

A Psychological study of Domestic Violence against women of Patna district in context of their family structure

***Kasak Kumari**

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, Patna University, Patna

**** Dr. Uday Shankar**

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

ABSTRACT

The present research was intended to study the level of emotional intelligence among the women of Patna district. Also, it was an attempt to find out the effect of family structure on the domestic violence of the women. 80 women have been selected as the sample in this study. Among them, 45 were from nuclear families and 35 were from joint families. Domestic Violence against Women Scale by Himanshi Rastogi and Janki D. Moorjani (2017) was used in this study. Results revealed that women from joint families are more victims of domestic violence than the women from nuclear families.

Keywords: Domestic Violence; Women; Patna; Psychological

Introduction:

Women in India are still fighting for a respectful life. They are facing lots of threat to their dignity every day- Domestic violence, Eve Teasing, Sexual Abuse etc. According to Chaudhary (2012), the State Commission for Women said that more than half of the women in Bihar suffer domestic violence and pregnant women suffer the most. Chandramukhi Devi, member of the State Commission for Women, stressed on promoting awareness among women regarding legal provisions and arranged for counselling of men who indulge in violence.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act) provides for protection orders to women victims of domestic violence. According to this Act, the definition of Domestic Violence also includes harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands on the woman or her relatives (Vindhya, 2000). Several studies have identified factors associated with a greater probability of Domestic Violence among women in India, including an inability to perform household duties and responsibilities, financial abuse and strain, hierarchical gender relationships, lower household income,

illiteracy, exposure to violence during childhood, belonging to a lower caste, an inability to have a male child, a younger age at the time of marriage, employment status, insufficient dowry, and partner's use of alcohol (Dutta, Rishi, Roy, & Umashankar, 2016; Kamat, Ferreira, Motghare, Kamat, & Pinto, 2010; Mahapatro, Gupta, & Gupta, 2012; Raj, 2010; Sinha, 2012; Visaria, 1999).

Women in Bihar feel insecure. This is reflected in the perceived increase in domestic violence against women in Patna (Rodgers and Satija, 2011) as well as in the cited villages, which have witnessed an increase in dowry-giving and other social practices that place females in a disadvantaged position.

According to Kashyap and Pandey (2011), which quotes data from the women crime cell of Bihar police, the number of cases of violence against women has increased significantly. Family plays an important role in a person's life. Family is the surrounding in which a person grows with emotions, feelings, beliefs, thoughts and motivations. With the traditions and norms of the family, a person acquires knowledge about social and cultural values and develops attitudes and personality.

Objective of the Research

This research has been carried out with following broad objectives:

1. To assess the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Patna district.
2. To explore the effect of family structure in the occurrence of domestic violence among women.

Research Variables

1. **Independent variable**– Family Structure
2. **Dependent variable** – Domestic Violence

Need of the study:

The female section of the Indian society has always attracted the attention of the successive governments and social scientists. In the current scenario, where we are living in the 21st century, the women are still facing lots of social and psychological problems. There have been numerous records of violence against them. Domestic violence is very frequent in the rural as well as the urban areas. It is very essential to explore the circumstances and the factors for this evil act. There only this violence can be stopped.

Research Hypothesis:

Following hypotheses have been framed for being tested in this research:

1. Women will experience average cases of domestic violence.
2. Women from joint families will be more victims of domestic violence than the women from nuclear families.
3. Women from nuclear and joint families would be different on the different dimensions of domestic violence.

Research Methodology:

(A) Sample- 80 women have been selected as the sample in this study. Among them, 45 were from nuclear families and 35 were from joint families. They were in the age group of 20 to 40 years. They

were belonging from different areas of Patna District. Purposive sampling method has been applied for determining the sample.

Inclusive Criteria:

- Women between age group of 20 to 40 years
- Nuclear and Joint families
- Subjects residing in Patna district

Exclusive Criteria:

- Women below 20 years and above 40 years of age
- Subjects residing outside Patna district
- Subjects having psychiatric history

(B) Research Tool:

There has been one scale used in this study which is 'Domestic Violence against Women Scale'. It is developed by Himanshi Rastogi and Janki D. Moorjani (2017). This scale consists 82 items divided into five dimensions– I. Physical, II. Psychological, III. Economic, IV. Sexual, V. Deprivation of Rights Violence. Scoring on this scale is done on a five point format as 1,2,3,4 and 5. Scores varies from 82 to 410. High score indicates high violence.

