

Empowerment and domestic violence: An empirical investigation on rural women in Bankura district

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence against women is an emerging issue of concern to social and health planner. This study has examined the impact of economic and political empowerment of women on incidence of domestic violence on women. We have formed a composite index of economic empowerment using Principal Component Analysis method. Incidence of domestic violence has been measured by the fact whether the woman suffered from physical assault in last six months from her family member. The impact of economic and political empowerment of woman along with other individual and household characteristics on the incidence of domestic violence has been traced out on the basis of a set of primary data collected from 125 ever-married women residing in the district of Bankura, West Bengal. A binary probit model has been formulated for estimation. Our cross section study reveals a negative and significant relation of economic and political empowerment of women with the incidence of domestic violence on women. This relation may be due to having increased voice and consciousness of politically and economically empowered women.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Economic Empowerment, Political Empowerment and Rural Women

JEL codes: C21; J16

Introduction

Violence against women is a common curse irrespective of social customs, economic status, caste, creed, religion and other cultural backgrounds. Quest for the nature and causes of violence against women is still now a researchable issue to the social and health planners and the researchers in social sciences. Practically our patriarchy society with its dominating features is likely to add fuel to the fire with

respect to occurrence of violence against the fair sex. Actually, the manifestation of patriarchal power results in violence against women. In a patriarchal country like India the male enjoys dominance, privileges and freedom in all aspects of life, where as women are deprived of basic human rights and therefore are the victims of social customs. The definition of violence against women (VAW) cannot be singled out. UN General Assembly, in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December, 1993 defined VAW as 'Any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women including threat of such act, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life'. Violence reveals the wild nature of human beings. Any untoward action that adversely affects security, freedom and welfare of women, is considered as violence against women. It recurs in different manners, namely, physical, psychological, sexual and financial. Violence created by men is their last resort in order to dominate and control over women. It gets the women deprived of enjoying their basic human rights. Obviously this is an illegal offence. It is the matter of central concern of many national and international human right movements. The tragedy becomes aggravated because this crime does occur not only in external atmosphere but also within the family at home. When violence occurs within the family, this is commonly known as Domestic Violence (DV). Domestic Violence refers to 'the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by current or former male intimate partners' World Health Organization (1996). Beating, kicking, slapping, harmful restrictions to regular ordinary behaviour, normal activities and freedom of movement, threats to demolish property, denial of access to resources and control over assets, threat of murder, hurting the feelings by using the rotten language, sexual assault, stimulation to commit suicide or deliberate self-harm etc. are the common examples of domestic violence against women. It is not restricted to married women only. The victims of domestic violence range from the killing aged woman to killing of female foetal. Girls, unmarried young, ever married, never-married, widows, divorce, old aged all sections of females are victims of DV. Domestic violence is present everywhere irrespective of time and space, region, religion, class, caste, status and position, economic condition, age etc. It is not confined to existing husband only; violence against women may occur also from other members of in-laws family, boyfriends and former husbands, other family members such as nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, siblings etc. and sometimes from parents also. Alcoholism, dowry, monetary crisis, extra-marital affairs, personality disorders, interference of in-laws, marital maladjustment, property disputes, drug addiction etc. are some of the main causes of domestic violence. Domestic violence results in many awful effects such as detention into home, emotional break-down, loss of self-confidence, loss of dignity, mental disorder, physical injuries etc. It affects not only the woman concerned but also affects the family as well as society. It increases the risk of having low birth-weight baby, under-five death

