

Gender-Based Violence: A Shred of Evidence from NFHS 5

2022 - 23

Population Research Centre

(Established by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act. 1956)

Pune, Maharashtra - 411004

Gender-Based Violence

A Shred of Evidence from National Family Health Survey-5



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March 2023

Report prepared for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India, New Delhi.

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CHAPTER –1: Introduction

1.1 Background

Gender-based violence is a widespread issue around the globe, which seriously impacts women's health and well-being. Domestic violence refers to a pattern of abusive behavior of the partner or any person used to control, dominate, or maintain power against their partner or another person. It can be in various forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial abuse that influences another person. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report on the world estimates of intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence, approximately 35 percent of women across the globe reported experiencing either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence (WHO, 2021). However, domestic violence's prevalence greatly varies from country to country.

In developing countries, women are vulnerable to many forms of violence, and intimate violence against women is the most common form (Heise et al., 1994; Koenig, 2006). Men have committed this violence against women irrespective of their social, economic, cultural, religious, and regional groups (Bhatta, 2014). Moreover, the effects of domestic violence can be long-lasting, and victims have serious consequences on their physical and mental health, including their reproductive and sexual health (Sinha et al., 2013). It increases the risk of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal ideation (Deb et al., 2018), and also experiences social and financial difficulties, such as loss of employment and difficulty obtaining housing

However, this study focuses on the three most common types of spousal violence, i.e., physical, sexual, and emotional violence, and what are the determinants associated with violence against women. Physical violence is the first form of spousal violence involving the use of physical force with the intention of causing fear, injury, or harm, including hitting, slapping, pushing, choking, kicking, strangling, or any other similar actions. Thus, this can have wide-ranging and enduring repercussions on people, families, and entire communities. Sexual violence is the second form of spousal violence that refers to any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting which includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation,

and any other non-consensual sexual activity (WHO, 2021). This physical violence is a serious, pervasive form of violence against women that affects women across all ages, social class, ethnicity, marital status, and national origin. The United Nations (UN) defines sexual violence as "being forced to have sexual intercourse without your consent, or because you feared of what your perpetrator or partner may do to you, or/and being sexually coerced to do something humiliating or degrading" (WHO, 2013).

Sexual violence has significant physical, psychological, and social consequences for women in India. Victims of sexual violence often suffer from physical injuries, such as bruises, lacerations, and fractures, and contract sexually transmitted infections, including HIV (Koenig et al., 2006). Moreover, sexual violence has long-term psychological effects on survivors, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal ideation. Socially, survivors of sexual violence may face stigma and discrimination from their communities, which can lead to isolation and exclusion (Garg & Goyal, 2014). According to the World Health Organization (2013), 7 percent of women globally have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner. Still, there is less data on the health impact of non-partner sexual violence. Still, non-partner sexual violence is harmful, with women survivors of such violence over twice as likely as non-victims to have alcohol use disorders and to experience depression or anxiety.

Emotional violence is the third form of domestic violence, and that involves the use of words, actions, or lack of action to hurt, scare, or control another person, which includes verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, insults, humiliation, and other forms of emotional abuse, thus can cause psychological harm or trauma to the victim (WHO, 2021). Emotional violence is a form of abuse that can devastate individuals and their relationships. Unlike physical violence, emotional violence is not always obvious and can be more difficult to recognize and address. Therefore, the victim is often vulnerable and dependent on the abuser, leaving them with limited options for escape. The effects of emotional violence can be long-lasting and profound, impacting mental and emotional health, relationships, and overall quality of life. Victims experience low self-esteem, guilt and shame, and a sense of hopelessness.

1.1.1 Domestic violence in India

Domestic violence can have severe physical and mental health consequences for women in India, and physical injuries, such as bruises, cuts, and broken bones, lead to chronic health problems such

as headaches, gastrointestinal problems, and gynecological disorders (Joshi, Dhawan, & Singh, 2017). Several factors contribute to domestic violence against women in India, including patriarchal norms, gender inequality, poverty, and lack of education (Koenig et al., 2003). In many parts of India, women are viewed as subordinate to men and are expected to obey their husbands and male family members. Therefore, it leads to women being deprived of their basic human rights and being subjected to violence if they do not comply with these norms. Poverty and lack of education can also increase the risk of domestic violence against women, as women may lack the resources to leave abusive situations or to seek help (Jeyaseelan, Kumar, & Neelakantan, 2007).

According to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been reported against women in India every three minutes, two women are raped every sixty minutes, and a young married woman is found beaten to death or burnt every six hours. India as a society has been rooted in patriarchy and practiced it over decades, and most women feel that it is the right of men to beat their wives if she commits any mistakes. Despite these efforts, many women in India continue to face barriers to accessing these services, including a lack of awareness, stigma, and fear of retaliation by their abusers. Moreover, domestic violence against women is a complex and widespread issue in India, with severe bodily and emotional health repercussions for women. Patriarchal standards, female discrimination, poverty, and a lack of education are all factors that contribute to the issue.

1.2 Literature Review

Intimate partner violence against women is a major violation of their human rights and a public health issue (Heise, 1993; Ellsberg et al., 2001), and it has been acknowledged by the World Health Organization as a "Global Hidden Pandemic"(WHO, 2021). A close partner is responsible for the majority of domestic violence in the globe, which takes in the form of physical aggression, sexual coercion, emotional and psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006; Yount et al., 2011). Domestic violence occurs in all countries worldwide, irrespective of social, cultural, and religious identities and economic backgrounds. It is reported that approximately 35% of women worldwide experience domestic violence in their lifetime. However, the proportion of women exposed to physical or sexual violence varies from 15% in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia, as per a WHO multi-country study (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006).

Prior literature has identified several risk factors for domestic violence against women, including individual factors (age, education status), household factors (income, family type), relational factors (marital relationship, male dominance), and community factors (community sanctions against domestic violence, social capital, gender norms) (Adjah & Agbemaflle, 2016; Boyle et al., 2009; Kimuna et al., 2013; Koenig et al., 2006). Further, a significant relationship exists between dowry and domestic abuse in India (Rastogi & Therly, 2006; Srinivasan & Bedi, 2007). The frequency of violence against women continues to be unacceptably high, endangering women's general well-being (Kimuna et al., 2013; Mahapatro et al., 2012). In India, approximately 27% of ever-married women in India encountered physical attacks, 13% were mentally abused, and their spouse sexually assaulted 6% in 2015-16. (International Institute for Population Sciences [IIPS] & ICF, 2017).

According to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 of the Indian Constitution, domestic violence is defined as any act or conduct that constitutes harassment, harm, injuries, or threats to an aggrieved person or behaviors that likely result in physical, sexual, economic, emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse (Government of India, 2005). The actual abuse and/or threat of abuse are considered violence in this act. Although many scholars have proposed various definitions of domestic violence, the idea of "coercive control" is considered the most effective way to understand violence against women in a patriarchal context like India. Coercive control is the multi-faceted form of oppression rooted within the patriarchal social structure that harms women's autonomy, dignity, and equality and is designed to secure and expand gender-based privileges by establishing a regime of male domination (Stark, 2007).

Although strong anthropological evidence supports that differential power and control are important underlying causes for physical and other forms of violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, there has been inadequate quantitative evidence until recently behind this association (Jewkes, 2002; Johnson, 1995). Similarly, studies have found a relationship between unequal power differences in an intimate relationship and spousal violence (Kwagala et al., 2013; Lamichhane et al., 2011; Rahman et al., 2013). However, a general understanding of the underlying factors affecting domestic violence in developing countries remains limited. As far as aware, very little study has been done on the connections between power dynamics, controlling behaviour, wife-beating views, and domestic violence in India. The process and effects of domestic

violence will be better understood by focusing on the role of control and various power dynamics in a marriage, which is crucial for preventing and reducing violence against women.

1.3 Rational of the study

India's culture has a long history of patriarchy, which supports domestic abuse. Many women experience domestic abuse due to poor literacy rates and partners' alcohol consumption habits. Previous research predominantly focused on the perspective of female respondents, despite evidence that the principal perpetrators of domestic violence in Indian settings are men. Moreover, most prior studies exclusively focused on physical violence, with a few investigations on sexual violence.

Finally, some studies exclusively focus on the roles of individual-level determinants. Still, less attention was given to community roles and contextual determinants in precipitating or protecting against violence against women (Koenig et al., 2006). However, the present study aims to examine the prevalence, causes, and consequences of domestic violence against women in various forms and its contextual determinants in India. It will also explore the various interventions and programs to address this problem.

1.4 Objectives

The broad objective of the study is to understand the various aspects of domestic violence and to analyze the policies formed to date in India by using NFHS-5 data. However, the present research paper aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To assess the prevalence of physical violence against women and its associated determinants in India using NFHS-5 data.
- To assess the prevalence of sexual violence and its associated factors using NFHS-5 data.
- To examine the prevalence of emotional violence against women and factors associated with emotional violence in India using NFHS-5 data.
- To review the effectiveness of existing domestic violence policies designed to reduce domestic violence.

1.5 Chapterization of the study

This report has been organized into 'six' chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Data and Methodology

Chapter 3: Physical Violence in India and Its Determinants

Chapter 4: Sexual Violence in India and Its Determinants

Chapter 5: Emotional Violence in India and Its Determinants

Chapter 6: Policies and Laws on Domestic Violence in India

CHAPTER – 2: Data and Methodology

2.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the data sources, study area, sample selection, variables used in this study, and statistical analysis conducted for this study.

2.2 Data source

The study used data from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), which was conducted in two phases during 2019-21 and covered all the states and Union territories of India. NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), a nodal agency under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. The primary objective of the survey is to provide high-quality data on health and family welfare and emerging issues in the area. Besides providing evidence on the effectiveness of ongoing programmes, NFHS-5 data will help to identify the need for new programmes in specific health areas like fertility levels, infant and child mortality, reproductive maternal and child health, etc., by background characteristics. The survey provides information on sexual behaviour, husband's background, women's work, HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour, and domestic violence only at the state level.

2.3 Sample design

A stratified two-stage sample has been adopted in the NFHS-5 survey. The 2011 census served as the sampling frame for the selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). Villages are PSUs in rural areas and taken sampling frame with probability proportional to size (PPS). Census Enumeration Blocks (CEBs) are PSUs in urban areas that were obtained from the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India, New Delhi. Both villages and CEBs were sorted according to the percentage of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (SCs/STs) population in each in each village and CEB. Finally, households were randomly selected using systematic sampling.

2.4 Study population

In NFHS-5, women are aged between 18 to 49 years and have undergone domestic violence. Only one eligible woman per household was randomly selected to answer the questions in the domestic violence section to comply with ethical requirements. A total of 6,64,972 households were selected, out of them, 6,36,699 households were successfully interviewed. In the interviewed households, 7,24,115 women responded from all State/Union Territories. However, the present study our study focuses on domestic violence, therefore, we limit our study to only women who successfully completed the domestic violence module. However, the final sample size will be used for conducting analysis in this study is 72,314 for the physical and sexual violence sections and 63,845 for the emotional violence section.

2.5 Variables

As we discussed in the first chapter, domestic violence is mainly highlighted in three major forms (physical, sexual, and emotional violence) for the study purpose. Therefore, we considered three dependent variables i.e., "physical violence", "sexual violence" and "emotional violence". By keeping WHO's ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence, NFHS-5 measured physical and sexual violence by using a set of questions - (Does/did) your (last) husband ever do any of the following things to you: a) *push you, shake you, or throw something at you?* b) *Twist your arm or pull your hair?* c) *Slap you?* d) *Punch you with his fist or with something that could hurt you?* e) *Kick you, drag you, or beat you up?* f) *Try to choke you or burn you on purpose?* g) *Threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, or any other weapon?* h) *Physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to?* i) *Physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to?* j) *Force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to?* For each item, women could respond 'yes' or 'no'. Thus, a 'yes' response to item (a) to (g) constitutes evidence of physical violence and (h) to (j) constitutes evidence of sexual violence. Emotional violence among ever-married women was measured using the following set of questions - (Does/did) your (last) husband ever: a) *Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others?* b) *Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you?* c) *Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?* A 'yes' response constitutes evidence of emotional violence.

