



IJRASET

International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 8 Issue: VIII Month of publication: August 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2020.30975>

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Opium Addiction, Domestic Violence and Role of Education; A Study on the Women Victims of Kakopather, Assam

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Abstract: Domestic violence has become a widely serious problem now a days. Many women in Kakopather area of Tinsukia District are worst sufferer of domestic abuse. The study aims to explore domestic violence against women in Kakopather. It also aims to study the sociological and educational background of the women victims. The paper also throws light on the psychological and health condition of women victims and the root causes of addiction of the male members of the family.

The samples collected for the study are taken from both rural and urban areas of Kakopather. Stratified random sampling is done dividing the categories of victims in groups. The study is based on the primary sources of information. The investigator collects data with the help of questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed that opium addiction is the major cause of violence against women. Families have become scattered. It has deep impact on the psychology of offspring and the physical and mental status of victims gets affected.

Keywords- Opium Addiction, Domestic Violence, Education, Women Victims.

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence committed by family members within the home is the most serious of all types of violence. Domestic Violence occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Domestic violence often refers to violence between spouses, or spousal abuse but can also include cohabitants and non-married intimate partners. Domestic violence occurs in all cultures; people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexes and classes. Domestic violence is perpetrated by both men and women, occurring in both same-sex and opposite sex relationships. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation or threats of violence. It can include physical attacks, such as hitting, pushing, punching, as well as threatening with a weapon, psychological abuse, or forced sexual activity. Indirect physical violence may include destruction of objects, striking or throwing objects near the victim, or harm to pets. In addition to physical violence, spousal abuse often includes mental or emotional abuse, including verbal threats of physical violence to the victim, the self, or others including children, ranging from explicit, detailed and impending to implicit and vague as to both content and time frame, and verbal violence, including threats, insults, put-downs, and attacks. Nonverbal threats may include gestures, facial expressions, and body postures. Psychological abuse may also involve economic and social control, such as controlling victim's money and other economic resources. Education of the women victims plays an important role in assessing the harassment, exploitation, torture, etc and education even increase awareness about the possible actions and remedies.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Kaur, R. And Garg, S. (2008) conducted study on addressing domestic violence against women. Findings revealed that women are forced to stay in abusive relationships and are not able to be free from violence. Due to deep-rooted values and culture, women do not prefer to adopt the option of separation or divorce. The issue of domestic violence must be brought into open and examined as any other preventable health problem, and best remedies available be applied.

Chalawadi, H.S. (2009) conducted study on domestic violence a study of women victims. The purpose of this study was to study the domestic violence on women by their spouses, causes of domestic violence against women and study the preventive measures for the domestic violence on women. The findings revealed that low education and economically depended wives and high education and economically independent wives are suffering physical violence or domestic violence by their spouse's maximum in comparison to the metric or graduate wives who are economically depended on their husbands or getting less salary than their spouses, who are subjected to minimum physical or domestic violence.

Preeti. (2018) conducted study on violence against women in public and private spaces in Haryana. The main purpose of the study was to examine the type, frequency of violence against women in public and private spaces. For collect data the researcher was conducted survey in rural and urban areas of two districts in the state of Haryana. The most prominent reported crime against women is the cruelty by husband or his relatives in case of India as well as in the state of Haryana.

A. *Significance of The Study*

Domestic violence against women is a serious problem. Many women are victim of domestic abuse are on the increase. Domestic violence is a crime and hence needs attention. So there is need to see that their crimes be prevented. It is essential to explore the causes of domestic violence and situation of such cases of violence against women. It is essential to analyze the educational-occupational background of the women victims. Hence the present study is proved as significant in assessing the exact type of domestic violence against women in Kakopathar, Tinsukia, Assam.

B. *Statement of The Problem*

“OPIUM ADDICTION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ROLE OF EDUCATION; A STUDY ON THE WOMEN VICTIMS OF KAKOPATHER.”

C. *Objectives of The Study*

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- 1) To study the nature of domestic violence face by the women.
- 2) To explore the educational and occupational background of the victims of violence.
- 3) To study the causes of domestic violence against women.
- 4) To study the psychological and health condition of the women victims after violence.