rate, infant and foetal death. The education of children, the intimacy with husband and children etc. in the family are also adversely affected. Planner and policy makers are confused to prescribe any suitable policy or to implement any Act to abolish domestic violence as the women generally conceal the domestic violence against them due to apprehension of more violence, fear of loss of the shelter, and for protecting family reputation. So it is quite impossible to have reliable information on it. In India, status of women is far below their male counterpart in term of access to and control over resources, participation in productive work and remuneration. This patriarchal and feudalistic nature of the society may be the cause of domestic violence. The prevalence of domestic violence against women is reported to be very high in India. West Bengal has got some defamation in this respect. According to National Crime Record Bureau (2011) West Bengal ranks first in term of percentage of share of crime committed against women in India. In this state rate of rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry death, cruelty by husband and relatives are 2.6%, 4.1%, 0.6% and 21.6% respectively. Based on 2008 statistics of The National Crime Records Bureau, The Telegraph, December 27, 2010, reported that West Bengal has the highest number of battered wives among the Indian states. The rate of domestic violence against women in this state is the highest in the country. In dowry-related deaths, it comes fifth among the states. The man in Bengal seems bravest at home; he is too shy to demonstrate his muscle outside. He also values his public image as the well-bred gentleman.

Table 1. Descriptions of the Indicators of Economic Empowerment

Indicator	Number (=1)	Percentage	Number (=0)	Percentage
Having own physical asset	62	49.6	63	50.4
Earners	79	63.2	46	36.8
Have a bank account	76	61.3	49	38.7
Having the access to own asset	27	21.6	97	78.4
Whether the present occupation is secure	54	43.2	71	56.8
Contribute in family expenditure	76	61.2	49	38.8
Spend independently for family	43	34.4	82	65.6
Take expenditure/ investment/ saving decision	86	68.8	39	31.2
Having the access to formal credit	65	52	60	48

Source: Authors' field survey 2010

Review of Selected Literature

The study of domestic violence is multidisciplinary in nature. This section has cited some relevant studies of this present paper. Education, higher socio-economic status, non-Muslim religion and extended family structure reduce the risks of domestic violence in rural areas. Higher the women’s autonomy and short-term membership in saving and credit groups, lower is the risk of violence in culturally conservative area whereas it is uncorrelated in less culturally conservative area of Bangladesh (Koenig, Ahmed, Hossain and Mozumder, 2003). In Uttar Pradesh childlessness, economic pressure, and intergenerational transmission of violence increase the risk of physical and sexual domestic violence, whereas higher socio-economic position of household reduces it. Besides, a community environment of violent crime and Community-level norms concerning wife beating were significantly associated with more risks of both physical (Koenig, Stephenson, Ahmed, Jejeebhoy and Campbell, 2006). The study of Sarkar (2010) has explored that maximum prevalence of domestic violence was observed among 30-39 years age group, illiterate and unmarried females in Hooghly district, West Bengal. He has also reported that prevalence of domestic violence is higher among the Muslim women than the Hindu women. The frequency of domestic violence among the unmarried females or the women who fail to give birth of child is higher than other women. However, the study examining the impact of women’s empowerment on their domestic violence is still uncommon in existing literature. In this context, the present study is entrusted with three objectives.

- First, we study the nature of economic empowerment of the rural women in the district of Bankura.
- Second, this study explores the determinants of domestic violence in the district of Bankura.
- Third, we would like to examine the impact of economic and political empowerment along with other socio-economic-demographic traits on the probability of the incidence of domestic violence.

Table 2. Results of KMO and Bartlett’s Test for Sample Adequacy for Factor Analysis

KMO and Bartlett’s Test		
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		0.597
Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	351.957
	df	36
	Sig.	0

Source: Authors’ computation based on primary data, 2010

Table 3. Total Variance Explained by the Components

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.										
Rotation Method: Varimax										
Component	Initial Eigen Values			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings			
	Total	percentage of Variance	Cumulative percentage	Total	percentage of Variance	Cumulative percentage	Total	percentage of Variance	Cumulative percentage	
1	2.664	29.602	29.602	2.664	29.602	29.602	2.165	24.055	24.055	
2	1.833	20.372	49.974	1.833	20.372	49.974	1.773	19.703	43.758	
3	1.173	13.029	63.003	1.173	13.029	63.003	1.732	19.245	63.003	
4	0.927	10.296	73.299							
5	0.700	7.783	81.082							
6	0.692	7.689	88.771							
7	0.465	5.165	93.936							
8	0.445	4.949	98.885							
9	0.1	1.115	100							

Source: Authors' computation based on primary data, 2010

Domestic violence and its determinants

In this section we have explained the expected relation of domestic violence with its potential determinants. Specification and measurement of the selected variables have also been presented here.

