

Systematic Review on Sociological Perspectives of Domestic Violence of Women

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence against women remains a pervasive social problem that transcends cultural, economic, and geographical boundaries. The sociological study explored that the nature, causes and consequences of domestic violence experienced by women with particular emphasis on structural inequalities, patriarchal norms, and socio-economic determinants. Domestic violence is not merely a private or individual issue but a systemic social problem rooted in gender inequality and cultural acceptance of male dominance. Exhaustive study suggested that the effective legal enforcement, social support systems, community awareness and gender-sensitive policy interventions to prevent domestic violence and promote the dignity, safety and empowerment of women. In this article, systematic review on sociological perspectives of domestic violence of women has been discussed.

Keywords: Sociological, Domestic, Violence, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence against women is a pervasive social problem that cuts across cultures, classes, religions, and geographical boundaries. It refers to any form of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, or emotional abuse inflicted upon women within the domestic sphere, most often by intimate partners or family members. From a sociological perspective, domestic violence is not merely an individual or private issue but a structural and systemic problem deeply rooted in unequal power relations, patriarchal norms, and gendered socialization processes. Domestic violence is closely linked with broader social factors such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment, substance abuse, and weak legal enforcement. Women from marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds often face heightened risks due to limited access to resources, social support, and institutional protection. At the same time, domestic violence is not confined to any single socio-economic group, indicating its deep entrenchment in social structures rather than individual pathology alone. A sociological study of domestic violence seeks to understand the interplay between family structure, social norms, power dynamics, and institutional responses. The objective of the study was to the systematic review on sociological perspectives of domestic violence of women.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Satyen, L. et al. (2024). Domestic abuse (DV) is a significant and preventable human rights concern that disproportionately impacts specific demographics, especially Indian women. Feminist theory posits that patriarchal ideas engender a sense of entitlement in male perpetrators of domestic violence; however, this has not been investigated concerning women from the Indian subcontinent. This study investigated the experiences of abuse (physical, sexual, and psychological) and controlling behavior among Indian women throughout 31 nations, analyzing the correlation between the patriarchal attitudes of their spouses and the women's experiences of domestic violence. This research employs an intersectional feminist framework to analyze the factors. Data from an online questionnaire was gathered from 825 Indian women aged 18 to 77 years residing in 31 countries across Asia (37.1%), Europe (18.3%), Oceania (23.8%), the Americas (16.1%), and Africa (3.2%), and analyzed by hierarchical linear regression. A significant proportion of individuals (72.5%) reported having encountered at least one type of abuse in their relationship, while more than a third (35.1%) experienced controlling conduct. In alignment with the primary hypotheses, after adjusting for potential confounding variables, women whose partners exhibited a stronger endorsement of patriarchal beliefs experienced reduced access to autonomy within their relationship and were more likely to have suffered abuse from their partner or a member of his family.

Ramanandi, A.J. et al. (2024). The Government of India mandated a state wide lockdown commencing on March 25, 2020. Reports indicate a general increase in domestic violence instances. Nonetheless, within the submerged segment of the iceberg, numerous victims remain entangled with the perpetrator and are unable to report. The aim is to compare

domestic violence between two independent groups of tribal women prior to and during the lockdown period in a sub-Himalayan district of India. A community-based analytical study with a cross-sectional design was undertaken from December 2019 to July 2020 among tribal women aged 15–49 years living in rural areas across four community development blocks in Siliguri, Darjeeling district, West Bengal, India. Two cohorts of 60 women were chosen prior to and during the lockdown. The interview utilized a pretested, predesigned schedule and the Indian Family Violence and Control Scale. The current study indicated that Indigenous women encountered significantly greater domestic abuse throughout the lockdown period.

Devi, A. & Saikia, P. (2024). Daily gender practices reinforce societal norms that prescribe actions for men and women. Violence against women highlights inequitable gender relations, confining women to inferior roles. The increasing global concern regarding various manifestations of violence against women is acknowledged as a violation of human rights and gender discrimination. Domestic violence, happening inside familial settings, includes physical, sexual, or psychological abuse directed at spouses, partners, or other household members. The domestic environment profoundly impacts children's education and personality development, offering affection, collaboration, and security. Children exposed to inter-parental violence frequently encounter vulnerability, psychiatric problems, and emotional anguish, adversely affecting their lives. Assam occupies the third position among Indian states for incidents of violence against women, signifying a concerning trend. This study investigates the frequency, characteristics, types, and causes of domestic violence in Assam, along with its implications on social and psychological well-being. Recognizing the significant effects of family violence on children's social, emotional, psychological, and scholastic development is essential.