D. *Hypotheses of The Study*

Following hypotheses were formulated for the present study:

- 1) Physical domestic violence is the major violence faced by the women.
- 2) Majority of the women victims are economically weak and they have studied up to matriculation.
- 3) Opium addiction is the major cause of domestic violence faced by women.
- 4) Majority of the women victims are physically weak and humiliated after violence.

E. *Delimitation of The Study*

- 1) The present study was delimited to 60 women victims.
- 2) The present study was delimited to women victims of Kakopathar of the Tinsukia district.

III. METHODOLOGY

- 1) *Research Method:* The Present study comes under the domain of descriptive survey method.
- 2) *Population:* Population in the present study comprises of the women victims of domestic violence Kakopathar of the Tinsukia district.
- 3) *Sample:* As per the sample for this work 30 women victims of domestic violence from rural areas and 30 women victims of violence from urban areas in Kakopathar were taken up on the basis of stratified random sampling.
- 4) *Tool:* For the purpose of the study, the researcher preferred to adopt the method of structured questionnaire schedule.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION

The investigator visited personally each and every selected house of women victims of domestic violence. The researcher started establishing rapport with women victims by visiting 2-3 times to their houses. With the discussion about their problems, the women victims responded positively to the researcher. In many cases, the family members especially mother and father of women victims were crying with sorrow regarding the violent acts of persons against their daughters. Few of the family members of women victims were illiterate and asked to the researcher for legal measures to be taken against violence. After collecting the data the investigator thanked the victims and their family members for their cooperation. The same procedure was followed in all the houses.

V. ANALYSIES AND INTERPRETATION

A. Nature of Domestic Violence Faced by the Women

The natures of violence as reported by the respondents are shown as under.

Table No.-1 Nature of domestic violence

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Verbal Abuse	14	46.66	10	33.33	24	40
Physical	8	26.67	8	26.67	16	26.67
Emotional	2	6.67	8	26.67	10	16.66
Economical	0	0	4	13.33	4	6.67
Social	6	20	0	0	6	10
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

The nature of domestic violence as suffered by rural women revealed that 14 (46.66%) were suffered from verbal abuse, 8 (26.67%) were suffered from physical abuse, 2 (6.67%) were suffered from emotional abuse, 6 (20%) were suffered from social abuse. On the other hand, the nature of domestic violence as suffered by urban women disclosed that, 10 (33.33%) were suffering from verbal abuse, 8 (26.67%) were suffering from physical abuse, 8 (26.67%) were suffering from emotional abuse, 4 (13.33%) were suffering from economical abuse.

The nature of domestic violence as stated by the total respondents shows that 24 (40%) are suffering from verbal abuse, 16 (26.66%) are suffering from physical abuse, 10 (16.67%) are suffering from emotional abuse, 4 (6.67%) are suffering from economical abuse, 6 (10%) are suffering from social abuse. It is highlighted that verbal abuse are leading types of violence against women in Kakopather. Hence the Hypothesis No. 1 that “Physical domestic violence is the major violence faced by the women” was not accepted.

B. Educational Qualification of the Victims

The information collected from the respondents on education is analyzed and tabulated as under.

Table No.-2.1 Education of the victims

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Illiterate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Up to 10 th Std	26	86.67	20	66.67	46	76.67
Intermediate/ Under Graduate	4	13.33	8	26.67	12	20
Graduate / PG	0	0	2	6.66	2	3.33
Any Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

Education of the majority of the rural respondents revealed that 26 (86.67%) have completed education up to 10th standard followed by 4 (13.33%) have completed intermediate or under graduates. Similarly education of the respondents living in urban areas show that, majority of the urban victims 20 (66.67%) have completed up to 10th standard, 8 (26.67%) have completed intermediate or under graduates and 2 (6.66%) have completed their graduate or post graduation.

To summarize on the education of all the respondents, considerable majority that is 46 (76.67%) have completed only up to 10th standard, followed by 12 (20%) have completed intermediate or under-graduates, 2 (3.33%) have completed graduation or post graduation. It is surprising to note that low-educated women are more victims to domestic violence in society. Hence the Hypothesis No. 2 “Majority of the women victims have studied upto matriculation” that was accepted.

C. Occupation of the Victims

The information about the occupations of the respondents was collected and tabulated as under.