Domestic Violence (DVIO): Usually, women's experience of hit, kick, slap or beat by their husband or other family members is viewed as the incidence of domestic violence against women. We have collected information whether the woman is exposed to at least any one sort of these bitter experiences in the last six months or not. We put value '1' if the woman is victim of domestic violence and '0' otherwise. Therefore, the incidence of domestic violence is a binary variable. In this study the incidence of domestic violence is dependent variable in the regression model. The primary objective of this study is to explore the determinants of domestic violence and to estimate their impacts on the incidence domestic violence. Let us now discuss the potential determinants of domestic violence for the rural women.

Economic Empowerment (ECOEMP): Having more economic empowerment implies to have more involvement in family decision making, more contribution in family expenditure, less dependency on other and more voice against annoyance, atrocities and negligence in the family. As a consequence the status of women within family increases. We can, therefore, expect that with the increase in economic empowerment the violence on woman decreases. This is the central hypothesis of this study. We have measured ECOEMP formulating a weighted economic empowerment index by applying the method of Principal Component Analysis. A detail of formulation has been explained in section-4.

Political Empowerment (POLEMP): It may have a wider connotation in literature of social science. It shows the level connectivity of woman in the society. The simplest way of measuring the political empowerment is whether the person has leadership power or not. Therefore, we are justified to make it as a dichotomous variable. It takes value '1' if the woman is a leader of any political party or any organisation and '0' otherwise. Politically empowered woman are expected to have lower experience of domestic violence.

Age of Women (AGE): We have taken the age of woman as an important determinant of domestic violence. As a woman grows older her importance in the family increases and experience can teach her to raise voice against violence and negligence and to fight for her own rights. Thus age of woman is a crucial factor to determine the suffering from DVIO. The relation between the age of woman and DVIO is expected to be negative i.e. the higher the age of the woman the lower is the suffering from DVIO. Age of woman is a quantitative variable and we have taken year as a measuring unit.

Educational Qualification (EDU): It is not surprising that education helps woman to be more vocal against violence. An educated woman will have more chance to obtain wider knowledge and awareness and these will increase their confidence in all walks of life. Education helps them to be more aware about their constitutional rights, legal rights and about the opportunities available to them to make their lives better. It strengthens women's inherent abilities to achieve power and status in the family as well as in the society. Hence, we can expect an inverse relation between educational qualification of a woman and her suffering from DVIO. Generally educational qualification is considered as a qualitative variable; but we measure it by the numbers of years attending formal educational institutions.

Occupation of the Woman (OCUW): Occupation of the woman has been divided into two categories namely, home maker and working woman. Working women in rural area are mainly agricultural labour or engaged in unorganized non-agricultural sector. On one hand, we can expect that as working woman contributes to family expenditure, their importance in the family increases and so there is lower risk of domestic violence in that family. On the other hand, if the woman is home maker she have no economic freedom; she has to depend on other family members and they are expected to go through the higher risk of domestic violence. Occupational status has been considered as a dichotomous variable indicating OCUW = '1', if the woman is home maker and '0' otherwise.

Family Type (FAMTY): Incidence of domestic violence may depend on family structure in which the woman belongs to. This study has considered two types of family – nuclear and joint. It is very difficult to explain whether domestic violence is higher in nuclear or in joint family. In joint family there are many members who can negotiate family dispute and this may lower the domestic violence. Again we can not deny the possibility that members interfere in domestic quarrel and accelerate it and in turn it increases domestic violence. Before, estimation it is also heard to establish that nuclear family protect the woman from domestic violence. So we set the hypothesis that there is not ant straight forward relation between family type and domestic violence against women. Family type in our context is a dichotomous variable taking value '1' when the respondent belongs to nuclear family and '0' otherwise.