Biswas, P. & Das Chatterjee, N. (2023). The objective of this study is to investigate the similarities in domestic violence against women in West Bengal, India, and to understand the probable contributing causes. The survey results indicated that 69.68% of participants in Bengal experienced domestic abuse regularly during their lives. The conventional patriarchal structure governing Bengali society predominantly reinforces the precariousness of ever-married women within the household, notwithstanding the presence of additional elements. In Bengali society, a significant association exists between situational, sociodemographic, and sociocultural factors and the victimization of women by domestic abuse. This study may not only assist society but also enhance legislators' efficacy in addressing this social issue.

Kibris, A. & Nelson, P. (2023). A fundamental strategy for fostering economic growth and reducing gender-based discrimination is the economic empowerment of women. While theoretical and empirical data suggests the potential for unforeseen adverse consequences, it is uncertain if the advantages apply to domestic violence. We provide and analyze new survey data from Turkey. Our data indicate that employed women are more susceptible to intimate relationship violence, mostly due to male partners' coercive rent-collecting practices. Organizations that advocate for this form of empowerment in developmental contexts must be cognizant of these potential downsides and implement strategies to mitigate them.

Vyas, S. et al. (2023). Research demonstrating the economic impact of violence against women and girls could enhance policy and advocacy initiatives for supporting violence prevention and response programs. Since 2005, we have conducted a thorough analysis of public data regarding the costs related to violence against women and girls in low- and middle-income countries. In addition to examining expenses, we assessed the consistency of the employed methodological procedures and identified and evaluated common methodological issues. Sub-Saharan Africa included eight of the thirteen artifacts discovered. Eight studies assessed the financial implications of intimate partner or domestic violence; supplementary studies evaluated the costs associated with sexual assaults, female genital mutilation, and interpersonal violence. Researchers often developed cost-estimating approaches based on accounting concepts. Our data indicates that individuals' out-of-pocket expenses for medical care after a violent incident varied from US\$29.72 in South Africa to US\$156.11 in Romania, while the average cost of lost productivity per facility visit ranged from US\$73.84 to US\$2,151.48 in South Africa. Nevertheless, variations in the interventions, scale, and resource allocations assessed impeded comparability, even though most studies quantified the provider costs of delivering services and disclosed the total programmatic expenses. Comparisons among various countries and contexts were challenging due to disparities in methodological assumptions and data accessibility. The limited range of studies assessing the intricate impacts of violence underscores the challenges in establishing cost metrics that extend beyond specific violent incidents. Our analysis concludes that, notwithstanding the limited database, the estimated costs of violence against women and girls constitute a minor fraction of the true financial burden involved.

Jyotirmay, A.R., et al. (2022). Since the early 1990s, violence against women has been recognized as a violation of human rights in several significant international declarations. Intimate partner violence, sometimes referred to as domestic abuse or violence against women, constitutes a significant societal issue. It manifests in various ways and is ubiquitous around the globe, transcending national boundaries. This study aimed to ascertain the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) against indigenous women of reproductive age in the Siliguri subdivision of the Darjeeling district. A cross-sectional survey was undertaken with 360 tribal women aged 15 to 49 residing in certain villages within the Siliguri subdivision. We employed the Indian Family Violence and Control Scale questionnaire to collect

data on intimate partner violence (IPV). Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 20, employing multi-variable logistic regression to identify variables associated with domestic violence. The survey indicates that 70.3% of women had experienced domestic abuse at some stage in their lives. IPV had a significant correlation with the following characteristics as determined by logistic regression analysis: individuals aged 30 to 49 years, education exceeding elementary level, unskilled employment, monthly per capita income of \$2500 or more, and participants who are separated or divorced. Among the factors related to male partners, the experience of domestic abuse was correlated with literacy levels exceeding those of primary education. The research group disclosed the presence of all types of domestic abuse. The findings may offer policymakers novel insights into the allocation of resources to eradicate domestic violence against women.

Dandona, R. et al. (2022). The prevalence of self-reported domestic violence against women in India is significant. This article analyses national and subnational patterns in domestic violence in India to prioritize preventive measures and highlight deficiencies in the quality of surveillance data. The researchers obtained data from the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) yearly reports utilizing four categories of domestic violence offenses: cruelty by spouse or his family, dowry death, abetment to suicide, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. From 2001 to 2018, the incidence of each crime was documented per 100,000 women aged 15 to 49 in India and its states. The authorities eliminated information regarding the inmates and the legal status of the cases. To effectively address domestic violence against women in India, prompt measures are necessary to strengthen the integrity of NCRB data and expand the availability of information regarding domestic abuse cases.