Table No.-2.2 Occupation of the victims

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Housewife/ Unemployed	17	56.66	7	23.33	24	40
Employment in organised sector	3	10	7	23.33	10	16.66
Employment in Unorganised Sector	8	26.67	12	40	20	33.34
Business/ Industry	2	6.67	4	13.34	6	10
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

It is noted that of the rural respondents, 17(56.66%) are housewives or unemployed, 3 (10%) are working in organised sector, 8 (26.67%) are working in unorganised sector, only 2 (6.67%) are working in their own business or industry. Similarly, among the urban respondents, 7 (23.33%) are housewives or unemployment, 7 (23.33%) are employed in organised sector, 12 (40%) are working in unorganised sector, 4 (13.34%) are engaged in business or industry.

Overall of all the respondents surveyed, 24 (40%) are unemployed and housewives, followed by 10 (16.66%) are working in organised sector, 20 (33.34%) are working in unorganised sector, 6 (10%) are engaged in business or industry respectively. Hence the Hypothesis No. 2 “Majority of the women victims are economically weak” that was accepted.

D. Reasons for Violence

The information collected from the respondents about the reasons for domestic violence were analyzed and tabulated as under.

Table No.-3 Reasons for Violence

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Opium Addiction of Husband	14	46.67	5	16.66	19	31.66
Alcoholism of Husband	8	26.67	6	20	14	23.33
Demand for Dowry	5	16.67	4	13.34	9	15
Extra marital Relationship	1	3.33	4	13.34	5	8.33
Ego conflict	0	0	5	16.66	5	8.33
Any other reason	2	6.66	6	20	8	13.34
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

The reasons for domestic violence among the respondents living in rural areas shows that, 14 (46.67%) have expressed the reason for domestic violence is opium addiction of husband, 8 (26.67%) have expressed the reason for domestic violence is alcoholism of husband, 5 (16.67%) have remarked that the reason for violence is demand for dowry, 1 (3.33%) have stated that the reason for violence is extra marital relationship, 2 (6.66%) have give other reasons. Of the urban respondents surveyed, 5 (16.66%) have felt that opium addiction of husband is the main reason for violence, 6 (20%) have agreed that the alcoholism of husband is the main reason for violence, 4 (13.34%) have remarked that the reason for violence is demand for dowry, 4 (13.34%) have agreed that the extra marital relationship is the main reason for violence, 5 (16.66%) have felt that ego conflict is the reason of violence, 6 (20%) have mentioned other reasons.

On the reasons for violence, of all the respondents surveyed, 19 (31.66%) have felt that opium addiction of husband is main reason, 14 (23.33%) have agreed that alcoholism of husband is the reason, 9 (15%) have agreed that demand for dowry is the main reason for violence, 5 (8.33%) have felt that extra marital relationship is the reason for domestic violence, 5 (8.33%) have remarked that ego conflict is the reason for violence, 8 (13.34%) have stated that there are other reasons for violence. Hence the Hypothesis No. 3 that “Opium addiction is the major cause of domestic violence faced by women” was accepted.

E. Physical State of Health after Violence

The physical health of the respondents after facing domestic violence is shown as under.

Table No.- 4.1 Physical Status of Health after Violence

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Permanently Disabled	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.66
Severely Injured	4	13.33	1	3.33	5	16.64
Occasionally injured	10	33.34	7	23.34	17	28.34
Physically not effected	15	50	22	73.33	37	61.66
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

The physical state of health after violence as stated by the rural respondents, 1 (3.33%) have got permanently disabled, 4 (13.33%) have got severe injury, 10 (33.34%) have got occasionally injured and 15 (50%) have not injured physically. Among the urban respondents, 1 (3.33%) have expressed that they are severely injured, 7 (23.34%) have remarked that they are occasionally injured and 22 (73.33%) are not physically injured.

Among all the respondents, 1 (1.66%) are permanently disabled, 5 (16.64%) have stated that they are severely injured, 17 (28.34%) have remarked that they are occasionally injured, 37 (61.66%) have expressed that they are not physically injured. Hence the Hypothesis No. 4 that “Majority of the women victims are physically weak after violence” was accepted.

F. Mental State of Health After Violence

The mental health of the respondents after facing domestic violence is shown as under.