Duration of Membership of Self-Help Group (DUSHGM): The SHG is the platform where rural and poor women contribute small recurrent savings and take formal credit via the group for income generating activities or for consumption. It helps to improve the socio-economic status of woman. The meetings of SHGs at regular interval make them conscious about their right, health, hygiene, and education etc. These increase their say in the family. It is, therefore, expected that as the duration of SHG membership of woman increases, the experience of domestic violence will decrease. We measure it by the number of months for which the woman is a member of SHG.

Husband's Education Level (HUSEDU): In most of the cases husbands are accused for violence against women. So, husband's socio-economic background is important for determining the incidence of domestic violence. We have considered husband's education and occupation as determinant of domestic violence. Generally educated husbands are liberal in attitude and thinking. They are expected to come out for solution of the problems of their wives and cooperate with them. It is expected that domestic violence varies inversely with the level of husband's education. It has been counted by number of years attending the formal educational institution.

Husband's Occupation (HUSOCU): Husband's occupation may be a factor for domestic violence against women. Majority of our sample women have reported that their husbands are engaged in the farm activities, either as farmer in their own land or as wage labour in other's land. A section is self employed in cottage industries or in petty business. We like to examine whether domestic violence is higher when husbands are engaged in farm activities or in off-farm activities. Husband's occupation has been taken as dummy. It takes value '1' if the husband's occupation is farming and '0' otherwise.

Per Capita Annual Income (PCIN): To understand the impact of economic condition of the family on domestic violence we have considered per capita annual income as determinant of DVIO. We usually assume low per capita income as one of the major causes of domestic violence. So our hypothesis is that higher the volume of PCIN lower will be the probability of the incidence of domestic violence. PCIN is a quantitative variable measured in terms of Indian rupee.

Caste of Women (CASTE): It is a common matter that the general caste people are more advanced in various aspects of life relative to non-general people. The non-general family suffers more than the general family in terms of poverty, ignorance, superstitions etc. The general caste women are more conscious about their right and about position in society. Thus the caste of women has an active impact on their sufferings. It is expected that the non-general caste women suffer more from domestic violence relative to general caste women. In the area under study majority of the households belongs to Scheduled Castes. We scale the caste in such a manner that the women who belong to scheduled caste takes value '1' and '0' otherwise. Thus, caste has been considered as a dummy variable for studying the impact of caste on the incidence of domestic violence.

Data and Methodology

This empirical investigation is based on a set of primary data collected at household level. The data have been collected through both purposive and random sampling method combined together. In order to conduct the household level survey first we have purposively selected Kotulpur block which is economically better off in

contrast to other blocks in the district of Bankura. Second, two Grampanchayats of this block, namely Mirjapur and Madanmohanpur have been selected randomly. In the third step we have selected three villages from each selected Grampanchayat. Finally, from the selected villages we have randomly selected the sample households and interviewed on the basis of a structured questionnaire during 2010. Our sample has covered the information of 125 ever-married women from 125 households.

In order to study the nature of economic empowerment of the rural women we have considered nine indicators of economic empowerment listed below.

- The woman has own asset.
- The woman is earner.
- The woman has bank account.
- The woman uses her own asset.
- The present occupation of the woman is secure.
- The woman contributes in family expenditure.
- The woman spends independently for family.
- The woman takes expenditure/ investment/saving decision.
- The woman has access to formal credit.