Moreover, the study included few significant covariates to assess the determinants of different forms of domestic violence in women aged 18-49 in India. The background characteristics used in this study are women's age group, educational level, marital status, caste, religion, employment status, wealth index, age gap and education between wife and husband, spouse's educational level and drinking habit, place of residence, and geographical region.

2.6 Statistical analysis

The analytical plan has been executed in two ways. First, descriptive and bivariate analysis was used to find out the prevalence of different forms of domestic violence by background characteristics and state/UT differences in India. Second, the logistic regression analysis has been employed to assess the determinants associated with physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women aged 18-49 in India during 2019-21. All statistical analysis was conducted using STATA version 16.0 for this study.

CHAPTER – 3: Physical Violence in India and Its Determinants

3.1 Introduction

In this study, physical violence is defined as 'Women aged 18-49 on their experience of violence committed physically by the husband or anyone else since age 15. This chapter covers the prevalence of physical violence and its contextual determinants. More specifically, what is the status of physical violence in India and State/UTs? What are the rural-urban differentials in physical violence? What determinants are associated with physical violence have been covered in this chapter.

3.2 Prevalence of physical violence

In India, about 29% of women aged 18-49 have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 (**Table 3.1**). Physical violence sharply increases with age. For instance, women aged 18-19 experience less physical violence (16%) than women aged 40-49 (32%). By education level, women aged 18-49 who report physical violence range from 15% among higher and above education attainment to 39% among women without education. It can be observed that there is a sharp decline in committing physical violence with women's educational attainment. By marital status, the experience of physical violence is more common among widowed/divorced or others (44%) compared to currently married (30%) and never-married women (13%). Further, Schedule Castes (SCs) and Hindu women have experienced a higher percentage of physical violence, 34%, and 30%, than their counterpart groups.

Moreover, women's experience of physical violence sharply declines with their wealth status. This violence ranges from 38% among women in the lowest wealth quintile to 17% among women in the highest wealth quintile. Surprisingly, women who are employed for cash (36%) and not for cash (33%) experienced a higher percentage of physical violence since the age of 15 years compared to women who are not employed (25%). Furthermore, the husband's educational status, drinking habits, spousal age, and education gap are significant predictors of physical violence. Spouses with higher education attainment are negatively associated with physical violence ranging from 41% illiterate husbands to 20% higher and above education levels. Husbands' drinking habit is positively associated with physical violence, which ranges from 24% who never drink to 72%

who often drunk. Same-age and equally educated husband and wife represent less percentage of physical violence compared to other counterpart groups.

Table 3.1 Percentage of women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 and percentage distribution by background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced physical violence	Distribution	
		%	N
Age Group			
18-19	16.4	3.9	3,542
20-24	22.8	13.4	11,017
25-29	28.1	16.4	13,855
30-39	31.9	36.4	25,859
40-49	32.1	29.9	17,908
Education Level			
No education	39.3	34.6	19,213
Incomplete Primary	34.0	14.8	9,642
Incomplete Secondary	26.5	41.2	31,828
Completed Secondary	20.1	1.7	1,464
Higher & above	14.7	7.9	10,167
Marital Status			
Never Married	12.8	6.1	8,469
Currently Married	30.3	85.8	60,474
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	44.4	8.1	3,371
Caste			
Schedule Castes	33.8	24.5	13,623
Schedule Tribes	30.9	9.6	14,155
Other Backward Classes	30.0	43.6	27,559
None of them	22.0	16.1	13,071
Don't know/Missing	23.1	6.2	3,906
Religion			
Hindu	29.7	81.0	54,221
Muslim	26.0	14.8	8,821
Christian	22.6	2.2	5,570
Other religions	22.0	1.9	3,702
Working Status			
Not employed	25.2	57.6	46,606
Employed for cash	35.7	36.4	20,776
Employed not for cash	33.1	5.9	4,932
Wealth Index			
Lowest	37.6	24.2	15,570
Second	35.0	25.3	16,223
Middle	29.6	22.0	15,082
Fourth	24.1	17.8	13,639
Highest	16.9	10.8	11,800
Husband and Wife Age Gap			
Wife older or same age	24.2	4.1	4,638
Wife 1-4 years younger	30.2	34.4	27,853
Wife 5-9 years younger	31.2	34.6	20,686

Wife 10+ years younger	30.8	12.7	7,297
Don't know & Missing	21.6	14.2	11,840
Husband Education Level			
No education	41.3	23.9	11,642
Primary level	37.0	16.8	9,269
Secondary level	28.8	44.4	33,924
Higher & above	19.6	8.4	8,828
Don't know/Missing	13.4	6.5	8,651
Husband and Wife Education Gap			
Husband better educated	29.9	37.8	28,451
Wife better educated	29.2	21.9	14,628
Equally educated	24.2	10.6	9,446
Neither educated	41.1	15.3	7,758
Don't know/Missing	21.6	14.4	12,031
Husband's Drinking Habits			
Never drink	24.4	55.9	46,015
Rarely drunk	34.9	1.6	1,403
Sometimes drunk	49.2	26.1	13,115
Often drunk	72.1	10.4	3,312
Don't know/Missing	12.8	6.1	8,469
Place of Residence			
Urban	23.7	26.8	18,124
Rural	31.0	73.2	54,190
Geographical Region			
North	17.7	4.9	14,151
Central	30.0	11.9	15,637
East	32.2	32.5	12,092
North-east	29.8	5.8	11,245
West	20.8	15.8	7,277
South	34.2	29.3	11,912
Total	28.7	100.0	72,314

Finally, the experience of physical violence varies in residence and geographical region. For instance, physical violence is more common among women in rural areas (31%) than in urban areas (24%). By region, this violence is more Southern region (34%) followed by the Eastern (32%), Central, and North-east (30%). However, women from the Northern region report less physical violence (18%).

3.3 State-wise variations in the prevalence of physical violence

The prevalence of physical violence varies among the states. **Figure 3.1** illustrates the State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 who have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 in India, 2019-21. Overall, the prevalence of physical violence among women aged 18-49 is 29%, and 11 out of 36 states/UTs women reported more prevalence than the national average. Karnataka

state women age group 18-49 have the highest prevalence of physical violence (43%), followed by Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (41%), Bihar (39%), and Telangana (38%). Lakshadweep women reported the lowest prevalence of physical violence (2%), followed by Mizoram (8%), Chandigarh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland (9%), and Himachal Pradesh (10%).

Figure 3.1 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced physical violence since age 15, India, 2019-21

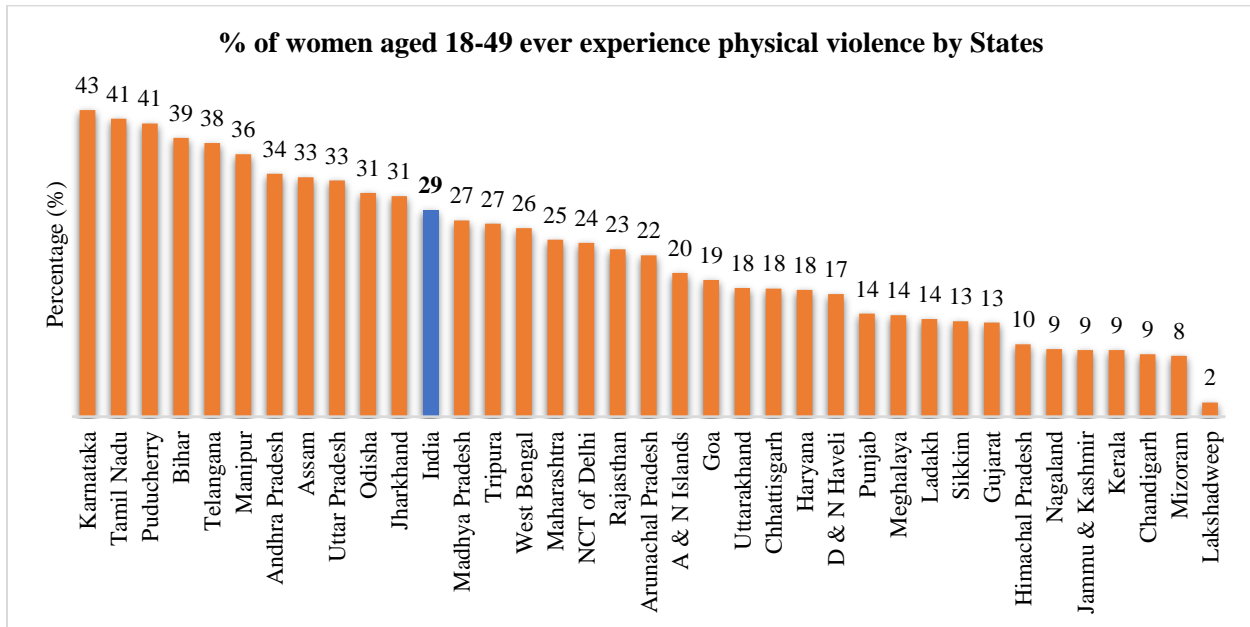


Figure 3.2 and **Figure 3.3** shows the percentage of urban and rural women aged 18-49 who have experienced physical violence since 15 in India (2019-21), respectively. In urban areas, the states Karnataka (41%), Bihar (37%), Tamil Nadu (36%), Puducherry (35%), Andhra Pradesh, and Manipur (33%), women have reported the highest prevalence of physical violence compared it is less than one percent in Lakshadweep, 5% in Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir, 6% in Himachal Pradesh, 7% in Mizoram, and 8% in Ladakh and Kerala (see **Figure 3.2**).

In rural areas, Puducherry (55%), Tamil Nadu and Telangana (45%), Karnataka (44%), Bihar and Manipur (39%), and Assam and Andhra Pradesh (34%) women have reported the highest prevalence of physical violence compared to less than one percent in Chandigarh; Mizoram, Kerala, and Lakshadweep (10%), Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim (11%), and Nagaland (12%) (see **Figure 3.3**).

