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Young adult's attitude towards domestic violence

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Abstract

Domestic violence often termed as domestic abuse or familial violence is violence or other abuse in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It is often committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner. Various research conducted around the world have proved that wife beating is a universal phenomenon. Domestic violence situations, prevention and its eradication depend on the type of attitudes carried by young adults. Therefore, the descriptive research was proposed to study aimed to find the attitude of young adults towards domestic violence. A Total number of 240 male and female young adults were selected as sample of research through Population Proportion sampling method from two colleges of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. To achieve the research objective, a tool namely Attitude Scale on Gender-based violence (A-GBV) was developed and thereafter reliability and validity of the tool was calculated before its application. Suitable statistical methods i.e. frequency, percentage, p value and correlation were applied on collected data to derive the research results. After analysis and comparing the data, the finding of the research reflected strong disagreement towards domestic violence. A significant association was also found between attitude of young adults towards domestic violence and selected independent variable i.e., age, gender, college and family income.

Keywords: young adults, domestic violence, age, gender, college and family income

Introduction

Domestic violence, often known as domestic abuse or family violence, refers to acts of violence or other forms of abuse perpetrated in a domestic environment, such as a marriage or cohabitation. It is frequently committed by one spouse or partner against the other in an intimate relationship. Various research conducted around the world have proved that wife beating is a universal phenomenon. Even in the developed countries and irrespective of religion, caste and creed and economic social wellbeing this has been taking place. India is also not an exception to this practice. Youth ages 16 to 24 are the most at risk of domestic violence of any age group. Teen dating violence is prevalent, and teens may also be exposed to domestic violence in their homes. Teens and young adults who are disconnected from social supports such as school, family, and work are at particular risk for domestic violence. A significant proportion of this age group are parents, and the stresses that they face increase their children's risk of exposure to violence as well. Domestic abuse victims are primarily women over the world, and women are more likely to be subjected to more severe kinds of violence. On the grounds of cruelty women get divorce/judicial separation under personal laws before the civil court and since 1983, Indian Penal Code has recognized cruelty against women by husband or the relatives of the husband as a punishable criminal act. Domestic violence is among the most underreported crimes worldwide for both men and women (Strong *et al.*, 2010). Domestic violence exists in various forms such as-

- **Physical Violence:** Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force (CDC, 2020).
- **Sexual violence/Marital Rape:** Makkar (2020) writes The definition of rape codified in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code ("IPC") includes all forms of sexual assault involving non-consensual intercourse with a woman (India Today, 2016).
- **Verbal and Psychological violence:** Psychological violence is estimated to be the most common form of intimate partner violence (IPV). Despite this, research on the independent effect of psychological violence on mental health is scarce.
- **Financial Violence:** According to Nine, 2021 ^[10], one of the major reasons contributing to domestic violence is financial violence or the control of one's ability to acquire, use and maintain money by an intimate partner. It is a silent form of abuse that gradually become more controlling overtime. This may involve a partner insisting that they handle finances

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or demanding to stop working. They also limit their partners financial access for managing basic needs.

- **Forced Pregnancy and Abortion:** The practice of forcing a woman to become pregnant, often as part of a forced marriage, or as part of a programme of breeding slaves, or as part of a programme of genocide is termed as forced pregnancy. It is a form of reproductive coercion.

Globally, nationally, and locally, domestic violence is an endemic social problem and an enduring human rights issue within all societies and cultures. The international literature highlights how this phenomenon is complex and transversal to all age groups, however, attitudinal research has typically focused on adults, so much less is known about children and young people's attitudes towards domestic violence (Maguire, 2020) [7]. India is filled with the youth icons that stimulate the upcoming youths making them passionate (Goel, 2019). However, the indulgence of youth in social activities can bring the prosperity of the nation. Channelizing energies of the youths on righteous direction becomes the responsibility of the society. Data on domestic violence clearly elaborates that a significant proportion of young people are part of domestic violence some in some way: as witnesses of violence, as victims of violence at the hands of other youth, or as perpetrators. Thus, their attitude and experiences towards violence can seriously repair or impair their social relationships, their learning, and their opportunities for healthy and safe development into adulthood. Manifesting ingenious ideas and implement of youth for upliftment of the women and domestic violence prevention may be effective for them and changing society. Over the past decade there is increasing awareness that young people experience greater levels of violence and abuse in their relationships, yet domestic violence prevention is still in its infancy and much remains to be accomplished, not least in better understanding young people's attitudes. The current study aims to explore young people's attitudes towards domestic violence with a view to generate evidence that can be used to inform and improve domestic violence prevention efforts (Maguire, 2020) [7] with respect to their age gender, college and family income.