Yasmin, M. et al. (2022). This study aimed to assess the prevalence of domestic violence against women and analyze the socio-demographic characteristics of the victims in India. The research analyzed the variations in the incidence of emotional, physical, and sexual violence against ever-married women during a decade (2005-2015) in all Indian member states. In 2015, the incidence of domestic violence against married women in India was as follows: emotional violence, 13%; physical violence, 28%; and sexual violence, 7%. Rajasthan recorded the most significant reduction in the incidence of domestic violence against women over the past decade since 2005. Younger age, urban residency, poorer educational attainment, and diminished socioeconomic status were significant predictors of marital violence. Enhancements in female education, the promotion of information concerning their rights, and improved social support are essential to diminish the incidence of violence against women. Moreover, involving men in the battle against domestic abuse may have beneficial outcomes.

Fatemeh, A. et al. (2021). Suburbanization has exacerbated the prevalence and spread of domestic violence against women, alongside the myriad social, economic, cultural, security, and environmental challenges confronting metropolitan areas. This study aimed to investigate the social determinants of domestic violence among suburban women in developing countries, as several socioeconomic factors may influence violence against this demographic. We conducted a search for the selected terms, considering MESH, in Google Scholar, MEDLINE, SID, Web of Science, PubMed, Scopus, and Science Direct from 2009 to 2019, adhering to PRISMA principles. The JBI was employed for qualitative research, whereas the STROBE checklist was applied for quantitative studies. Ultimately, thirty distinguished researchers were chosen. Researchers identified a prevalence of general domestic violence among women of diverse ages, ranging from 2.3% to 73.78%, in the suburban regions of developing countries. The prevalence of physical, emotional, and psychological violence ranged from around 11.54% to 61.6% and 7.8% to 84.3%, respectively. The prevalence rates of verbal, sexual, and economic violence were 0.8–58.8%, 13.7–43.7%, and 33.21–86.1%, respectively. The husband's substance abuses and the structural dynamics of an early marriage were the predominant factors contributing to violence against women. Globally, there is a significant frequency of general domestic violence and its subcategories. Factors contributing to domestic violence encompass age, marital status, low literacy levels, and substance abuse in the partner. By tackling these concerns, specialized health planning can enhance women's health and thereby mitigate violence against suburban women.

Das, S. (2021). Social, political, economic, institutional, and psychological mechanisms influence the perception of gender oppression, domestic violence, and resistance. These two aspects are interconnected, revealing that these three separate concepts share a commonality: "fashioning self," or prioritizing "I am this body" (Menon). The plethora of signifiers associated with volcanic eruptions serves as a manifestation of societal fears and the experience of physical or mental deprivation. The degree of political authority an individual possesses in a relationship is contingent upon their tenacity in overcoming diverse challenges, indicative of a lifelong preoccupation with human subjectivity and power dynamics. The primary themes of Foucauldian treatises encompass obligations, compromises, and the revelation of concealed aspects of power and resistance between monogamy and infidelity. We are currently experiencing a series of diverse malfunctions or conditions, attributable to the complex dynamics of concealed human interactions and catastrophic dichotomies in this contemporary age, which can be encapsulated as a period of violent peace. Key concepts or self-perceptions may indicate a reluctance to embrace the individual they are genuinely connecting with or supporting. Instead of viewing rape as an assault on personal bodily integrity, the legal framework of an ideal patriarchal society has expressed its disdain of familial value. In her book, "Seeing Like a Feminist: Rape Is a Fate Worse Than Death," Menon articulates this concept. The family, considered the primary source of socialization, should

function as a sanctuary; nevertheless, the actual experience often diverges significantly from this ideal. The film *Begum Jan* empathetically explores the issue and serves as a basis for discussing this topic.