Figure 3.2 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced physical violence since age 15, India (Urban), 2019-21

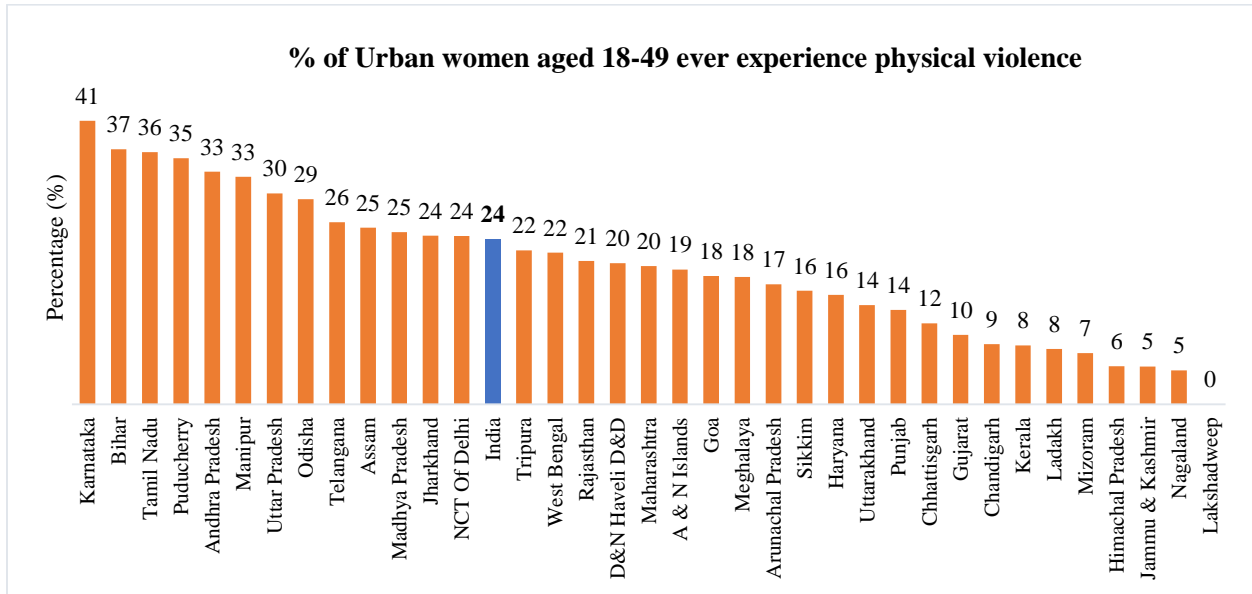
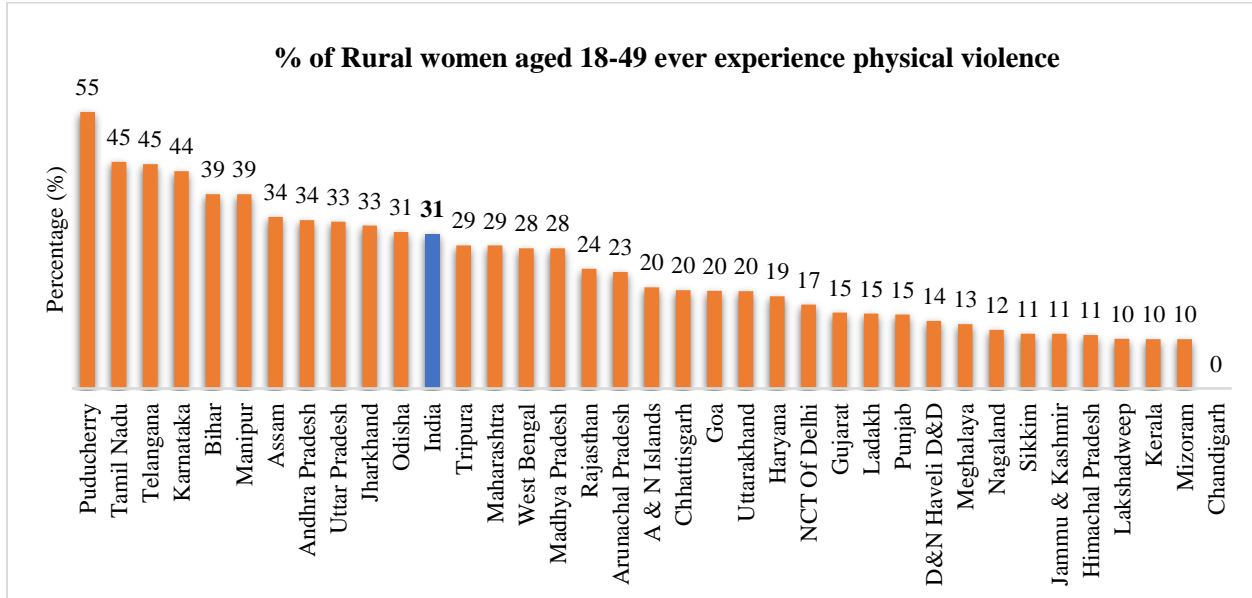


Figure 3.3 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced physical violence since age 15, India (Rural), 2019-21



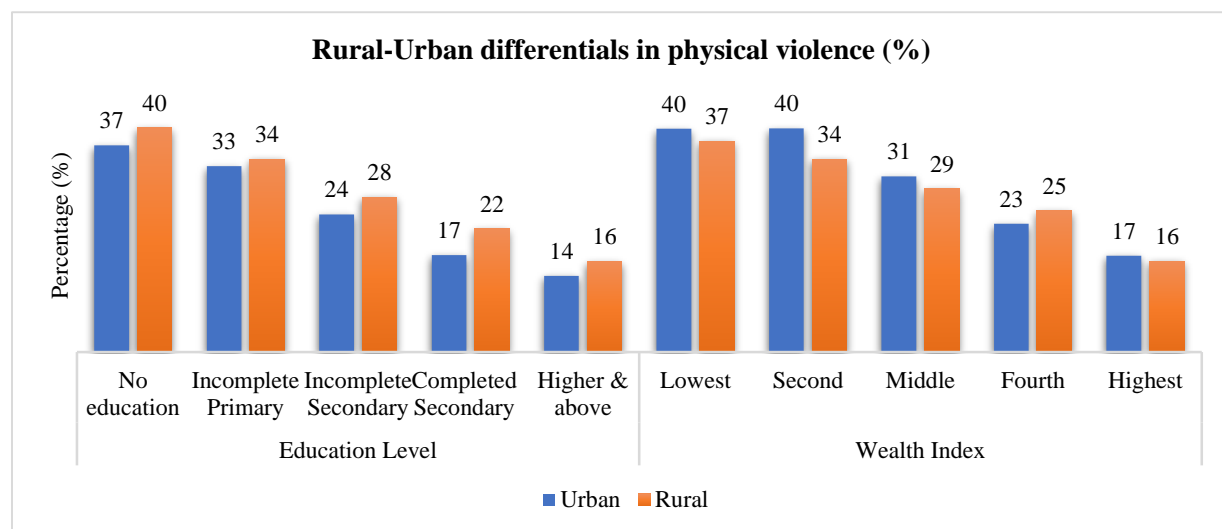
3.4 Rural-urban differentials in the prevalence of physical violence

The prevalence of physical violence in urban areas (24%) is less than in rural areas (31%). However, significant variations are found within the groups like educational level and wealth

quintile (**Figure 3.4**). Importantly, the prevalence sharply declines with increasing women's schooling and wealth quintile. Further, women aged 18-49 with no formal education and less than primary schooling reported a higher prevalence of physical violence. Within the group, however, rural women experienced more prevalence compared to urban women in educational categories.

Similarly, women aged 18-49 who belong to the lowest and second wealth quintile experienced a higher prevalence of physical violence than the richest and fourth wealth quintile. However, urban area women experienced more prevalence in all categories of wealth quintile (except the fourth quintile) than rural women.

Figure 3.4 Rural-Urban differentials in physical violence by education level and wealth index, India 2019-21



3.5 Determinants of physical violence

Determinants of physical violence among women aged 18-49 in India during 2019-21 have been presented in **Table 3.2**. For instance, the odds ratio (OR) for the age indicates that in age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-39, and 40-49 years' women are 11%, 16%, 18%, and 11% more likely to experience physical violence respectively compared to their reference category (age group 18-19). Education attainment is significantly associated with physical violence among women aged 18-49, and an increase in every level of education category is associated with a 5%, 12%, 19%, and 32% decrease in women's experience of physical violence respectively compared to the illiterates' reference category. Women aged 18-49 who are widowed, divorced, or of other marital status

experience 4.1 times more physical violence (OR=4.07, CI: 2.30-7.20; p=0.01) compared to the never married reference category. By social group, the SCs women have more percentage of physical violence compared to other castes. As compared to the reference category of Hindu women, Muslim religion women are 15% more likely to experience physical violence (OR=1.15, CI: 1.09-1.22; p=0.01), 43% (OR=0.57, CI: 0.52-0.62; p=0.01) and 26% (OR=0.74, CI: 0.68-0.82; p=0.01) less physical violence in Christian and other religious women respectively.

Table 3.2 Logistic Regression Results: Factors associated with women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15, India, 2019-21; (N=72,181)

Background characteristic	Women aged 18-49 ever experience physical violence	
	Odds Ratio	95% CI
Age Group		
18-19 ®	1.00	
20-24	1.11*	(0.991 1.232)
25-29	1.16***	(1.040 1.299)
30-39	1.18***	(1.057 1.315)
40-49	1.11*	(0.991 1.241)
Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Incomplete Primary	0.95	(0.893 1.013)
Incomplete Secondary	0.88***	(0.822 0.932)
Completed Secondary	0.81***	(0.693 0.937)
Higher & above	0.68***	(0.616 0.752)
Marital Status		
Never Married ®	1.00	
Currently Married	1.23	(0.859 1.757)
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	4.07***	(2.301 7.196)
Caste		
Schedule Castes ®	1.00	
Schedule Tribes	0.71***	(0.665 0.752)
Other Backward Classes	0.92***	(0.874 0.963)
None of them	0.84***	(0.785 0.888)
Don't know/Missing	0.82***	(0.745 0.897)
Religion		
Hindu ®	1.00	
Muslim	1.15***	(1.089 1.224)
Christian	0.57***	(0.523 0.623)
Other religions	0.74***	(0.677 0.816)
Working Status		
Not employed ®	1.00	
Employed for cash	1.33***	(1.277 1.384)
Employed not for cash	1.26***	(1.179 1.355)
Wealth Index		
Lowest ®	1.00	
Second	0.95*	(0.906 1.005)
Middle	0.85***	(0.801 0.899)

Fourth	0.76***	(0.716 0.817)
Highest	0.62***	(0.568 0.669)
Husband and Wife Age Gap		
Wife older or same age ®	1.00	
Wife 1-4 years younger	1.05	(0.977 1.138)
Wife 5-9 years younger	1.09**	(1.012 1.183)
Wife 10+ years younger	1.05	(0.959 1.147)
Husband Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Primary level	1.00	(0.916 1.091)
Secondary level	0.91**	(0.830 0.988)
Higher & above	0.79***	(0.706 0.888)
Don't know/Missing	2.13***	(1.204 3.769)
Husband and Wife Education Gap		
Husband better educated ®	1.00	
Wife better educated	0.95	(0.892 1.011)
Equally educated	0.90***	(0.850 0.962)
Neither educated	0.99	(0.890 1.091)
Don't know/Missing	0.31***	(0.161 0.606)
Husband's Drinking Habits		
Never drink ®	1.00	
Rarely drunk	1.40***	(1.241 1.584)
Sometimes drunk	2.44***	(2.340 2.552)
Often drunk	5.29***	(4.891 5.722)
Place of Residence		
Urban ®	1.00	
Rural	0.95*	(0.910 1.001)
Geographical Region		
North ®	1.00	
Central	1.72***	(1.614 1.822)
East	1.73***	(1.619 1.843)
North-east	1.35***	(1.251 1.453)
West	1.30***	(1.202 1.395)
South	2.09***	(1.955 2.228)
Constant	0.22***	(0.152 0.322)

Note: Significance level *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, & *p<0.1

Women employed for cash and not for cash are 1.33 and 1.26 times more likely to experience physical violence, respectively, compared to women who are not working. Physical violence decreases with increasing women's wealth status. By referencing women who belong to the lowest wealth quintile, women from the second quintile (5%), middle (15%), fourth (24%), and highest quintile (38%) are less likely to experience physical violence, respectively. With reference to the husband never drinking, the rarely drunk, sometimes drunk, and often drunk husbands commit 1.4 times, 2.4 times, and 5.3 times more likely to commit physical violence against their wives. Equal education status of both husband and wife reduces physical violence. Overall, in the Southern region, 2.1 times, and in the Eastern and Central region, women are 1.7 times more likely to

experience physical violence than in the Northern region; however, all the results are statistically highly significant.