Methodology

A Total number of 240 male and female young adults were selected as sample of research through Population Proportion sampling method from three colleges of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. To achieve research

objective, a tool namely Attitude Scale on Gender-based violence (A-GBV) was utilized. The tool was evaluated by subject experts and thereafter reliability of the tool (Mishra & Gir, 2013, Mishra & Gir 2014) [5, 13, 14, 15] was calculated (0.74) through pilot study. Due to Covid-19 pandemic situation, researcher collected the data through online mode. Suitable statistical methods i.e. frequency, percentage, p value and Standard deviation were applied on collected data to derive the research results. After analysis and comparing the data, the finding of research reflected that high level disagreement attitude towards domestic violence. A significant association was also found between attitude of young adults towards domestic violence and selected independent variable i.e Age, Gender, College and Family Income.

Result and Discussion

Young adults Attitude towards Domestic Violence

Domestic violence or Intimate partner violence (UN) is one of the most common forms of violence against women and includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and controlling behaviours by an intimate partner (WHO, 2012) [18]. Young people experience a complex transition from childhood to adulthood, which impacts their behaviour and decision making. It may impact the way they respond to the abuse as well as the way they engage with services. Moreover, they may be unequipped to deal with the practical problems such as moving home or finances. As a result, young people who experience domestic abuse do so at a particularly vulnerable point in their lives. (Safe Young Lives: Young People and domestic abuse). Young adults growing up in abusive family environment may not see domestic violence as a big deal and may therefore not react much as it is something that has been going on around them for long and they come to normalized it and this attitude is concerning. In a similar study it was found that people with certain 'risk factors' were identified as being more likely to become perpetrators of domestic violence, or one community having a higher rate of violence than another (Connolly *et al.*, 2010; Flood and Fergus, 2008; Harris *et al.*, 2015; Heise, 2011) [3, 4, 6]. In a study carried out by Anaba *et al.* (2021), it was found that, acceptance of wife-beating was influenced by socio-demographic and behavioral factors. Efforts to end violence against women and girls in Ghana should focus on promoting girl education, economic empowerment of women and public education on laws that prohibit domestic violence or Intimate Partner Violence.

Table 1: Distribution of Young Adult’s Attitude towards Domestic Violence

(N=240)

Variables		Analysis	Statements on Domestic Violence							
			It is okay to beat/ slap a woman.	Women can be controlled only by beating/ slapping	Women are meant for household chores, procreating and child-rearing	Women should be allowed to work outside.	Women can manage household/ family expenses	Women should be given financial rights and obligations	Working women dominates their husband and family decisions	Man can force his wife for pregnancy and abortion because he is the one to bear financial burden and obligation
Gender	Female	Mean	4.73	4.87	4.68	4.55	4.68	4.69	3.52	4.58
		SD	0.707	0.564	0.698	0.995	0.700	0.754	1.195	0.816
	Male	Mean	4.10	4.40	4.14	4.07	4.29	4.24	2.80	4.29
		SD	1.095	0.883	0.946	1.113	0.803	0.898	1.009	0.749
		p Value	0.176	< 0.000*	<0.000*	<0.000*	<0.001*	0.0001*	<0.000*	<0.000*
Age	18-21 years old	Mean	4.44	4.53	4.34	4.19	4.43	4.40	3.10	4.41
		SD	0.898	0.873	0.981	1.139	0.843	0.946	1.163	0.791
	22-25 years old	Mean	4.37	4.89	4.59	4.59	4.61	4.63	3.30	4.49
		SD	1.137	0.361	0.495	0.871	0.573	0.567	1.151	0.808
		p Value	0.100	0.603	0.009*	0.003*	0.008*	0.113	0.501	0.235
College	Agril.	Mean	4.11	4.40	4.09	4.06	4.28	4.18	2.85	4.17
		SD	1.214	0.814	0.960	1.093	0.817	0.896	1.073	0.781
	H.Sc.	Mean	4.59	4.76	4.59	4.45	4.60	4.63	3.33	4.59
		SD	0.757	0.723	0.765	1.051	0.729	0.794	1.175	0.765
		p Value	0.41	0.0003*	0.004*	0.000*	0.006*	0.002*	0.001*	0.002*
Family income	High	Mean	4.37	4.62	4.37	4.26	4.62	4.47	3.02	4.35
		SD	1.111	0.845	0.994	1.186	0.659	0.871	1.149	0.923
	Middle	Mean	4.37	4.62	4.37	4.26	4.62	4.47	3.02	4.35
		SD	1.111	0.845	0.994	1.186	0.659	0.871	1.149	0.923
	Low	Mean	4.37	4.62	4.37	4.26	4.62	4.47	3.02	4.35
		SD	1.111	0.845	0.994	1.186	0.659	0.871	1.149	0.923
		p Value	<0.000*	0.002*	<0.000*	<0.000*	0.024*	0.001*	<0.000*	0.615