We have scaled these items by '1' if the woman responds positively for the particular decisive factor and by '0' if she does not. We have constructed the Composite Index of Economic Empowerment for the sample women using the technique of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) on the selected indicators. This technique develops a set of uncorrelated variables called Principal Components (PCs) from a set of indicators or variables. This study has extracted Principal Components by Kaiser Criterion which considers only the components having Eigen value greater than one. However, in case of PCA without rotation, the eigenvectors may not align close to the data clusters and thus may not focus the actual states as well. The rotated PCA methods rotate the PCA eigenvectors so that they align closer to the cluster of data. Applying Varimax rotation strategy, which maximizes the variance of the rotated squared PCs, we have rotated the PCA specifying the fixed number of components. Respective rotated component scores have been obtained by regression method. Finally, the Composite Index of Economic Empowerment for the sample women has been calculated taking the weighted sum of component scores. The weight of a particular PC is the percentage of variations in the data set explained by the respective PC after rotation. As the incidence of domestic violence is a dichotomous variable we have formulated a probit model for assessing the

impact of economic empowerment and political empowerment on the incidence of domestic violence.

Results and discussion

Refer to table-1. We see that almost half of our sample women have their own assets, but only 21.6% can use their assets. Among the sample women 63% earns income and 61% contribute in family expenditure. Two third of the sample women can influence financial decision in their family. However, one third of the sample women can spend independently. It is remarkable to note that 61% has savings bank account, and 52% of the respondents have access to formal credit. Actually, it is a consequence of the SHG movement in rural India.

From Table 2 we find that the value of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of Sampling Adequacy is 0.597 (greater than 0.5 is desirable). It indicates that the sample size in this study is adequate for Principal Component Analysis. The value of chi-square statistic in Bartlett's Test of Sphericity is statistically significant. It confirms that the selected indicators of economic empowerment of women are inter-correlated. Therefore, here PCA is appropriate methodology for analyzing the importance of the selected indicators in measuring economic empowerment of women.

Table 3 presents the detailed results of the PCA which reveal the variance explained by the components at initial situation, after extraction and after rotation. The components have been extracted using Kaiser Criteria and rotated imposing Varimax rotation method. This study has considered three principal components which have Eigen values greater than one. Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings indicate that the first rotated principal component explains 24% of total variation in economic empowerment of women. The second and third rotated principal components explain 20% and 19% of variance respectively. Three components altogether account for 63% of total variation in the economic empowerment of women.

Table 4 depicts that the level of economic empowerment of average women is low and it varies widely. Average age of women is about 32 years. It ranges from 17 years to 70 years. Most of the women do not complete primary education. On an average, women are empirically found to complete only two years of formal education. They have become the members of the SHGs for approximately last two years only. The mean value of husbands' education level is 5.3 years. That means that husband has just completed his primary education. The annual per capita income in the family is Rs 6186.49. Average land holding per family is 1.49 bigha (1 bigha= 0.04 acre). Therefore, average sample families are poor in terms of education, income and in terms of holding assets.

Table 4. Descriptive Statistics of the Selected Variables

	ECOEMP	AGE	EDU	DUPASHG	HUSEDU	PCIN	LAND
Mean	0.000	33.744	2.392	20.504	5.304	6186.491	1.490
Median	-5.370	33.000	0.000	12.000	5.000	5500.000	0.750
Maximum	82.930	70.000	11.000	120.000	15.000	40500.000	20.000
Minimum	-79.480	17.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1388.571	0.000
Std. Dev.	36.568	10.018	3.270	27.160	3.846	4143.311	2.403
Skewness	0.275	0.605	1.034	1.420	0.261	4.907	4.454
Kurtosis	2.451	3.272	2.770	4.371	2.568	39.347	30.912
Jarque-Bera	3.149	8.003	22.548	51.818	2.392	7382.595	4470.877
Probability	0.207	0.018	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.000	0.000

Source: Authors' computation based on primary data, 2010

Table-5 shows that majority of respondents are reported to have the experience of domestic violence. Among the surveyed women 61% are home maker. Only 25.6% are politically empowered. Respondents to the extent of 66.4% belong to nuclear family. Husbands of a large number of sample women are farmer or agricultural labour, only 12.8% are self-employed. The major portion of sample women belong to scheduled castes.