3.6 Summary and conclusion

The overall prevalence of physical violence against women was 29% in India during 2019-2021. Among socio-economic variables examined, this study found women's age, education attainment, marital status, wealth quintile, husband's education, and habits of alcohol consumption were significantly associated with physical violence against women. Physical violence is inversely associated with education and wealth status, i.e., it sharply increases with age and declines with wealth status. Further, the experience of physical violence is more common among widowed/divorced or others compared to other never married and currently-married women.

Concerning the husband's drinking habits, often drunk and sometimes drunk are more likely to commit physical violence than never drinks rarely drunk. A higher prevalence of physical violence found in the Southern region of India, especially Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry report the highest prevalence compared to other states; therefore, regional-level policies would be recommended to reduce physical violence in India.

Moreover, the equal education status of both husband and wife reduces physical violence. More education and employment generations for women and community awareness about domestic violence for women can be recommended in this context. Finally, this study showed a higher prevalence of physical violence against women in rural areas compared to urban areas; therefore, these vulnerable women folk in rural areas women areas need more attention.

CHAPTER – 4: Sexual Violence in India and Its Determinants

4.1 Introduction

In this study, sexual violence is defined as 'Women aged 18-49 on their experience of violence committed sexually by the husband or anyone else since age 15. This chapter covers the prevalence of sexual violence and its contextual determinants. More specifically, what is the status of sexual violence in India and State/UTs? What are the rural-urban differentials in physical violence? What determinants are associated with sexual violence have been covered in this chapter.

4.2 Prevalence of sexual violence

According to the NFHS-5 report, sexual violence is most often committed by individuals with whom women have intimate relationships (IIPS, 2022). About 6% of women aged 18-49 have ever experienced sexual violence in India in their lifetime (**Table 4.1**). Women's experience of sexual violence increases with their age. Younger women (age groups 18-19 and 20-24) experience less sexual violence (4%) compared to older women age groups 30-39 and 40-49 (7%). By education level, women aged 18-49 who report sexual violence ranges from 9% among no schooling to 3% higher and above education attainment. The prevalence of sexual experience decreases with an increase in educational level. Women who are widowed, divorced, or in other marital status categories reported a higher prevalence of sexual violence (14%) compared to currently married (6%) and never-married women (2%). Further, women from SCs and STs social groups and Muslim religion experienced a higher percentage of sexual violence (about 7%) as compared to their respective counterpart groups. More surprisingly, women who are employed for cash (8%) and employed not for cash (7%) experienced a higher percentage of sexual violence in their lifetime compared to women who are not employed (5%).

By wealth quintile, women's experience of sexual violence declines with their wealth status, from 10% among women in the lowest wealth quintile to 3% among women in the highest wealth quintile. Moreover, the husband's educational status and drinking habits are prominent predictors of sexual violence. For instance, spouses without schooling or primary education commit more sexual violence (10% and 9%, respectively). Similarly, spouses who are often drunk (26%) and sometimes drunk (11%) commit higher sexual violence against their wives. Same-age and equally

educated couples represent less percentage of sexual violence compared to their respective counterpart groups. Finally, the experience of sexual violence is more common among women in rural areas (7%) than among women in urban areas (5%). By geographical region, this violence is more in the Eastern region (8%) followed by North-east and Central region (7%); however, women from the Northern region report less sexual violence (4%).

Table 4.1 Percentage of women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime and percentage distribution by background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced sexual violence	Distribution	
		%	N
Age Group			
18-19	3.5	4.0	3,542
20-24	4.2	11.7	11,017
25-29	6.2	17.1	13,855
30-39	7.0	38.3	25,859
40-49	6.5	29.0	17,908
Education Level			
No education	8.8	34.6	19,213
Incomplete Primary	8.2	14.8	9,642
Incomplete Secondary	5.1	41.2	31,828
Completed Secondary	4.4	1.7	1,464
Higher & above	2.8	7.9	10,167
Marital Status			
Never Married	1.8	4.1	8,469
Currently Married	6.2	84.0	60,474
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	13.8	11.9	3,371
Caste			
Schedule Castes	7.2	24.9	13,623
Schedule Tribes	6.5	9.6	14,155
Other Backward Classes	5.6	38.8	27,559
None of them	4.9	17.2	13,071
Don't know/Missing	7.5	9.5	3,906
Religion			
Hindu	6.0	78.1	54,221
Muslim	6.5	17.8	8,821
Christian	4.1	1.9	5,570
Other religions	5.4	2.2	3,702
Working Status			
Not employed	4.9	53.2	46,606
Employed for cash	8.3	40.5	20,776
Employed not for cash	7.4	6.3	4,932
Wealth Index			
Lowest	9.9	30.4	15,570
Second	7.6	26.2	16,223
Middle	5.4	19.0	15,082
Fourth	4.2	14.7	13,639
Highest	3.2	9.8	11,800

Husband and Wife Age Gap			
Wife older or same age	5.4	4.4	4,638
Wife 1-4 years younger	6.7	36.4	27,853
Wife 5-9 years younger	6.0	31.6	20,686
Wife 10+ years younger	5.9	11.6	7,297
Don't know & Missing	5.1	16.0	11,840
Husband Education Level			
No education	9.8	27.1	11,642
Primary level	8.9	19.3	9,269
Secondary level	5.8	42.2	33,924
Higher & above	3.4	7.0	8,828
Don't know/Missing	1.9	4.5	8,651
Husband and Wife Education Gap			
Husband better educated	6.0	36.0	28,451
Wife better educated	6.1	21.9	14,628
Equally educated	4.6	9.5	9,446
Neither educated	9.2	16.4	7,758
Don't know/Missing	5.1	16.3	12,031
Husband's Drinking Habits			
Never drink	4.4	48.2	46,015
Rarely drunk	6.4	1.4	1,403
Sometimes drunk	11.2	28.4	13,115
Often drunk	26.2	18.0	3,312
Don't know/Missing	1.8	4.1	8,469
Place of Residence			
Urban	4.7	25.0	18,124
Rural	6.7	75.0	54,190
Geographical Region			
North	4.1	5.4	14,151
Central	5.5	10.4	15,637
East	8.0	38.6	12,092
North-east	6.4	6.0	11,245
West	5.0	18.1	7,277
South	5.3	21.5	11,912
Total	6.0	100.0	72,314

4.3 State-wise variations in the prevalence of sexual violence

The prevalence of sexual violence women aged 18-49 ever experience in their lifetime is shown in **Figure 4.1**. Overall, the prevalence of sexual violence among women aged 18-49 is 6%, and 9 out of 36 states/UTs women reported more prevalence than the national average. Karnataka state women age group 18-49 have the highest prevalence of sexual violence (10%) followed by West Bengal (9%), Bihar and NCT of Delhi (8%), and Ladakh, Assam, and Tripura (7%). Lakshadweep, Kerala, and Mizoram state women reported the lowest prevalence of sexual violence (1%), followed by Puducherry, Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Punjab (2%).

Figure 4.1 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, India, 2019-21

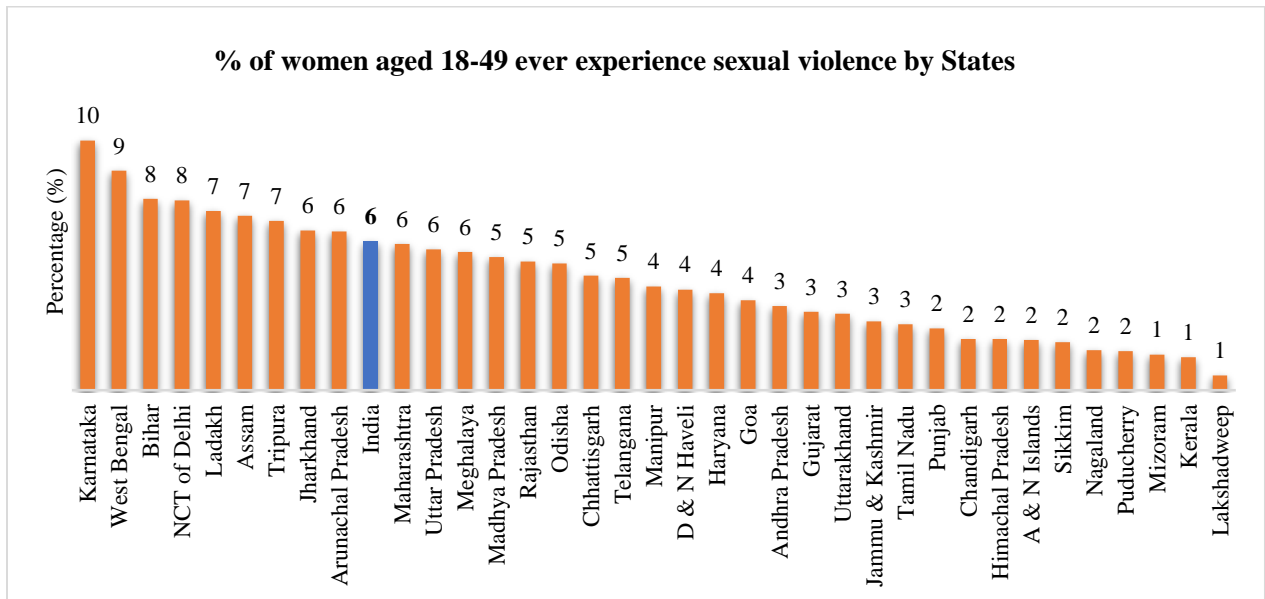
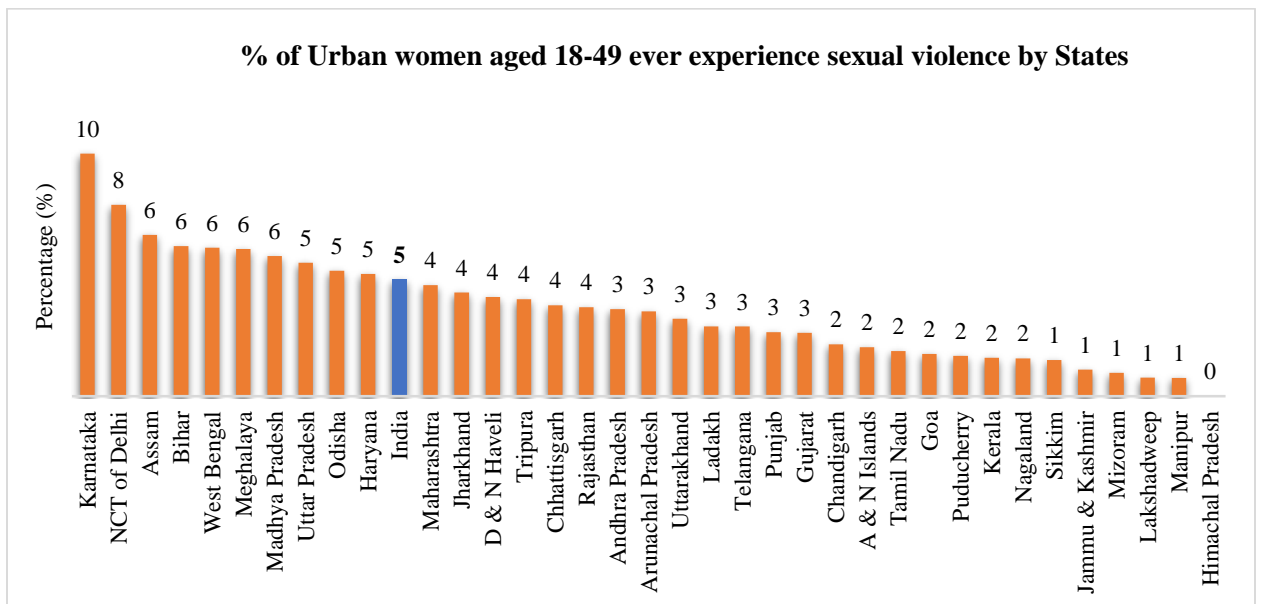


