children are most vulnerable to face the all forms of violence [11]; which was also evident from the findings of NFHS (3) [9].

'Gender of the children' of the women: Sex of the children rather not found to influence the domestic violence at different dimensions. Emotional violence and marital control were almost equally prevalent among both groups of mothers. Statistical tests do not correlates those facts successfully in all cases. *Rao et al.(1997)* have concluded that possessing of male child decreases the chance of women abuse [17].

'Literacy level of the husband' of the women: This study could establish the fact that domestic violence depend on husbands' education; those having illiterate husbands, were found to be the maximum victim of all types of violence. Except emotional violence, the prevalence of all other types of violence, was revealed to decreases as their husbands' literacy status increases. Statistical significance correlated those facts successfully. These was quiet obvious as less literacy among husbands should go with the lower socio-economic standard as well as their addiction to alcohol might lead to loss of control over own selves, which easily predisposed violent behaviours to their wives.

This decreasing trends of partner violence along with the higher literacy level of the husband was previously also shown by *NFHS-3(2005-06),* where it was described that highest domestic violence was experienced by those women having illiterate husband and those having husbands educated above class XII standard were least victim of domestic violence. Similar message was also conveyed from the report of *Visaria L. et al (1999) & Kalokhe AS (2018)* [8, 12, 15].

'Husband's alcohol addiction': Husbands' addiction for alcohol could influence the Domestic Violence. It was found that almost all the women (95%), whose husband used to drink alcohol and often get drunk, were mostly the victim of violence along with sexual and emotional abuse, in comparison to women having non-drinker husbands This fact has been naturally proved by statistical significance. Loosing self-control husbands usually cause different violence to their wives, as was similar in the finding of *Coker AL (2000)* [18] as well as *Iman'ishimwe M (2020)* [19].

NFHS-3(2005-06) [8] have described that women having husbands addicted to alcohol and gets drunk very often, have experienced maximum violence, rather least exposure to domestic violence in them having husbands not favouring alcohol. *WHO bulletin (2003)* also demonstrated that husbands propensity of having alcohol before sex increases the chance of sexual violence (OR=4.62) [11]. Studies of *L. Jeyaseelan et al. (2007), Ram A et al. (2019), Bohra N et al. (2015), Charlette SL et al. (2012)* and *Owshu Ajdha ES et al. (2016)* done in different corners of the globe also found that husbands' alcohol addiction would to have deleterious effect of the partner in form of physical as well as sexual violence [9,20-23].

The age, caste, socio-economic status, women's literacy found to be significantly associated with different form of violence in bivariate analysis were put in binary logistic regression analysis separately for each type of violence. In binary logistic regression model predicting different types of violence among ever-married women 'husband's literacy status' ,'Sex of the child' and 'Number of child' was significantly associated. In similar study with women of reproductive age group in 7 cities in India Jeyaseelan L *et al.* showed that Women who had higher levels of education (adjusted OR 0·98, 95% CI 0·9–0·99) experienced less violence. Women those husbands regularly consumed alcohol (adjusted OR 5·5, 95% CI 4·7–6·5) had a nearly six-fold risk of experiencing physical violence [9].

Strength & limitation of this study: This study obtained the pattern of the domestic violence and extrapolated its different determinants in the women residing in the urban slum of north Bengal region, is quite less quoted in earlier works. As the by-product a good rapport could be build up with the study participants, and their family personnel; which would be used in future for awareness campaign. If this survey could be conducted with larger number of population spending longer duration, it would surely provide more methodological strength. For the cross-sectional study design the data limits ability to draw causal inference. No doubt as the result depends solely on recall of the facts, so recall bias or conscious falsification on the part of the participants regarding their ever experiences of domestic violence could have affected the results of the study.

Conclusion

The present study confirms the high prevalence of all forms of violence against women across all socio-economic settings. Older age, lower female education and lower family income, marital status, duration of marriage, gender of the child are associated with occurrence of different types of domestic violence. Women were at risk of violence by the husband than any other type of perpetrator. These results provide vital information to assess the situation to develop interventions as well as policies towards preventing violence against women. It was also useful to sensitize the primary healthcare institutions which should implement routine screening and treatment for violence related injuries and trauma.

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