Coll, C.V.N. et al. (2020). Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is a substantial obstacle for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in attaining the 2030 health objectives for women, children, and adolescents, transcending social and economic differences and becoming a grave public health issue. A growing number of demographic and health surveys in low- and middle-income countries now incorporate standardized indicators for intimate partner violence. At the national level, disaggregated analysis and regular reporting are essential for identifying population segments most vulnerable to IPV exposure. We analyzed data from surveys done in 46 countries between 2010 and 2017 to ascertain the frequency and inequalities in recent sexual, physical, and psychological abuse among women aged 15 to 49 who have been in a relationship. Disaggregating the data according to household wealth, women's age, women's empowerment level, polygyny status, and residential location facilitated the evaluation of disparity. The reported incidence of IPV varied significantly among countries, from under 5% in Comoros and Armenia to exceeding 40% in Afghanistan. Moreover, substantial discrepancies existed within nations. Generally, women with greater wealth and authority reported fewer occurrences of intimate relationship violence. Younger women and individuals residing in rural areas generally encounter elevated levels of intimate partner violence, with disparities noted across several countries according to age and geographic location. This study enhances existing information by providing a comprehensive review of the prevalence of different types of intimate partner violence (IPV) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This information facilitates the identification of the most vulnerable groups of women and supports future monitoring, ensuring that no individual is overlooked in the effort to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Khandelwal, T. (2019). Although generic crimes, such as murder and robbery, can affect women, many offenses are specifically gender-based and categorized as violence against women. Women who fear violence may be incapacitated in their ability to work, pursue education, or exercise their voice and political rights. Victims and their families experience anguish and distress due to violence against women, which also imposes a significant burden on society worldwide. The obligations and rights of men and women provide the foundation of this social construct. Violence against women is a significant worry and a bad indicator of a nation's growth, as it infringes upon women's independence and their rights to safety. Women globally have recognized the potency of social media in highlighting their suffering, particularly through the use of hashtags.

Sardinha, L. et al. (2018). Intimate partner violence against women constitutes a global public health concern with several immediate and long-term repercussions for the physical and mental health of victims and their children. Target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandates its eradication. This study seeks to provide global, regional, and national baseline estimates of physical or sexual violence against women by male intimate partners, or both, to monitor governmental progress towards SDG target 5.2. This study utilized data from the WHO Worldwide Database on the Prevalence of Violence Against Women to generate estimates at national, regional, and worldwide levels. We obtained these data through a comprehensive examination of national statistics and additional sources, with a systematic literature review that encompassed searches of MEDLINE, Global Health, Embase, Social Policy, and Web of Science. The research team collaborated with the nation to identify supplementary studies. From 2000 to 2018, the research included employed act-based assessments of intimate relationship abuse, covering physical, sexual, or both modalities. They encompassed women aged 15 years or older and were representative at the national or sub-national level. Data not derived from a population, administrative records, studies unsuitable for generalization to the entire population, studies reporting only the aggregate prevalence of physical or sexual violence, intimate partner violence alongside other violence types, and studies lacking sufficient data for extrapolation or imputation were all excluded. We employed a Bayesian multilevel model to concurrently assess intimate partner violence during the preceding year and across an individual's lifetime, categorized by age, year, and country. This methodology assigned weights to surveys based on their national or sub-national representativeness, considering diverse age demographics and discrepancies in outcome definitions.

Kumar, S. & Casey, A. (2017). Middle-class women encounter societal stigma and exhibit hesitance in revealing intimate partner violence (IPV), leading to an absence of solutions addressing their particular concerns. Moreover, whereas prior studies have focused on the diverse impacts of IPV on women's employment and job performance, there is a scarcity of material regarding paid work among middle-class women. This hermeneutic phenomenology study found that ten middle-class women who experienced empowerment in their job roles did not engage actively in the empowerment process at work. The study examines how women juxtapose their experiences with intimate partner violence (IPV) against their employment, where they access resources, attain success, reclaim their identities, and effectuate improvements in their personal lives. This study asserts that a job is crucial for these women's initiation of their empowerment journey. When social workers and human resources experts recognize the positive and interrelated nature of work-related issues impacting personal matters, they can implement treatments that provide enduring outcomes. Given the substantial societal implications of empowerment, organizations must prioritize the cultivation of a work culture that endorses it.

Tyagi, M. (2015). Domestic abuse is a pervasive issue; its true magnitude is challenging to quantify. Global data indicate that approximately 33 percent of women have encountered violence at some stage in their lives. In India, women constitute over fifty percent of the population and possess different freedoms and rights; nonetheless, similar to other developing nations, violence against women is pervasive and alarming. Domestic abuse infringes upon human rights and obstructs individuals from exercising their fundamental rights. Although the manifestations of violence vary between societies, cultures, and religions, it persists in underdeveloped, developing, and industrialized countries alike. Domestic violence denotes "assaultive and coercive behaviors that adults employ against their intimate partners" (Holden, 2003). India possesses a comprehensive framework of legislation designed to safeguard women against assault. The Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a significant milestone in the history of legal regulation and judicial reaction to domestic violence issues. The incidence of violence against women escalated by 44 percent from 1993 to 2011. The paper's findings are anticipated to illuminate people and the community regarding the causes and repercussions of violence against women. The report presents policy recommendations for governmental and non-governmental entities to solve the issue.