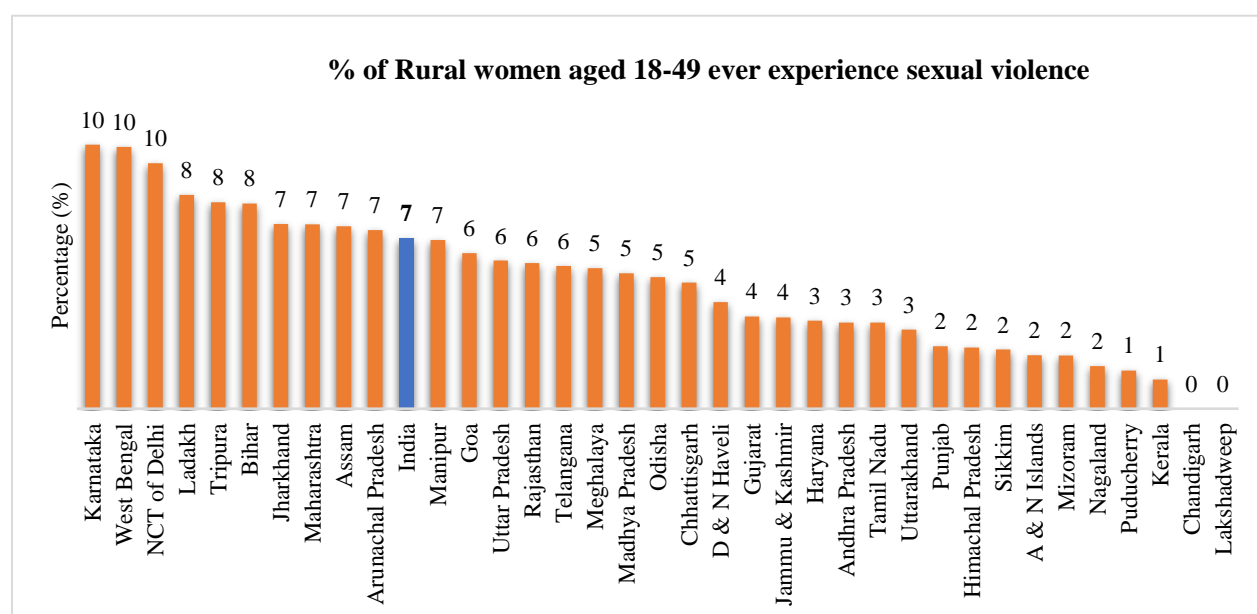
Figure 4.2 and **Figure 4.3** shows the percentage of urban and rural women aged 18-49 who ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime in India (2019-21), respectively. In urban areas, the states Karnataka (10%), NCT of Delhi (8%), Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya, and Madhya

Figure 4.2 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, India (Urban), 2019-21



Pradesh (6%) women have reported the highest prevalence of sexual violence compared to less than one percent in Himachal Pradesh, 1% in Manipur, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir, and Sikkim (see **Figure 4.2**). In rural areas, Karnataka, West Bengal, and NCT of Delhi (10%), and Ladakh, Tripura, and Bihar (8%) women reported the highest prevalence of sexual violence compared to less than one percent in Lakshadweep, Chandigarh; 1% in Kerala and Puducherry (see **Figure 4.3**).

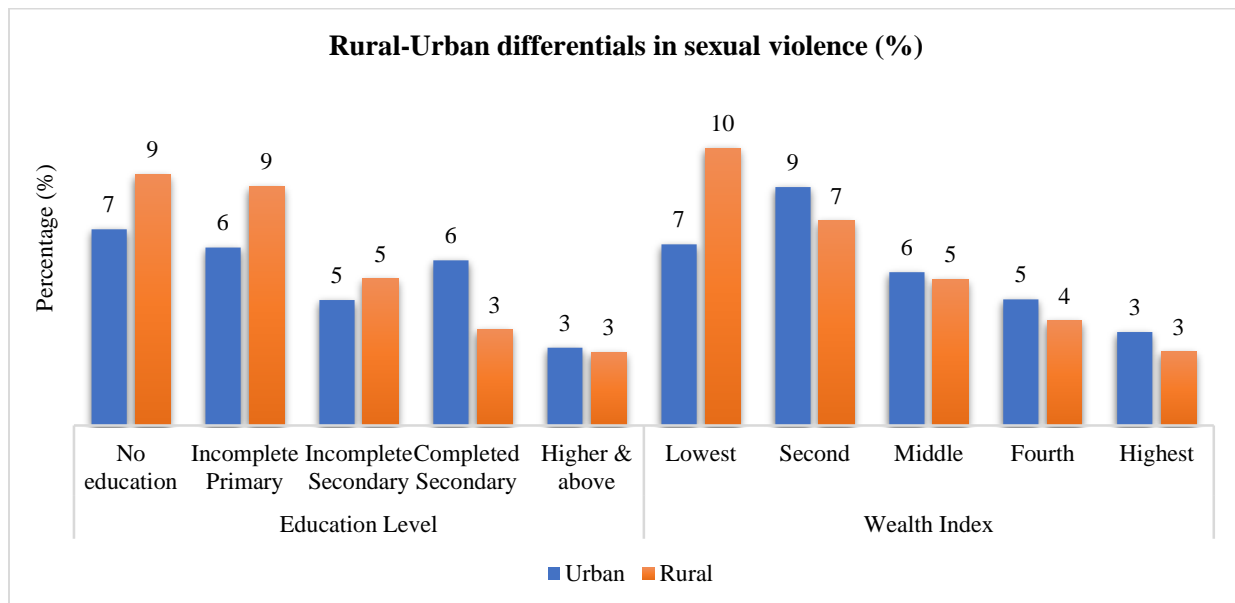
Figure 4.3 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, India (Rural), 2019-21



4.4 Rural-urban differentials in the prevalence of sexual violence

The prevalence of sexual violence in rural areas (7%) is more than in urban areas (5%). However, this prevalence varies within the groups like educational level and wealth quintile (**Figure 4.4**). For instance, women aged 18-49 who do not have any formal education and have not completed primary schooling reported a higher prevalence of sexual violence (9%) in rural areas compared to urban areas (7% & 6%, respectively). Women who have completed secondary schooling in urban areas (6%) experienced more sexual violence than their rural counterparts (3%). By wealth quintile, sexual violence is very common among women aged 18-49 who reside in urban areas in all wealth quintiles except in the lowest wealth quintile. This prevalence sharply declines with increasing wealth quintile.

Figure 4.4 Rural-Urban differentials in sexual violence by education level and wealth index, India 2019-21



4.5 Determinants of sexual violence

Determinants of sexual violence among women aged 18-49 who ever experienced it in their lifetime in India during 2019-21 have been presented in **Table 4.2**. For instance, widowed, divorced, or other marital status women experience 3.4 times more sexual violence (OR=3.42, CI: 1.44-8.09; $p=0.01$) compared to the never married reference category. Women from the STs experience 29%, and OBCs and other social groups experience 12% less sexual violence compared to the SCs. Sexual violence is more common among Muslim religion women who experience 43% more sexual violence (OR=1.43, CI: 1.28-1.60; $p=0.01$) compared to Hindu women. Women who are employed for cash and not for cash 1.35 and 1.33 times experience more sexual violence, respectively, than those who are not employed. By referencing women who belong to the lowest wealth quintile, women from the middle quintile (14%), fourth (21%), and highest quintile (30%) decrease in the experience of sexual violence respectively.

Moreover, there is more likely to happen of sexual violence if the women's age is less than their husband's age, and less like to occur this violence if both husband and wife are equally educated. Husbands who are often drunk, sometimes drunk, and rarely drunk husbands 7 times, 2.6 times, and 1.5 times more likely to commit sexual violence against their wives compared to husbands

who never drink. Finally, concerning the Northern region, women from the Eastern region (37%), the Western region 27%, and the Central region (26%) are more likely to experience sexual violence. However, women's age, education, and place of residence are statistically significant.

Table 4.2 Logistic Regression Results: Factors associated with women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, India, 2019-21; (N=72,181)

Background characteristic	Women aged 18-49 ever experience sexual violence	
	Odds Ratio	95% CI
Age Group		
18-19 ®	1.00	
20-24	1.17	(0.916 1.499)
25-29	1.20	(0.937 1.534)
30-39	1.17	(0.919 1.497)
40-49	0.99	(0.772 1.272)
Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Incomplete Primary	0.94	(0.842 1.058)
Incomplete Secondary	0.94	(0.836 1.056)
Completed Secondary	0.87	(0.631 1.187)
Higher & above	0.89	(0.732 1.090)
Marital Status		
Never Married ®	1.00	
Currently Married	1.60	(0.746 3.410)
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	3.42***	(1.443 8.092)
Caste		
Schedule Castes ®	1.00	
Schedule Tribes	0.71***	(0.636 0.796)
Other Backward Classes	0.88***	(0.806 0.965)
None of them	0.88**	(0.783 0.989)
Don't know/Missing	1.16*	(0.987 1.361)
Religion		
Hindu ®	1.00	
Muslim	1.43***	(1.279 1.596)
Christian	0.90	(0.762 1.052)
Other religions	0.93	(0.787 1.098)
Working Status		
Not employed ®	1.00	
Employed for cash	1.35***	(1.256 1.458)
Employed not for cash	1.33***	(1.170 1.510)
Wealth Index		
Lowest ®	1.00	
Second	1.02	(0.929 1.118)
Middle	0.86***	(0.775 0.962)
Fourth	0.79***	(0.698 0.901)
Highest	0.70***	(0.595 0.821)
Husband and Wife Age Gap		
Wife older or same age ®	1.00	
Wife 1-4 years younger	0.89*	(0.774 1.015)

Wife 5-9 years younger	0.82***	(0.710 0.940)
Wife 10+ years younger	0.90	(0.769 1.064)
Husband Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Primary level	0.96	(0.829 1.113)
Secondary level	0.83**	(0.719 0.968)
Higher & above	0.74***	(0.599 0.916)
Don't know/Missing	0.87	(0.373 2.045)
Husband and Wife Education Gap		
Husband better educated ®	1.00	
Wife better educated	0.93	(0.821 1.044)
Equally educated	0.88**	(0.778 0.993)
Neither educated	0.89	(0.751 1.062)
Don't know/Missing	0.57	(0.188 1.746)
Husband's Drinking Habits		
Never drink ®	1.00	
Rarely drunk	1.51***	(1.197 1.917)
Sometimes drunk	2.59***	(2.396 2.809)
Often drunk	7.03***	(6.362 7.773)
Place of Residence		
Urban ®	1.00	
Rural	0.94	(0.855 1.026)
Geographical Region		
North ®	1.00	
Central	1.26***	(1.123 1.417)
East	1.37***	(1.216 1.549)
North-east	0.99	(0.857 1.134)
West	1.27***	(1.105 1.460)
South	0.90	(0.791 1.023)
Constant	0.03***	(0.015 0.072)

Note: Significance level *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, & *p<0.1

4.6 Summary and conclusion

The overall prevalence of sexual violence against women in their lifetime was 6% in India during 2019-2021. Among socio-economic variables examined, this study found women's educational attainment, marital status, wealth quintile, husband's education, and habits of alcohol consumption significantly associated with sexual violence against women. Women who experience sexual violence are higher among those who do not have formal education and belong to the poorest wealth quintile; further, it is inversely associated with education and wealth status. Moreover, women who are widowed, divorced, or in other marital status categories reported a higher prevalence of sexual violence than currently married women. Finally, the husband's educational status and drinking habits are also significant predictors for women's reporting sexual violence against them.