Note: * Stands for significant at $p < 0.05\%$ level of significance

The data in table 1 represents that majority of male and female young adults strongly disagreed on the conduct which includes beating/ slapping women, controlling women by beating/slapping and women meant only for household chores, procreating and child-rearing and to man forcing wife for pregnancy and abortion. Majority of male and female young adults strongly agreed that women should be allowed to work outside, she can manage household/family expenses and that they should be given financial rights and obligation. Meanwhile female young adults disagreed that working women dominates their husband and family decisions but male young adults were undecided if women dominate their husband and family decisions. A significant association was found between gender of young adults and their attitude on statements regarding controlling women by beating/slapping, women meant for household chores, procreating and child-rearing, that women should be allowed to work outside, managing household /family expenses, giving financial rights and obligation, working women domination husband and family decisions and men forcing wife for pregnancy and abortion as he bears the financial burden and obligation. There was no significant association between gender of young adults and their attitude on the statement that states that it is okay to beat/slap a woman.

In contrast to above research data from the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-2016) released on 12 January said that while 52 per cent of women surveyed believe it is reasonable for a husband to beat his wife, only 42 per cent of men agree with it. The data reveals that attitudes among both genders hasn't changed by too much since the last such survey in 2005-06, except that the number of men who think that domestic abuse is okay is now lower than women (Menon,

2018) [8]. Similarly the Unicef's "Global Report Card on Adolescents 2012", also demonstrates that societal attitudes that convey acceptance or justification of domestic violence are making girls and women more vulnerable to abuse. It says, "Available data for developing countries show that nearly 50% of girls and women aged 15-49 believe that wife beating is justified (Sinha, 2012) [9] while current study explore changing scenario of attitude of male and female young adults towards wife beating.

According to the survey of a E-paper named Mint (2021) [11] 62% of respondents who agreed with the statement "Burden of child rearing should be borne by women" Even among young urban Indians online, a cohort seen as more progressive, there is a significant minority that holds conservative views about women's role in households, workplaces and society.

According to table 1, majority of young adults between the age group 18-21 and 22-25 years strongly disagreed on the statement which states that beating/slapping a woman is okay, controlling women by beating/slapping and women meant only for household chores, procreating and child-rearing and to man forcing wife for pregnancy and abortion. Majority of young adults between the age group 18-21 and 22-25 years strongly agreed that women should be allowed to work outside, she can manage household/family expenses and that they should be given financial rights and obligation. Meanwhile young adults between the age group 18-21 and 22-25 years disagreed that working women dominates their husband and family decisions. A significant association was found between the age group of young adults and their attitude on statements that women are meant for household chores, procreating and child-rearing, that women should be

allowed to work outside, and that women can manage household /family expenses There was no significant association between the age group of young adults and their attitude on the statement that states that it is okay to beat/slap a woman, controlling women by beating/slapping, giving financial rights and obligation to women, working women dominating husband and family decisions and that men can force his wife for pregnancy and abortion as he bears the financial burden and obligation. In contrast to above research data from the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-2016) released on 12 January said that women and men in the 15-49 age groups were asked if physical abuse of a wife by her husband is justified. They were also given seven categories and if a respondent answered yes to any one of these categories, the survey registered them as having attitudes that validated wife-beating (Menon, 2018) [8].

