

SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN INDIA & ABROAD

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INTRODUCTION

We have verity of different laws against crimes against women, like rape, sexual harassment at work, domestic violence, dowry cases, and so on, and we frequently speak out against them. On the other side, we fail to recognize and admit that even males can be victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other forms of violence. Even if a man tells someone that he is being sexually harassed by someone of the same gender or the opposite gender and if he raises his worries about any such sad incidence, he is generally dismissed. As a result of these factors, many crimes against men go unreported.

ABSTRACT

In most of the countries in the world, the laws against domestic violence provide protection to both men and women. Men can also seek restraining orders from courts, which restrain the abusive partner or wife from perpetrating abuse and even contacting the victim. Whereas in India, family violence against men is almost legal as there is no provision in any law to protect a man, who faces violence from wife or other female family members. There are several cases where a husband has been battered, abused, tortured by wife in connivance with her own family. Many a times the violence is so brutal that the husband suffers extreme injuries, in some cases he is killed as well. It is necessary to modify our society's mindset.

KEYWORDS

Domestic violence, gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, men victim, risk factors, spouse violence, violence against men, women perpetrator

This paper primarily focuses on male victims of violence in India and some other countries of the World for Sexual and Domestic Violence. The main aim of this study was to analyse the risk factors connected with male abuse, which can help in developing programmes that identify, prevent and minimise violence among men.

DISCUSSIONS

Both men and women are entitled to human rights and gender equality. Gender-neutral legislations are urgently needed in today's world, where males are wrongfully accused of rapes, domestic abuse, and sexual assault. Domestic violence is a term that does not imply that only women can be victims of domestic violence; men can be victims as well as perpetrators¹. Domestic violence should be classified as spousal violence because it affects both men and women. Seventy-five percent of cases are dropped because the women are attempting to extort money from the men. The case against the husband is reopened if her requests are met.

STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN INDIA

Domestic abuse laws in India only protect women, not men. It creates the mistaken impression that men can only be perpetrators, not victims. The rate of domestic violence against men is steadily rising.

Gender-based violence has been recognized as a global public health and human rights problem¹ that leads to high rates of morbidity, mortality, depression, substance dependence, suicide, and posttraumatic stress disorder². Domestic violence against men in India is not recognized by the law as well³.

However, contrary to common belief, there are a growing number of men who are at the receiving end of harassment and face psychological and physical abuse by women.⁴

In a community-based, cross-sectional study in rural communities of Haryana using multi stage random sampling was conducted to find the prevalence, characteristics, and socio demographic correlates of gender-based violence against men. During the study a total of 1000 married men

¹ *The Third Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Report*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2007. [Last accessed on 2018 May 11]. Available from: http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/events/17_07_2007/en/ [Google Scholar]

² Campbell JC. Health consequences of intimate partner violence. *Lancet*. 2002;359:1331–6. [PubMed]

³ Sawant ST. Place of the woman in Indian society: A brief review. *J Hum Soc Sci*. 2016;21:21–5.

⁴ *Domestic Violence against Men*. San Francisco: [Last updated on 2018 Jun 06; Last accessed on 2018 May 11]. Available from: https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence_against_men .

in the age group of 21–49 years old were interviewed using modified conflict tactics scale studies,

It was observed that Gender-based violence affects 52.4% of married men in India, in their lifetime, 51.5% of men have been subjected to some form of torture or violence by their spouses or intimate partners. In the recent year, 10.5% of men have been subjected to gender-based violence by their spouses or intimate partners. Emotional abuse is the most common form of spousal or domestic violence against men, with physical abuse coming in second. Less family income, low education up to middle class, nuclear family setup, and perpetrator under the influence of alcohol were identified as risk factors. Earning spouse with education up to graduation is the risk factor for bidirectional physical violence.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In the **United States of America**, one out of every nine men is subjected to domestic violence by their intimate partner or their spouses.

One in every seven men has been the victim of physical violence by their spouses or intimate partners⁵.

Men account for two out of every five victims of domestic abuse in **the United Kingdom**. This refutes the widely held belief that domestic violence only affects women. Domestic abuse against men generally goes unchecked, according to the men's rights campaign group.

Nearly 1 in 71 men (1.4%) in the United States have been raped at some time in their lives. More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner⁶

According to a **British crime survey**, 40 percent of domestic violence victims were men between 2004-2005 and 2008-2009. In recent years, it has dropped to 37.7%.

Strangers and in public places are the most common perpetrators of domestic abuse against men. Since the age of 15, 1 in 16 **Australian men** has been subjected to domestic

⁵ [National Statistics Domestic Violence Fact Sheet](#)

⁶ The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report

abuse in the form of physical or sexual torture by their spouses, intimate partners, or cohabiting partners. Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, one man was killed per month as a result of domestic violence by his current or prior partner.⁷

Domestic violence against males by their spouses or intimate partners is not uncommon, according to these surveys and research from various nations. Appropriate mechanisms for dealing with domestic violence in a more neutral manner should be in place.

As per Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey (PSS) in 2016 indicated that since the age of 15: men aged 18–34 were more at risk of intimate partner violence in the 12 months before the survey than those aged 35 and over 2.0% of men aged 18–34 experienced intimate partner violence compared with 0.8% aged 35 and over.

Male victims of abuse can be helped with appropriate action, such as recognizing violence against men by women as a public concern, establishing a helpline for male victims of violence, and providing education, awareness, and legal safeguards.

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey (PSS) in 2016