CHAPTER – 5: Emotional Violence in India and Its Determinants

5.1 Introduction

In this study, emotional violence is 'women aged 18-49 on their experience of violence emotionally by the husband or anyone else. According to the NFHS-5 report, emotional violence is defined as "*A husband or anyone else say or do something to humiliate women in front of others; threaten to hurt or harm women or someone close to women; insult women or make women feel bad about themselves*" (IIPS, 2022). This chapter covers the prevalence of emotional violence and its contextual determinants. More specifically, what is the status of emotional violence in India and State/UTs? What are the rural-urban differentials in emotional violence? What determinants are associated with emotional violence have been covered in this chapter.

5.2 Prevalence of emotional violence

About 14% of women aged 18-49 have experienced emotional violence in India (see **Table 5.1**). Women in the age group 18-19 experience less emotional violence (11%) compared to women age group 40-49 (15%), and the prevalence increases with age. By education level, women aged 18-49 who report emotional violence ranges from 7% among higher and above education attainment to 18% among women who do not go for schooling. It can be observed that there is a sharp decline in committing emotional violence with women's educational attainment. The experience of emotional violence is more than double among widowed/divorced or other marital status women (27%) compared to currently married women (13%). By social groups, the SC and ST women report more emotional violence compared to OBC or other social category women. Emotional violence is more common among Hindu women (14%) compared to their counterpart religious groups. Surprisingly, women employed for cash (20%) experience a higher percentage of emotional violence than women who are not employed (11%).

Moreover, women's experience of emotional violence sharply declines with their wealth status. This violence ranges from 19% among women in the lowest wealth quintile to 9% among women in the highest wealth quintile. Furthermore, the husband's educational status, drinking habits, spousal age & education gap are significant predictors of emotional violence. Husbands with higher & above education levels commit less emotional violence (8%) than those who do not go

to school (20%). Further, husbands' drinking habit is positively associated with emotional violence, which ranges from 10% who never drink to 47% who often drunk. A higher age gap between husband and wife increases the emotional violence against women.

Table 5.1 Percentage of women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced emotional violence and percentage distribution by background characteristics, India, 2019-21

Background characteristic	Percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experienced emotional violence	Distribution	
		%	N
Age Group			
18-19	10.5	1.8	1,003
20-24	12.2	11.1	7,322
25-29	13.4	16.5	12,450
30-39	14.4	37.9	25,313
40-49	15.0	32.8	17,721
Education Level			
No education	17.9	36.3	18,781
Incomplete Primary	15.3	15.2	9,301
Incomplete Secondary	13.0	41.2	28,033
Completed Secondary	11.9	1.5	907
Higher & above	7.4	5.9	6,823
Marital Status			
Currently Married	13.2	88.4	60,474
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	26.9	11.6	3,371
Caste			
Schedule Castes	16.9	25.4	12,160
Schedule Tribes	15.2	9.6	12,218
Other Backward Classes	13.6	40.5	24,661
None of them	12.1	17.6	11,350
Don't know/Missing	12.7	6.9	3,456
Religion			
Hindu	14.2	80.2	48,548
Muslim	13.7	15.6	7,585
Christian	13.2	2.4	4,570
Other religions	10.8	1.7	3,142
Working Status			
Not employed	11.4	52.5	40,613
Employed for cash	19.5	41.9	18,790
Employed not for cash	14.6	5.6	4,442
Wealth Index			
Lowest	18.5	25.7	14,146
Second	16.0	24.2	14,497
Middle	14.6	22.1	13,262
Fourth	11.7	17.2	11,850
Highest	8.8	10.9	10,090
Husband and Wife Age Gap			
Wife older or same age	9.3	3.8	4,638
Wife 1-4 years younger	12.6	33.9	27,853
Wife 5-9 years younger	14.2	37.1	20,686

Wife 10+ years younger	14.1	13.7	7,297
Don't know & Missing	26.9	11.6	3,371
Husband Education Level			
No education	19.7	26.9	11,628
Primary level	16.6	17.8	9,267
Secondary level	12.8	46.5	33,898
Higher & above	8.2	8.3	8,818
Don't know/Missing	19.3	0.5	234
Husband and Wife Education Gap			
Husband better educated	12.4	37.2	28,451
Wife better educated	13.3	23.5	14,628
Equally educated	10.7	11.1	9,446
Neither educated	18.6	16.4	7,758
Don't know/Missing	26.3	11.9	3,562
Husband's Drinking Habits			
Never drink	10.3	55.7	46,015
Rarely drunk	13.2	1.4	1,403
Sometimes drunk	21.4	26.9	13,115
Often drunk	47.2	16.1	3,312
Place of Residence			
Urban	12.1	26.6	15,486
Rural	14.9	73.4	48,359
Geographical Region			
North	9.0	4.8	12,209
Central	12.7	9.7	13,694
East	16.0	34.1	11,001
North-east	11.7	4.6	9,581
West	11.1	17.1	6,549
South	16.9	29.8	10,811
Total	14.0	100.0	63,845

Women who experience emotional violence is more common in rural areas (15%) than in urban areas (12%). Finally, the experience of emotional violence of women aged 18-49 varies by geographical region. For instance, women who are experience emotional violence is more in the Southern region (17%) and in the Eastern region (16%), and this violence is less in the Northern region (9%).

5.3 State-wise variations in the prevalence of emotional violence

The prevalence of emotional violence varies among the states. **Figure 5.1** illustrates the State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 who ever experienced emotional violence in India during 2019-21. Overall, the prevalence of emotional violence among women aged 18-49 is 14%, and 8 out of 36 states/UTs women reported more prevalence than the national average. Karnataka state women age group 18-49 have the highest prevalence of emotional violence (25%), followed by Ladakh

and Telangana (19%), Bihar (17%), and West Bengal (16%). Lakshadweep women reported the lowest prevalence of emotional violence (1%), followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (3%), Chandigarh (4%), Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, and Goa (6%).

Figure 5.1 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experience emotional violence, India, 2019-21

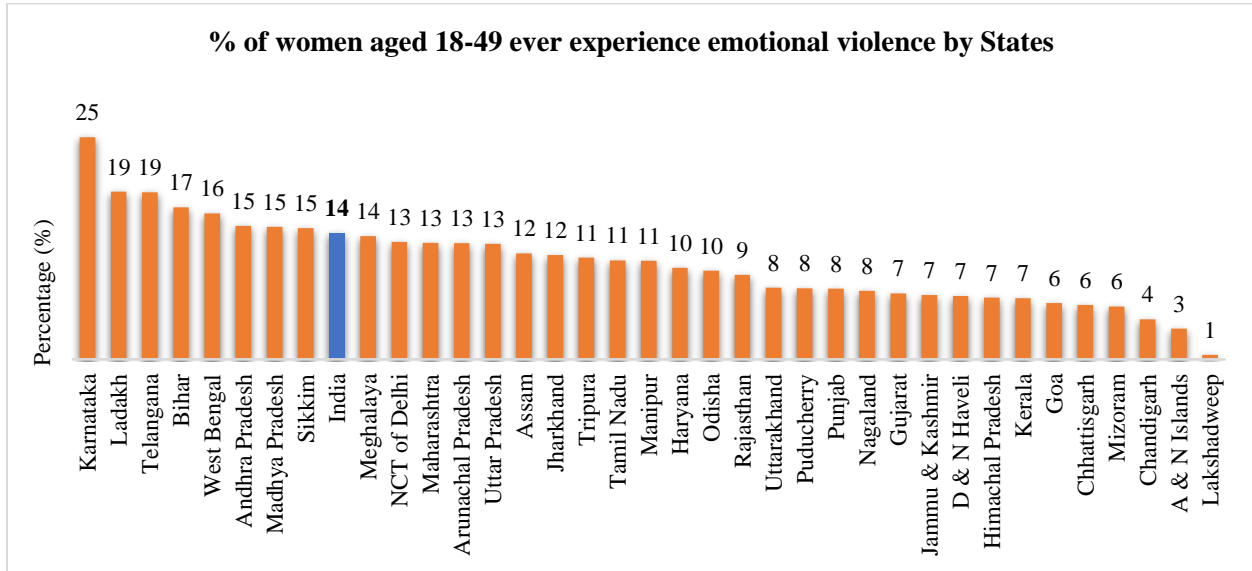


Figure 5.2 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experience emotional violence, India (Urban), 2019-21

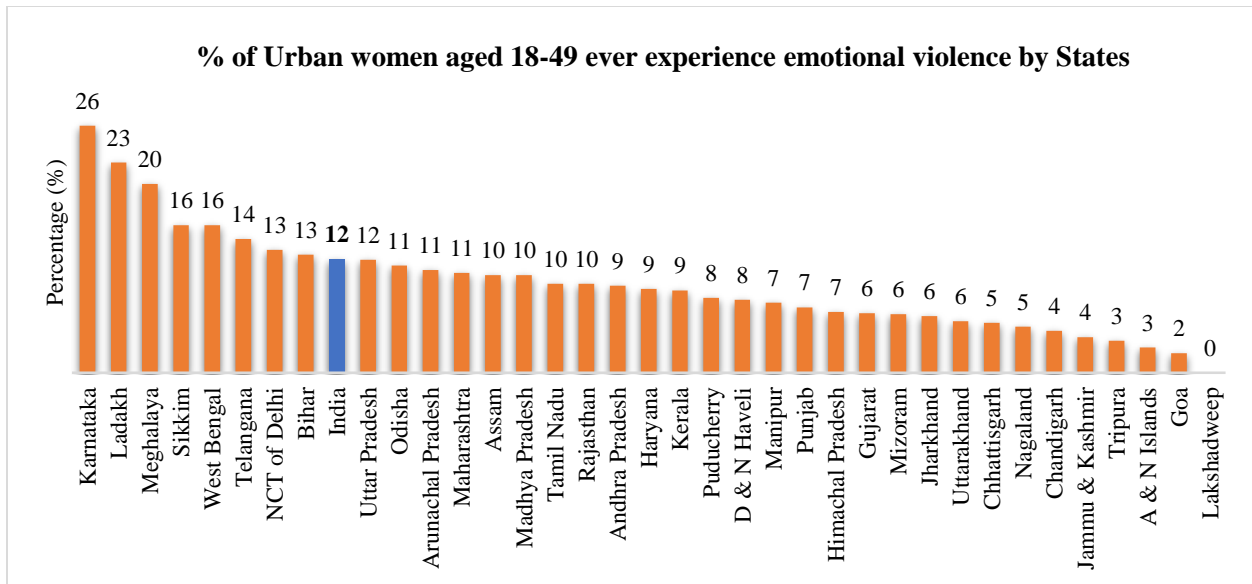
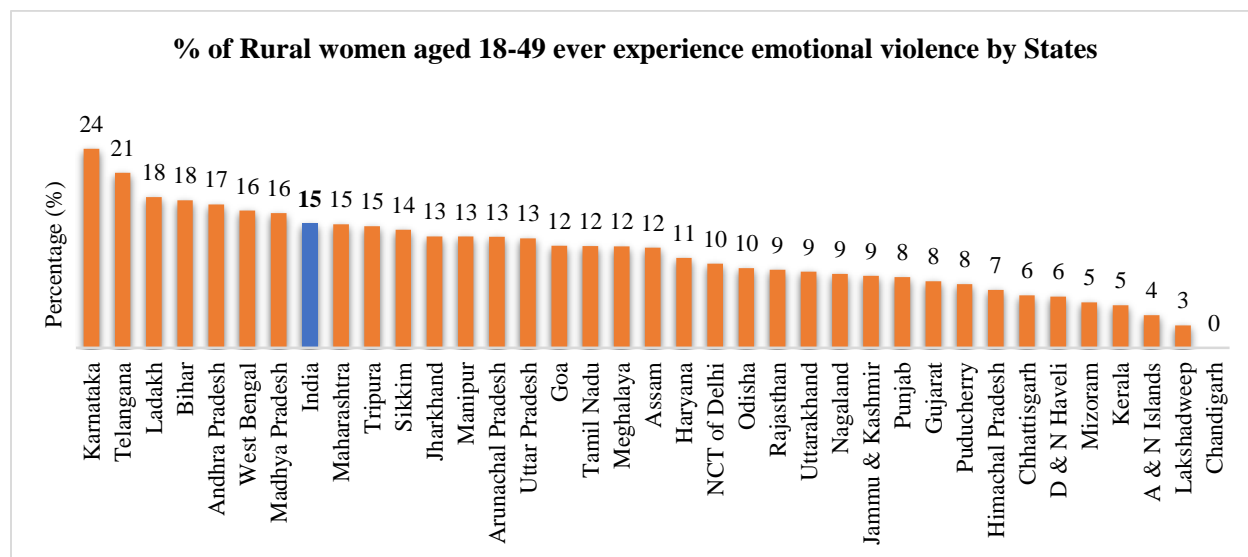