Mahapatro, M. et al. (2012). Over the past decade, research on domestic violence has heightened awareness of the issue as a public health priority. This research aims to investigate the prevalence of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, along with other risk variables, affecting Indian women who may experience domestic violence. We employed an analytical cross-sectional design for our multicentric study. The study includes 14,507 female respondents across 18 states in India. We conducted probability proportional to size and multistage sampling. The statistics indicate that 39% of women, in total, experienced abuse. In India, women are more susceptible to domestic violence if they lack education, belong to a lower caste, have a spouse who consumes alcohol or engages in gambling, and possess lower household incomes. These constitute substantial risk factors. The present findings concerning the gravity of the situation may facilitate heightened awareness among pertinent authorities in India, thus permitting stringent implementation of the existing statute against domestic violence. This may lead to a more favorable and enduring response to domestic abuse in India, improving the health and welfare of women.

Sarkar, M. (2010). Domestic violence against women is prevalent globally, irrespective of culture, religion, class, or nationality. Domestic violence may arise from various factors and can have harmful consequences on an individual's health. The study aimed to determine the prevalence, characteristics, causes, and sociodemographic associations of domestic violence, along with women's perceptions of their capacity to cope with and escape from such situations. We performed a cross-sectional observational study by interviewing 141 adult and adolescent female residents of a hamlet in West Bengal using a pre-designed and validated questionnaire. Statistical analysis of the data was conducted using simple proportions and significance tests, specifically the chi-square test. The study underscores the necessity for authentic female empowerment and promotes a multidisciplinary strategy for formulating public health strategies that effectively address domestic abuse.

Zamani, R. (2009). Contemporary society is characterized by civilization and democracy, founded on the ideas of equality and freedom for all individuals. It inevitably results in a widespread repudiation of gender discrimination. Consequently, various international human rights norms advocating for women's equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against them are in place. The rights of women have garnered significant attention and concern due to initiatives such as Women's Year and Women's Decade. The government enacts many policies and programs to enhance women's position and attain women's rights. Nonetheless, despite several efforts, domestic violence against women continues to be a critical issue that endangers their very existence. In his 1869 work "The Subjection of Women," John Stuart Mill asserted that the family is not an institution of tyranny but rather a genuine institution for cultivating the qualities of freedom, positing that marriage ought to be viewed as an equitable partnership akin to a commercial partnership. Conversely, women, being about half of the worldwide population, are the most susceptible to domestic violence and exploitation. Even "home," sometimes described as a "poor man's castle" and a place intended for warmth, love, and tenderness, is perilous for women. Instead, it has transformed into a nexus of violence, exploitation, and many forms of harsh and brutal mistreatment. Women are susceptible to abuse both in the workplace and in public spaces. Nonetheless, the most lamentable facet of her predicament is that she experiences discomfort even within the confines of her home. The severity of the issue escalates when the perpetrators are identified, particularly when they are associated with the victim and are someone expected to protect her. The most unfavorable outcome occurs when there are no witnesses to the victim's crime. Thus, the intricacy of the overarching problem arises from the inherent characteristics of domestic abuse. All cultures have historically seen "domestic violence" as an archaic practice prevalent in nearly all societies, whether developed or developing, thereby integrating it into the social milieu. Consequently, it was deemed neither inappropriate nor unusual. The phrase "domestic violence" was not widely recognized or addressed. Consequently, the phrase "domestic violence" is very recent. Society presently acknowledges domestic violence against women as a critical issue inflicted by their dads, mothers, brothers, and in-laws. It is often regarded as a gender-specific structural phenomenon inherent in the system.

Dodenhoff, J. (2008). Spousal violence among the lower class during the Victorian era has garnered significant attention. The growing isolation of residences during this era caused the British middle classes to perceive themselves as exempt from similar maltreatment. Moreover, emotional abuse was scarcely acknowledged as a concern in Victorian

definitions of maltreatment. Compassionate Victorian middle-class individuals contributed to the prevailing notion of middle-class and upper-class residences as tranquil sanctuaries by highlighting the challenging living conditions of urban slums and firmly associating violence and disorder with the lower classes.

CONCLUSION

The sociological study of domestic violence against women revealed that it is not merely an individual or private issue but a deeply rooted social problem embedded within patriarchal structures, unequal power relations, and socio-cultural norms. The persistence of domestic violence reflects broader systemic inequalities related to gender, class, education, economic dependence, and socialization processes that normalize male dominance and female subordination within the family. In conclusion, addressing domestic violence against women requires transformative social change that challenges patriarchal values, promotes gender equality, and empowers women socially, economically and psychologically. Sustainable solutions lie in collective efforts involving the state, civil society, educational institutions, and families to create a supportive environment where women can live with dignity, security, and equal rights. Only through such comprehensive and sustained interventions can domestic violence be effectively prevented and eliminated from society.

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