

## ATTITUDE OF MARRIED MEN AND MARRIED WOMEN TOWARDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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### **Abstract**

Violence against women is a universal problem and is increasing day by day. In India, common forms of violence against women include acts such as female foeticide, domestic abuse, sexual assault and murder. Domestic violence is a widespread problem that crosses cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries and is a violation of human rights. The aim of the present study was to find out the gender difference in attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. Total 100 participants were selected by purposive sampling method for the study. In this study 50 married men and 50 married women were recruited. Attitude towards domestic violence scale constructed by Ekta Soni and Rakesh Behmani (2018) was used to collect data. The obtained data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Result found that there is significant gender difference in attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. Married men showed more favourable attitude towards domestic violence than married women.

**Key Words:** Domestic violence, attitude, married men, married women.

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### **Introduction:**

Domestic violence is a widespread problem all over the world. It crosses cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries and is a violation of human rights. It includes any form of violence suffered by a person from a biological relative, but typically is the violence suffered by a woman by male members of her family or relatives. It's also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Domestic violence, so defined, has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation.

According to National Family and Health Surveys in 2015 (NFHS-4), women experience of physical violence increases with age, from 17 % women among age group of 15-19 years to 35 % women among age group 40-49. A survey carried out by the Thomson Reuters Foundation (2018) ranked India as the most dangerous country in the world for women. According to National Crime Records Bureau report (2018) of India states a reported crime against women and girls are increased such as murder with rape, dowry deaths, acid attack, cruelty by husband or his relatives, kidnapping and abduction of women, selling of minor girls, buying of minor girls etc.

There are several domestic violence laws in India. The earliest law was the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 which made the act of giving and receiving dowry a crime. In an effort to bolster the 1961 law, two new sections, Section 498A and Section 304B were introduced into the Indian Penal Code in 1983 and 1986. The most recent legislation is the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) 2005. The PWDVA, a civil law, includes physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, and economic abuse as domestic violence. Apart from this in India crime against women is increased.

Previous studies on domestic violence in India show that prevalence of domestic violence is not negligible. For instance, in a descriptive cross-sectional community based study conducted in 5 slums area of Bhubaneswar by Mohapatra & Mistry's (2017), it was found that overall prevalence of domestic violence is around 35%. In a study on domestic violence against women, Choudhary, Kaithwas and Rana (2014) carried out a study in Lucknow in which 50 women were interviewed regarding domestic violence and found alcoholism of husbands as one of the main causes of domestic violence against women.

Kalokhe et al. (2016) studied two forms of abuse, 41% of women reported experiencing domestic violence during their lifetime and 30% in the past year. Simister (2018) studied gender based violence in India and found an evidence of a long-term increase in gender based violence risk in India.

### **Objectives:**

1. To find out the level of attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence.
2. To study the gender difference in attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence.

### **Hypothesis:**

Married men would show favourable attitude than married women towards domestic violence.

### **Method:**

#### **Sample:**

The study consists of 100 participants, of them 50 married men and 50 married women from Jaysingpur city. Sample was selected by using purposive sampling method. The age of the participants ranges from 28-40 years. All participants were from middle socio-economic background. The married men and married women who experienced minimum two years of married life were selected for the study.

#### **Procedure:**

First of all, researchers personally visited to the participant's home with prior intimation. At the time of visiting researchers informed about the study and explain the importance and objectives of the study and then requested to give the responses as per the instruction given on the scale. If they give another time to researcher for responding to the scale then researchers asked for another date of visiting. Researchers collected data from

participants as per their convenient time schedule. Researchers strictly follow one thing that men and women responding separately. Women have noany burden and stress for responding the scale. After completing the work,they were thanked for their cooperation.

**Measures:**

**Attitude towards domestic violence scale (2018):**

Attitude towards domestic violence scale developed by Ekta Soni and Rakesh Behmani was used to collect data. This scale consists of 16 items using a 6 point scale. Reliability of the scale is found .79 and validity found technically sound. The minimum and maximum score range is 16-96.High score represented supporting attitude towards domestic violence where as low score implies non-supportive towards domestic violence.

**Results:**

**Table no.1 shows level of overall attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence**

Level Attitude towards DomesticViolence	No.of Married Men	No. of Married Women
Strongly unfavorable	0	14
Moderately unfavorable	20	32
Favorable	30	4

Table no.1 depicts the level of attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. According to this table, 30 married men hold favorable attitude towards domestic violence and 20 married men display moderately unfavorable attitude towards domestic violence. On the other side 32 married women expressed moderately unfavorable, 14 married women shows strongly unfavorable and 4 married women display favorable attitude towards domestic violence.

**Table no.2 Descriptive statistics for attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence.**

Group	N	Mean	SD	Df	t value	p value	Sig.
Married Men	50	45.43	11.31	98	7.26	.00001	0.01*
Married Women	50	30.76	8.79				

\*P < .01

Table no.2 clearly indicates that married men and married women have different on level of attitude towards domestic violence. Married men hold more favorable attitude towards domestic violence as compared to married women. Framed hypothesis is accepted at0.01 level of significance.

**Discussion:**

The aim of the research was to find out the level of attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. The observation depicts that 30 married men have favorable attitude and 20 married men have moderately unfavorable attitude towards domestic violence. On other side 32 married women have moderately unfavorable attitude towards domestic violence. This reflection displays mentality/psyche of Indian society. In India, there is a patriarchal form of society and the secondary status is always given to women. Men are looked at as the one who are heading the family and women are the carriers of patriarchal values. Violent behavior becomes just a tool for them to gain and retain control over the group. One more possibility is that most of Indian women are economically dependent upon their husband and therefore, they do not oppose violent behaviour of their husband. Moreover, society has negative attitude towards divorcee women and because of that women do not prefer actions like divorce against their abusive husbands.

Another aim of the study is to find out the difference in attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. In order to see the difference, inferential statistics were computed. The finding shows a significant difference in the attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. This result supports to the finding of study by Choudhary, Kaithwas and Rana (2014). Various researchers investigated that women are victims of domestic violence by their family members. Some causes were found among victims like possession of resources, education, earning, employment, poor communication, provocation. Apart from this perpetrator characteristics include hot-tempered attitude, substance abuse, family history, mental instability and gender ideologies as the causes of domestic violence in our society.

### **Conclusion:**

Gender difference is found in attitude of married men and married women towards domestic violence. Married men show favourable attitude than married women towards domestic violence.

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