(C) Research Design:

The between group research design has been used in this study. Domestic Violence has been studied as the dependent variable while the family structure of the women has been treated as the independent variable.

(D) Data Collection Procedure:

Each subject has been approached individually. The printed instructions on the scale were read out to them. After that they were asked to respond on all the items of the scale.

(E) Data Analysis:

The obtained data were subjected to statistical analysis with the help of Mean, SD and t-ratio.

Results:

The results of the study have been presented in the tabular forms with the help of Table A and B.

Table-A

Mean scores of women from nuclear and joint families on the domestic violence scale

	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	Significance
Women from Nuclear families	45	211.02	13.72	14.47	P<.01
Women from Joint families	35	254.15	12.88		

Table- A shows the mean scores of women from nuclear and joint families on the domestic violence scale. It is clear from the table that both groups have displayed average level of domestic violence which supports the first hypothesis. Also, the mean of women from joint families is higher than the mean of nuclear families. It means that women of joint families are more victims of domestic violence in comparison with women from nuclear

families. This confirms the second hypothesis of the study. The finding is in the support of study by Miller, (1999); Madhurima, (1996). Nuclear family provides more freedom and space for women. But in the joint family, there are many obligations and responsibilities. But in joint families, members cannot get much freedom and space and they often feel caught between the traditions of their culture of origin.

Table-B
Mean scores of women from nuclear and joint families on the different dimensions of domestic violence scale

S. no.	Symbol	Dimensions of Domestic Violence Scale	Women from Nuclear families (N=45)		Women from Joint families (N=35)		t-ratio
			Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1	A	Physical	34.24	4.89	58.52	5.32	20.93 P<.01
2	B	Psychological	59.22	4.97	61.03	5.36	1.56 P>.01
3	C	Economic	31.15	5.01	36.38	4.11	5.18 P<.01
4	D	Sexual	38.24	3.48	41.59	4.51	3.64 P<.01
5	E	Deprivation of Rights	48.17	4.74	56.63	3.68	8.81 P<.01

Table- B Show illustrates the mean scores of women from nuclear and joint families on the different dimensions of domestic violence scale. As can be seen from the table that both groups have found to be different on the four dimensions of domestic violence scale which are- Physical, Economic, Sexual and Deprivation of Rights. Also, on the four dimensions, the women from joint families have secured high score than the women from nuclear families. It clarifies that the effect of family structure is very immense. The women in joint family deal with so many members and they put women in following social and cultural rules. Sometimes the women in joint families face dowry problem and they get deprived from their rights. They face physical and sexual assault and have no freedom for earning or having money. In contrast, women of nuclear families have lots of freedom from cultural boundaries. They are aware of their rights because they get chance for being educated. This system prevents them from domestic violence.

On the other side, women from nuclear and joint families have found to be equal on the dimension of psychological violence. It shows that psychological abuse can be done anywhere and anytime, whether it is a joint family or a nuclear family. This depends on the status of women in the society. As Indian society is a male dominated society. So the men's behaviours towards women cannot be different in different families. On a psychological level, all men have male ego which results into psychological spit for women in different scenario. These finding partially supports the third hypothesis of the study.

Major findings of the study:

The major findings that have been derived from the present study are as follows:

1. There is a significant difference between women from nuclear and joint families on the scale of domestic violence.
2. Women from joint families are more victims of domestic violence than the women from nuclear families.

3. Women from nuclear and joint families are different on the different dimensions of domestic violence scale.

Conclusion:

Conclusively, it can be said that family structure is a prominent factor in occurrence of domestic violence among women.

Suggestion:

The women should be legally aware about domestic violence. The commission for women in different states must be active on any such case about domestic violence. Also, women must be educated for dealing with this evil of the society.

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