Figure 5.2 and **Figure 5.3** shows the percentage of urban and rural women aged 18-49 ever experienced emotional violence in India during 2019-21 respectively. In urban areas, the states

Karnataka (26%), Ladakh (23%), Meghalaya (20%), and Sikkim & West Bengal (16%) women have reported the highest prevalence of emotional violence compared it is less than one percent in Lakshadweep, 2% in Goa, 3% in Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Tripura, 4% Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh, 5% in Nagaland & Chhattisgarh (see **Figure 5.2**).

Figure 5.3 State-wise percentage of women aged 18-49 ever experience emotional violence, India (Rural), 2019-21



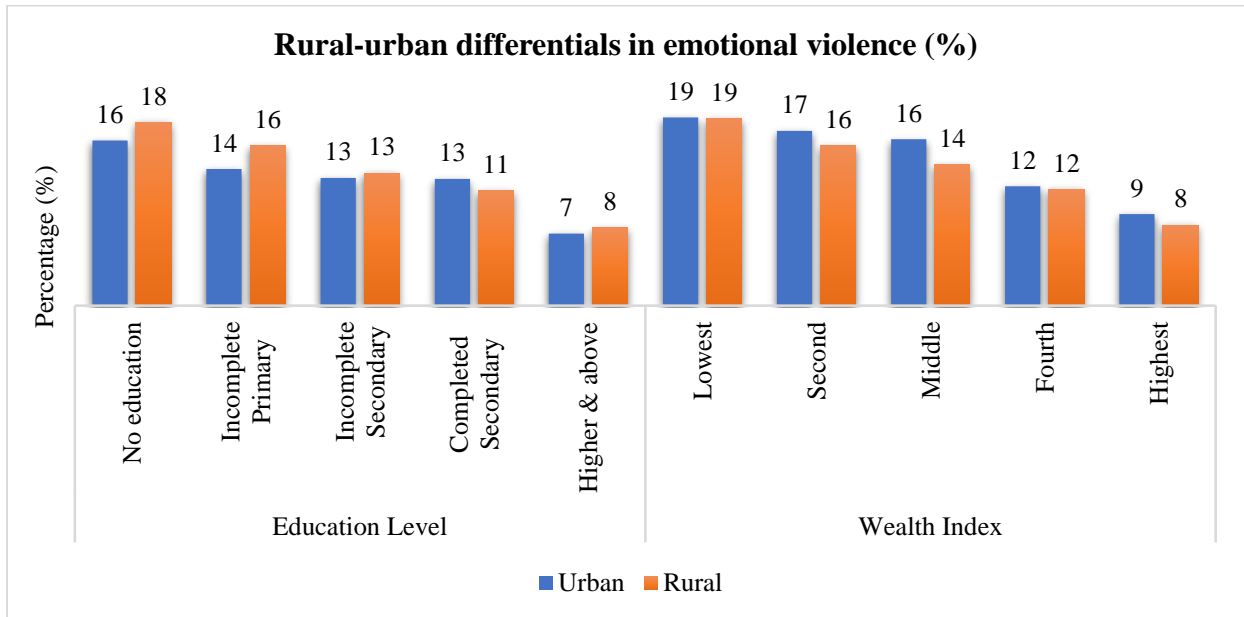
In rural areas, Karnataka (24%), Telangana (21%), Ladakh & Bihar (18%), Andhra Pradesh (17%), and West Bengal & Madhya Pradesh (16%) women have reported the highest prevalence of emotional violence compared to less than one percent in Chandigarh; 3% in Lakshadweep, 4% in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 5% in Kerala & Mizoram, 6% in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chhattisgarh (see **Figure 5.3**).

5.4 Rural-urban differentials in the prevalence of emotional violence

The prevalence of emotional violence in urban areas (12%) is less than in rural areas (15%). However, there are significant variations found within the groups, like educational level and wealth quintile (see **Figure 5.4**). It can be clearly observed that there is a negative relationship between emotional violence and educational level & wealth quintile; the violence declines sharply with increasing women's schooling and wealth quintile. Except for women who completed secondary schooling, educational attainment categories show a higher prevalence of emotional violence in rural areas. However, women who do not go to school and who have not completed primary

schooling experience more emotional violence (18% and 16% respectively) in rural women compared to urban women (16% and 14%) respectively

Figure 5.4 Rural-urban differentials in emotional violence by education level and wealth index, India 2019-21



Similarly, women aged 18-49 who belong to the lowest and second wealth quintile experienced a higher prevalence of emotional violence than the richest and fourth wealth quintile. However, urban area women experienced more prevalence in all categories of wealth quintile (except the lowest) compared to rural area women.

5.5 Determinants of emotional violence

Determinants of emotional violence among women aged 18-49 in India during 2019-21 have been presented in **Table 5.2**. For instance, the OR of age states that women in age groups 20-24 are 22% more likely to experience emotional violence compared to their reference category (age group 18-19). By education attainment, women who are higher & above educational level are 18% less likely to experience emotional violence compared to the illiterates' reference category. Widowed, divorced, or other marital status women are 3.2 times more likely to experience emotional violence (OR=3.21, CI: 1.44-7.16; p=0.01) compared to the currently married reference category. By social group, ST, OBC, and other social categories women are 30%, 12%, and 9% less likely to experience emotional violence compared to their SC women reference category. As compared to

Hindu women, Muslim religion women are 35% more likely to experience (OR=1.35, CI: 1.24-1.47; p=0.01), and Christian women are 16% (OR=0.84, CI: 0.74-0.95; p=0.01) less likely to experience emotional violence in India during 2019-21.

Women who are employed for cash and not for cash are 1.38 and 1.37 times more likely to experience emotional violence respectively compared to women who are not working. By wealth quintile, with referencing women who belong to the lowest wealth quintile, women from the middle quintile (11%), fourth (19%), and highest quintile are (23%) less likely to experience emotional violence respectively. Husbands who are often drunk and sometimes drunk commit 5.9 times and 2.2 times more likely to commit emotional violence against their wives. The equal education status of both husband and wife is 15% less likely to occur emotional violence. Overall, in the Southern region, 1.5 times; in the Western region, 1.4 times; and the Eastern and Central region women are 1.3 times more likely to experience emotional violence than in the Northern region of India during 2019-21.

Table 5.2 Logistic Regression Results: Factors associated with women aged 18-49 who have ever experienced emotional violence, India, 2019-21 (N=63,809)

Background characteristic	Women aged 18-49 ever experience emotional violence	
	Odds Ratio	95% CI
Age Group		
18-19 ®	1.00	
20-24	1.22*	(0.970 1.524)
25-29	1.20	(0.960 1.495)
30-39	1.15	(0.926 1.434)
40-49	1.08	(0.867 1.350)
Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Incomplete Primary	0.99	(0.904 1.074)
Incomplete Secondary	1.01	(0.928 1.106)
Completed Secondary	0.90	(0.707 1.147)
Higher & above	0.82**	(0.699 0.953)
Marital Status		
Currently Married ®	1.00	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Others	3.21***	(1.436 7.158)
Caste		
Schedule Castes ®	1.00	
Schedule Tribes	0.70***	(0.644 0.763)
Other Backward Classes	0.88***	(0.822 0.939)
None of them	0.91**	(0.837 0.994)
Don't know/Missing	0.87**	(0.766 0.994)
Religion		
Hindu ®	1.00	

Muslim	1.35***	(1.241 1.466)
Christian	0.84***	(0.742 0.950)
Other religions	0.92	(0.806 1.043)
Working Status		
Not employed ®	1.00	
Employed for cash	1.38***	(1.308 1.462)
Employed not for cash	1.37***	(1.250 1.512)
Wealth Index		
Lowest ®	1.00	
Second	0.95	(0.887 1.024)
Middle	0.89***	(0.824 0.968)
Fourth	0.81***	(0.739 0.893)
Highest	0.77***	(0.685 0.865)
Husband and Wife Age Gap		
Wife older or same age ®	1.00	
Wife 1-4 years younger	1.00	(0.902 1.112)
Wife 5-9 years younger	1.03	(0.928 1.150)
Wife 10+ years younger	1.06	(0.938 1.199)
Husband Education Level		
No education ®	1.00	
Primary level	1.00	(0.891 1.113)
Secondary level	0.85***	(0.760 0.952)
Higher & above	0.74***	(0.629 0.863)
Don't know/Missing	1.78*	(0.909 3.490)
Husband and Wife Education Gap		
Husband better educated ®	1.00	
Wife better educated	0.93*	(0.849 1.013)
Equally educated	0.85***	(0.781 0.932)
Neither educated	1.02	(0.893 1.159)
Don't know/Missing	0.48*	(0.213 1.066)
Husband's Drinking Habits		
Never drink ®	1.00	
Rarely drunk	1.10	(0.915 1.327)
Sometimes drunk	2.24***	(2.114 2.372)
Often drunk	5.94***	(5.476 6.446)
Place of Residence		
Urban ®	1.00	
Rural	1.02	(0.949 1.086)
Geographical Region		
North ®	1.00	
Central	1.31***	(1.199 1.428)
East	1.32***	(1.200 1.443)
North-east	0.94	(0.847 1.053)
West	1.35***	(1.214 1.493)
South	1.47***	(1.340 1.609)
Constant	0.09***	(0.066 0.116)

Note: Significance level *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, & *p<0.1

5.6 Summary and conclusion

The overall prevalence of emotional violence against women was 14% in India during 2019-21. Women's age, marital status, caste, wealth quintile, working status, husband education, and drinking habits, the education gap between spouses, and geographical region were significant predictors for emotional violence against women in India. Women who were widowed/divorced or other marital status were more likely to experience emotional violence than currently married women. The social group is the leading predictor for emotional violence; the SCs and STs were more vulnerable compared to OBCs or other social category women. Further, women's experience of emotional violence sharply declines with their wealth quintile. Another significant predictor of emotional violence is women's employment status. Women employed for cash are more likely to experience emotional violence than those not employed.