Table 1 depicts that majority of young adults from College of Agriculture and College of Home Science strongly disagreed that it is okay to beat/slap a woman, controlling women by beating/slapping, that women are meant only for household chores, procreating and child-rearing and that man forcing wife for pregnancy and abortion. Majority of young adults from College of Agriculture and College of Home Science strongly agreed that women should be allowed to work outside, she can manage household/family expenses and that they should be given financial rights and obligation. Whereas, young adults from College of Home Science disagreed that working women dominates their husband and family decisions but young adults from College of Agriculture were undecided if women dominate their husband and family decisions. A significant association was found between colleges of young adults and their attitude on statements regarding controlling women by beating/slapping, women meant for household chores, procreating and child-rearing, that women should be allowed to work outside, managing household /family expenses, giving financial rights and obligation, working women domination husband and family decisions and men forcing wife for pregnancy and abortion as he bears the financial burden and obligation. There was no significant association between colleges of young adults and their attitude on the statement that states that it is okay to beat/slap a woman.

From table 1, the data shows that majority of young adults belonging to high-, middle- and low-income family strongly disagreed on statements that states that it is okay to beat/slap a woman, that women can be controlled by beating/slapping, that women are meant for household chores, procreating and child-rearing and that man can force his wife for pregnancy and abortion. Majority of young adults belonging to high-, middle- and low-income family strongly agreed that women should be allowed to work outside, she can manage household/family expenses and that they should be given financial rights and obligation. On the other hand, young adults belonging to high-, middle- and low-income family disagreed that working women dominates their husband and family decisions.

In a similar study, Baldry (2007) [1], stated that experiencing domestic violence has a differential impact along gender lines. Girls are more likely to internalize symptoms in the form of withdrawal, anxiety and depression, whereas boys, though still susceptible to anxiety and depression, are more prone to externalizing symptoms through violence against peers or antisocial behavior. Domestic violence causes increase in self-blame, depression, self-harm, suicidal

ideation, substance abuse, risk-taking behavior, criminal behavior, poor social networks, disaffection with education, and eating disorders (Children's Commissioner, 2018) [2]. According to Mullender *et al.* (2002) [16] it was found that young people being listened to, taken seriously, and jointly involved in finding solutions were key means of helping them cope; in cases where no one listened, young people felt 'doubly disadvantaged'. It is important that the public develop an attitude that domestic violence is unacceptable in every regard, for as long as domestic violence is tolerated it will not be possible for the goal of eradicating the occurrence of domestic violence to be achieved (Maguire, 2020) [7]. Multidimensional characteristic of violence requires coordination of several institutions and organizations for the purpose of combat against violence (Pourreza *et al.*, 2004) [17]. The combat should undoubtedly be planned, long-term, and include the whole process of violence from formation, maturation, appearance and transferring to coming generation, in order to stop vicious circle (Pourreza *et al.*, 2004) [17] of domestic violence, and to develop human relations among families and community in a more desirable manner (Pourreza *et al.*, 2004) [17].

Conclusion

The above research study was aimed to find the attitude of young adults towards domestic violence and its revealed that majority of male and female young adults belonging to age group of 18-21 and 22-25, various colleges (College of Agriculture and Home Science) and various income groups displayed strong disagreement to conducts related to domestic violence. A significant association was found between independent variables and attitude of young adults on various statement statements. This research is a reflection of positive scenario and understanding towards domestic violence issues among young adults. It can be said that individual attitude and behavior is strongly influenced by environment in which one live; so efforts to prevent violence must consider how social pressures and expectations that influences individual behaviour. College, universities and other schools are not immune from the threats of domestic violence. However, by being aware, prepared, educating staff and students, responding correctly and swiftly and taking the steps to recover campuses can reduce the opportunity for these incidents to occur and lessen the impact when and if tragedy does strike (Richter, 2018) [12]. More Interventions to change attitude of young adults (future generations) should be attempted to alter cultural and social norms to prevent widespread and prominent domestic violence against women.

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