Table No.- 4.2 Mental Status of Health After Violence

Particulars	Rural Women		Urban Women		Total	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Mental Shock	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.66
Fear	7	23.33	3	10	10	16.67
Depressed	9	30	12	40	21	35
Humiliated	11	36.67	14	46.67	25	41.67
Any Other	2	6.67	1	3.33	3	5
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

Source: Field survey

The mental status of the respondents after facing violent acts is of more than one type. As expressed by the rural respondents, 1(3.33%) have faced mental shock, 7 (23.33%) have faced fear after violence, 9 (30%) are depressed after violence and 11 (36.67%) are humiliated, 2 (6.67%) have suffered in other ways. Similarly, of the urban respondents, 3 (10%) have suffered through fear, 12 (40%) have become depressed, 14 (46.67%) are humiliated and 1 (3.33%) have suffered in other ways also.

Of all the respondents surveyed, majority that is 1 (1.66%) were become mental sick, 10 (16.67%) were suffered from fear, 21 (35%) were become depressed, 25 (41.67%) are humiliated, 3 (5%) were suffered from other mental problems. Hence the Hypothesis No. 4 that “Majority of the women victims are humiliated after violence” was accepted.

VI. MAJOR FINDINGS

The findings from the present study are grounded as under.

- A. The present study is made on the basis of sample survey of 30 women victims of violence from rural areas and 30 women victims of violence from urban areas and towns. Hence, the total number of respondents was 60 women victims of violence.
- B. The nature of violence as stated by the total respondent's shows that, 40% are suffering from verbal abuse 26.67% are suffering from physical violence, 16.66% are suffering from emotional violence, 6.67% are suffering from economical violence, 10% are suffering from social violence. It is highlighted that verbal abuse are leading types of violence against women in Kakopather.
- C. Among the total respondents, 40% are housewife or unemployed, 16.66% are employed in organized sector, 33.34% are employed in unorganized sector, 10% are working in industry or business. Majority of the women victims do not have their own income and it means that they are not secured economically.
- D. Education of the women victims plays an important role in assessing the harassment, exploitation, torture etc and it increase awareness about the possible actions and remedies such as reporting case, types of punishments etc. Education of all respondents shows that 76.67% of all the respondents have completed only up to 10th standard, followed by 20% have completed intermediate or under graduate, 3.33% of the respondents have completed graduation. It is surprising to note that low-educated women are more victims to violence in society. Only a few of the respondents are with higher education.
- E. On the reasons for violence, of all the respondents surveyed, 31.66% have opium addiction of husband is the main reason, 23.33% have agreed that alcoholism of husband is the main reason, 15% have felt that demand for dowry is the reason, 8.33% have stated that extra marital relationship is the reason, 8.33% have remarked that ego conflict is the main reason for violence. It is highlighted that opium addiction of husband and alcoholism are significant reasons for violence.
- F. On their physical state after the violence, 1.66% are permanently disabled, 16.64% have stated that they are severely injured, 28.34% have remarked that occasionally injured and 61.66% have expressed that they are not physically injured. It is noted that few of the respondents are permanently disabled.
- G. There are many types of effects of violence as suffered by many respondents. As stated by all the respondents on their mental state after violence, 41.67% were become humiliated, 35% were become depressed, 16.67% were suffered from fear, 5% were suffered from other mental problems and 1.66% have faced metal shock, Fear, depression, humiliation, mental shock etc were major psychological health ailments from which the respondents were suffered due to violence.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

Following suggestions are made from the present study-

The bad habits such as opium addiction, alcoholism, extra marital affair etc should be banned from society.

- A. Due to dowry practice and such other practices, status of women is degraded in society. Hence, it is suggested to women and their family to oppose dowry practice in society.
- B. The women victims should come forward to register complaints.
- C. The women victims must consult psychologists to get remedies against the fear, depression, humiliation etc faced by them.
- D. The women must be given socio-economic freedom including freedom to work outside, freedom to spend their income etc.
- E. There is a need to create awareness among the women about domestic violence as most of them are not aware about their rights.
- F. Higher education is essentially needed for women and it is essential to include issues like gender equality, honour for women in family and society and laws passed to protect women from domestic violence.

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