Furthermore, the husband's educational status, drinking habits, spousal age & education gap are significant predictors of emotional violence. Concerning the husband's educational level, those with higher & above education levels commit less emotional violence than those who do not attend school. Further, the equal education status of both husband and wife reduces emotional violence. Husbands who are often drunk and sometimes drunk are more likely to commit emotional violence than never drink or are rarely drunk. Finally, this study showed a higher prevalence of emotional violence against women in rural areas compared to urban areas, especially in India's Southern, Western, Central, and Eastern regions.

CHAPTER – 6: Policies and Laws on Domestic Violence in India

6.1 Introduction

This chapter briefly reviews existing key policies and laws in various communities related to domestic violence in India. Also covers the empirical evidence-based findings, conclusion, and key recommendations on gender-based violence in India.

6.2 The key policies related to domestic violence in India

One Stop Centres (OSCs): The government has set up OSCs in every district to support and assist women who are domestic violence victims. These centres offer needy women medical assistance, legal aid, counselling, and temporary shelter.

Women Helpline: The government has set up a national toll-free helpline number (181) to provide immediate assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence. The helpline operates 24x7 and offers counselling, support, and information on legal remedies.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: It provides a detailed description of domestic violence, including intimidation involving dowry or property and real or threatened physical, mental, emotional, sexual, or rhetorical abuse. It guarantees a woman's freedom to live in her "matrimonial household," which means she cannot be forcibly removed from with her spouse. Those who violate this guideline must either compensate the women financially or obtain a restraining order to keep them away from the complainant.

The Indian Penal Code 1860: Several sections of the Indian Penal Code to protect women from violence, such as Section 364 Indian Penal Code, Outraging Modesty of Women, Section 304 Indian Penal Code Dowry Death, Section 313, causing miscarriage without women's consent, Section 498A, criminalize domestic violence and cruelty against women, etc.

The 1983 amendment to the Indian Criminal Code: The Indian Penal Code was amended in 1983 to include a specific section with section 498A that made domestic abuse a crime in India. The law's provision addresses abuse of married women by their spouses or their husbands' families.

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961: This law prohibits giving or taking dowry, a form of domestic violence against women.

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001: This policy seeks to promote women's empowerment and eliminate discrimination and violence against them. The policy recognizes the importance of preventing and addressing domestic violence and seeks to create a conducive environment for women's empowerment.

The National Commission for Women Act, 1990 established the National Commission for Women, which protects women's rights and addresses issues related to domestic violence.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012: This law protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation, which can also be a form of domestic violence.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: This law provides for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children who are victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013: This law amended the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide stricter punishment for crimes against women, including domestic violence. The law introduced new offenses, such as acid attacks, stalking, and voyeurism, and increased the punishment for existing offenses.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013: This law aims to prevent and redress complaints of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 prohibits the indecent representation of women in advertisements, publications, or any other form that can contribute to the normalization of domestic violence against women.

The Domestic Violence Rules, 2006: These rules were created to guide the implementation of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Overall, all these policies and laws aim to protect women and children from domestic violence and provide a legal framework for justice and support for victims. However, implementing and enforcing these policies and laws remain challenging in many parts of India.

6.3 Existing laws in India under various community

Maintenance and procedures are defined in various sections on domestic violence, which are the following:

- Section 25 - The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955
- Section 18 - The Hindu Adoption Act 1956
- Article 125 - The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- Muslim Law
- Christian Law
- Parsi Law

6.3.1 The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, Section 25, describes the maintenance in such cases; the court may order either the husband or the wife entitled to layout maintenance in either a lump sum amount or annually or monthly for the lifetime.

6.3.2 Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956

Under section 18 of the Hindu Adoption Act, 1956, a wife born as a Hindu is entitled to support from her husband throughout her life. According to the law, wives are also entitled to reside under all the conditions defined in Section 18(2) of the Hindu Adoption Act 1956 (cruelty, desertion, leprosy, adultery, forced conversion). have the right to separate life from or for reasonable reasons). However, she is not entitled to alimony if she does not want to consummate the marriage or has voluntarily converted. On the other hand, Article 19 of the same law states that a widowed woman is entitled to support from her father-in-law.

6.3.3 The Criminal Procedure Code, 1973

Section 125 of the 1983 Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) explains the idea and method of a man's wife, children, and parents' maintenance. In a divorce or split, the court can order a husband with adequate income to pay his wife monthly, annual, or child support. However, no child support will be given if the woman is adulterous, declines to live with her husband for little reasons, or is split by joint agreement.

6.3.4 Muslim Law

Under Muslim law, a woman is entitled to support from her husband under the Muslim Women's Law (Protection of Rights in Divorce). It is now changed. The wife must pay an additional amount agreed upon at marriage by law. She is also entitled to receive a reasonable amount for maintenance during her Iddat period. Suppose a Muslim woman is divorced and unable to support herself after the end of the Iddat period. In that case, the magistrate will order her relatives to pay child support and inherit her property as they see fit. If the woman's relatives cannot pay alimony, the Attorney General can order the State Waqf Commission established under the Waqf Act 1995 to pay.

6.3.5 Christian Law

Divorced Christian women are entitled to alimony under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869. She can apply for alimony in the lower or high courts under Section 37(41) of the Indian Divorce Act, of 1869. According to the law, the husband must pay his wife's living expenses.

6.3.6 Parsi Law

Section 40 of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act of 1963 states that a Parsi lady is entitled to support. According to the provision, a judge can order a spouse to give his wife maintenance for one-fifth of his net revenue. However, the judge does take certain things into account. Specifically, the husband's financial ability, the wife's property and other possessions, and their respective personal behaviour. It is important to note that a wife can only receive support for the rest of her life if she stays single and virginal following the divorce.

6.4 Legal safeguards for women under the Domestic Violence Act 2005

- Section 4 (1) says that anyone who has cause to think that an act of domestic violence has been, is being, or is about to be committed may report it to the appropriate protection officer.
- Section 5 outlines the responsibilities of police personnel, service suppliers, and magistrates.
- Section 6 offers shelter homes to the injured individual upon request from a protection officer or a service provider.
- Section 12 outlines the process for seeking relief from the judge.
- Section 17 guarantees women the right to live in a shared home regardless of whether she has any right, title, or financial stake in it.
- Section 18 details the magistrate's protection order issued to the offended party.
- Section 19 describes the residential orders granted to the offended person by a magistrate's order. Section 19(3) instructs the defendant to sign a pledge, with or without sureties, if required, to prevent the conduct of domestic violence.
- Section 20 requires the defendant to compensate the aggrieved person and any children of the aggrieved person as a consequence of the domestic abuse.
- Section 21 allows temporary custody of a child to the aggrieved person.
- On an application made by the aggrieved person, Section 22 requires the respondent to pay compensation to the aggrieved person for the injuries, including emotional trauma and emotional distress, caused by the respondent's acts of domestic violence.
- According to Section 31, If the offender violates a protection order or an interim protection order, he may be sentenced to an imprisonment sentence of either type for a term extending to one year, a fine extending to 20,000 rupees, or both.
- Section 33 penalizes the protection officer if he fails to discharge his duties as directed by the magistrate in the protection order without reasonable cause.

6.4.1 Punishment Against Domestic Violence in India

- Under the law, various rules or regulations are in place to safeguard women from domestic violence, such as Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with dowry killing.
- Under Section 313-316 of the Indian Penal Code, female infanticide has been made punishable, which implies forcefully ending women's pregnancy.
- Other Sections of the Indian Penal Code dealing with these matters are Sections 305-306 related to the Abetment of Suicide and 340, 349 of the Indian Penal Code respectively, wrongful confinement and wrongful restraint.
- A charge for cruelty, which comes under domestic abuse, can also be filed under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code.

6.5 Domestic Violence Against Men

People generally think that males are abusers and that women are the only ones who experience domestic violence. However, the past shreds of evidence state that males are also victims of domestic violence, not only women, although it can be hard to tell the difference between them and the abusers. Our minds are conditioned to believe that men dominate society, they abuse women, and they are the only ones who suffer as a result. In India, several laws and measures are designed to safeguard women, and many of these women now use them. Men experience physical and emotional abuse, but they tend to keep it to themselves out of embarrassment or worry that others won't believe them and would instead make fun of them.

Men find it difficult to speak out about the abuse they are experiencing at the hands of their partners, and if someone takes the brave step of reporting the abuser, the investigating officer will either not believe them or will ignore the case. In India, there is a prevalent misconception that males oppress women to preserve their power over them. Nevertheless, this is not the only truth. The other side of the coin shows that males are also victims of violence, and it may be very difficult for them to come forward and inform people that they are dealing with such acts of violence. However, the legal system falls short when protecting males from domestic violence since they are victims too. We should take a moment to reflect and acknowledge that men are not weaker or just victims in specific circumstances; they, too, need legal and psychological support. People with

strong personalities just repress the weaker spouse, whether men or women, which frequently leads to violence. Therefore, this is the time to eradicate gender bias and oppose violence, regardless of who is the victim.

However, the present study has a few limitations. First, this study is focused on only three major forms of domestic violence, i.e., physical, sexual, and emotional violence; however, the physical and sexual violence combination and violence against women during pregnancy and other forms of domestic violence are not focused on.

6.6 Conclusion and Key Recommendations

Domestic violence against women in India is a complex and pervasive problem that has serious physical and mental health consequences for women. The victims experience physical injuries, emotional trauma, and psychological distress. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone. Domestic violence harms individuals and families and has a broader impact on society, including healthcare costs, lost productivity, and increased crime rates (Jejeebhoy & Sathar, 2001). Factors contributing to the problem include patriarchal norms, gender inequality, poverty, and lack of education and resources (Gupta, 2012).

Physical violence is a serious issue that affects individuals, families, and communities; therefore, it is important to address its root causes and support victims. It is possible when addressing inequality, improving access to resources and services, and promoting non-violent conflict resolution. Further, physical violence maintains power and control over marginalized communities, such as women, people of color, and impoverished people. This type of violence often stems from underlying social, economic, and political factors, such as gender discrimination, poverty, and racism.

Sexual violence, in particular, is one of the most severe forms of domestic violence that women experience, and it has long-term consequences for their physical and mental health. The issue of sexual violence against women in India is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from various stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the community. Addressing the root causes of sexual violence,

such as patriarchal attitudes and cultural norms, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment are critical to preventing sexual violence against women in India.

Emotional violence is a serious issue that can impact an individual's mental health and well-being; therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness and educate individuals on the negative effects of this type of abuse. It can be achieved through public campaigns, educational programs, and providing support services to survivors of emotional violence. It is important to address emotional violence and support victims in seeking help. It is also important to recognize that emotional violence is never the victim's fault and that leaving an abusive relationship can be difficult and dangerous.

Further research is needed to better understand the nature and consequences of emotional violence and to develop effective interventions to prevent and address this type of abuse. It is a pervasive and damaging form of abuse that can have long-lasting effects on individuals and their relationships. It is crucial to recognize the signs of emotional violence, support victims, and hold abusers accountable for their actions.

Law enforcement and the justice system also play a critical role in preventing physical violence. It includes enforcing laws prohibiting physical violence, prosecuting those who commit acts of physical violence, and supporting victims. In addition, it is important to educate the public about the harmful effects of physical violence and promote nonviolent conflict resolution and communication skills.



Despite the prevalence of domestic violence, it remains a largely hidden and underreported problem. Many victims may be afraid to seek help or may not have access to resources and support. Addressing domestic violence requires a multifaceted approach that involves education, prevention, and intervention. Finally, the study concludes that by understanding the complexities of domestic violence, we can work towards developing effective strategies to prevent and reduce its occurrence. By increasing our understanding of domestic violence and its impact, we can work towards creating a safer society for all. Several laws exist to assist individuals, but this is only feasible if people know their rights and responsibilities.

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