Table 5. Descriptions of the Selected Categorical Variables

Variables	Number	Percentage
Experience with Domestic Violence during last six months	68	54.4
Occupation (Home maker)	76	60.8
Political Empowerment	32	25.6
Nuclear Family	83	66.4
Husband Occupation (Farming)	41	32.8
Husband Occupation (Wage Labour)	68	54.4
Husband Occupation (Self employed)	16	12.8
Caste (General Caste)	15	12.0
Caste (OBC)	12	9.6
Caste (Scheduled Castes)	65	52.0
Caste (Scheduled Tribes)	33	26.4

Source: Authors’ computation based on primary data, 2010

The findings of the estimated probit model have been depicted in Table 6. We have shown the marginal change in probabilities of having experience of domestic violence with reference to the probit model in Table 7. We find that the coefficient of economic empowerment of women is -0.008, which is statistically significant. It indicates that other things remaining the same, the economic empowerment of women reduce the probability of domestic violence against them. The coefficient of the age in the probit model confirms that with increase in age women gain strong foothold to fight against domestic violence. The estimation of marginal probability also speaks in favour of this result. We have found that education and occupation of women are immaterial in determination of domestic violence against women in rural areas. It may happen due to the fact that the women in rural area are less educated and working women are engaged in agricultural activity and earn subsistence wage.

The coefficient of the duration of SHG membership is positive and statistically significant. The duration of SHG membership has been found empirically to stimulate the probability of suffering from domestic violence. The marginal probability of domestic violence increases due to increase of the duration of SHG membership in the area under study. The coefficient of the political empowerment of women, which is negative and significant, indicates to lower the likelihood of

the woman suffering from the domestic violence. Table-7 shows that politically empowered women compared to other have 0.3% point lower probability of having experience of domestic violence. The result supports our hypothesis.

Table 6. Estimates of the Probit Model for Domestic Violence (N=125)

Explained Variable: DVIO				
Method: ML –Binary Probit (Newtow Raphson)				
Convergence achieved after Iteration 4				
Explanatory Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	Z Statistic	Prob.
Constant	1.63459	0.74921	2.18	0.029
ECOEMP (Composite Index)	-.0076812	.0038832	-1.98	0.048
AGE (Year)	-.0169592	.0096447	-1.76	0.079
EDU (Year)	-.0261829	.0445014	-0.59	0.556
OCUW (Home maker)	-.3697836	.2667385	-1.39	0.166
DURSHGM (Month)	.0115464	.0058543	1.97	0.049
POLEMP (1= yes)	-.7609838	.3483696	-2.18	0.029
HUSEDU (Year)	.0158933	.0386875	0.41	0.681
FAMTY (1= Nuclear)	.5184124	.2742763	1.89	0.059
HUSOCU (1= FARM)	-.1229678	.3122495	-0.39	0.694
PCIN (□)	-3.32e-06	.0000322	-0.10	0.918
CASTE (1= SC)	1.005419	.283347	3.55	0.000
Summary Statistics				
Sum squared residual	21.30463	Avg. log likelihood		-0.50657
Log likelihood	-63.3207	McFadden R-squared		0.26507
Restr. log likelihood	-86.1588	Probability(LR stat)		3.69E-06

Source: Authors' computation based on primary data, 2010

The estimates of probit model demonstrate that impacts of husband's education and occupation on likelihood of domestic violence are statistically insignificant. Type of family is a statistically significant determinant of domestic violence against women. It tells us women in nuclear family experiences more domestic violence compared to those in joint family. The estimated marginal probability reveals that if a woman shifts from joint to nuclear family the probability of having experience of domestic violence increases by 0.2% point. Though we have found that higher per capita family income reduces the probability of experiencing domestic violence against women, this relation is not statistically significant. The coefficient of caste is positive and significant. This result is indicative that the women belonging to scheduled castes are suffering more from domestic violence in contrast to that of the women belonging to other castes.

Table 7. Marginal Change in the Probability of having Experience of Domestic Violence

Explanatory Variables	dy/dx evaluated at mean	Std. Error	Z Statistic	Prob.
ECOEMP (Composite Index)	-.0030	.0015	-1.98	0.048
AGE (Year)	-.0067	.0038	-1.76	0.079
EDU (Year)	-.0104	.0177	-0.59	0.556
OCUW (House maker)*	-.1457	.1036	-1.41	0.160
DURSHGM (Month)	.0045	.0023	1.97	0.049
POLEMP (1= yes)*	-.2946	.1257	-2.34	0.019
HUSEDU (Year)	.0063	.0153	0.41	0.681
FAMTY (1= Nuclear)*	.2045	.1057	1.93	0.053
HUSOCU (1= FARM)*	-.0489	.1243	-0.39	0.694
PCIN (□)	-1.32e-06	.00001	-0.10	0.918
CASTE (1= SC)*	.3843	.0995	3.86	0.000

* dy/dx indicates the change of the probability of having experience of violence for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

Source: Authors’ computation based on primary data, 2010

Policy prescriptions

We observe that the suffering of women from domestic violence is a common phenomenon. The Principal Component Analysis has shown very low level economic empowerment of the sample women. Only one fourth of the respondents enjoy political empowerment. The findings of the regression analysis have suggested that economic empowerment, political empowerment and age of the women have negative and significant impact on having the experience of domestic violence. On the other hand participation in SHG, nuclear family type and caste (Scheduled Castes) increases the probability of having experience of domestic violence. Therefore, to improve the condition of women by lowering the incidence of domestic violence we would suggest some policies as follows.

The governmental organization, non-governmental organization, social organization and the society must take some concrete steps towards enhancing women’s empowerment. Women’s education comes up as an insignificant factor for lowering the occurrence of domestic violence on women. It may happen due to unsatisfactory education level of the sample women. However, education no doubt inculcates economic and political empowerment of a person. To inculcate empowerment women have to attain a satisfactory level of education. So it is necessary to set up more educational institutions especially for women. In this circumstance Human Resource Development Ministry, the Ministry of woman

and children welfare, local panchayets, NGOs, women's organization and social organization should be more prompt in action, particularly in rural area. Finally, gender education, role of women in forming society etc. must be incorporated in course curriculum of secondary level. Further, steps should be taken to accentuate the implementation of the existing policies more fruitfully.

The government should implement different training and financial assistance programmes that will be helpful to make women financially independent and to develop their skill. If these are implemented the goal of increased economic empowerment will be fulfill. This in turn lowers the violence against women.

Our empirical experiences tell that most of the women live within the boundary of various social, regional and caste customs. The light of modern civilization does not enlighten them. Therefore, launching of various programmes in electronic media, organizing rallies and public meeting, ensuring the participation of women in social organization could be effective tools to create massive awareness among women.

Further, the community leaders, local elite should serve and support women in social participation. They can jointly organize meeting, group discussion, speeches and counseling for motivating people about gender equality and encouraging women to participate in community development. This will help them to be politically empowered. This in turn increases their voices and lowers the violence upon women. We have to create an environment that helps the victimized women to take the shelter of legal cell of Government.

We know that some leading international organizations such as World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP etc. launch many projects related to women's development in India. They have been playing a major role in eliminating gender discrimination and they are funding in different projects related to education, agricultural production, health, human rights etc. It is necessary to take action by the government or various organization in such a manner that the supports provided by international organization trickle down on the region of our study and all other deprived region of India. These efforts will increase the confidence of women.

Conclusion

This study sheds lights on some influential variables affecting the occurrence of domestic violence on women. However, it does not mean that these are the only variables affecting the occurrence of domestic violence. There are many other variables that are likely to have impact on domestic violence. We have not considered all of them in this study. Domestic violence is actually the demonstration of muscles of the patriarchal society. Our society needs a proper counseling so that their psychological set-up about the so-called behavior of women and customary

expectations from women disappear and they learn to treat women as human beings only. Therefore, by creating a social environment, where any type of discrimination between men and women would disappear, it is possible to ensure violence free women in family as well as in society.

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