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## Domestic Violence Against Women in During Covid-19 Lockdown

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### ABSTRACT

*The problem of violence for women has increased during the pandemic period of COVID- 19. The present study was conducted to assess the status of women related to domestic violence during lockdown. This study was conducted in Badaun District and total fifty-five respondents were selected by snow ball technique. The data was collected through telephonic communication. The findings of the present study show that the status of physical, psychological, financial and sexual violence for working women was similar that of women who were housewives and this similarity was found to be insignificant ( $t= 1.01, 0.17, 0.08, 0.45$ ) continuously. The status of sexual violence in women of below 30 years (4.11) was not different to that of women above 30 years (4.45) and it was evident from the  $t$  value (0.97) which was insignificant. This study highly recommended focusing on the situation of women and it suggests that awareness programs should be arranged by which the women would not hesitate to discuss their problems regarding the violence which they might be facing.*

**Key words:** COVID- 19; Domestic violence; Lockdown; Underprivileged women.

**W**omen are facing domestic violence from ancient period. Today the violence against women is an uncontrollable phenomenon for the result of murder rape, abduction and torture. The problem of violence for women has increased during the pandemic period of COVID- 19. Lack of awareness regarding their rights and low literacy level increase the problem of domestic violence. Such type of reasons involves to become women situation more uncontrollable and worse. The nationwide lockdown has increased the cases of domestic violence where Uttarakhand has recorded the highest number of cases while Haryana is on second and Delhi is on third number (NCW, 2020). As researcher has not found any data on this vital aspect in Uttar Pradesh. This study can be thrown light on Badaun district and it will also help to know about the consequences of domestic

violence. So present study was conducted on Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh entitled 'To assess the status of women related to domestic violence during lockdown' with objectives of to assess the awareness and status of domestic violence against women.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Badaun district and snow ball technique was used to select the sample. Total fifty-five married women were selected for the study. Only aware women regarding domestic violence were selected for the present study. The data was collected through telephonic communication. Self-prepared interview schedule was used to collect data. It consists four major domains of domestic violence which are physical, psychological, financial, sexual

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Physical Violence :** The Table 1 shows the status of physical violence against women during lockdown. The researcher found that most of the women (70.00%) were faced physical violence by their husband. Similarly between 2011 and 2018 in 11 countries included India analysed that most of women faced physical violence by their husband (Kalai *et al.*, 2018) and (Jeong *et al.*, 2020). Followed by mother-in-law (32.00%) and least of the women (10.00%) were faced that violence by other family members.

The most of women (74.00%) experienced violence by slapping, 51.00 per cent beating, 43.00 per cent hitting, 40.00 per cent kicking. It affected women harmfully and total 68.00 per cent of them were not able to perform activities, 58.00 per cent of them could not work properly whereas 50.00 per cent of them were not able to sit

**Table 1. Physical violence against women during lockdown**

Forms of violence	No.	%
<i>Offender of physical violence</i>		
Husband	38	70.00
Mother in law	16	32.00
Sister in law	11	21.00
Others (Father in law, Brother in law etc.)	5	10.00
<i>Experienced various forms of physical violence</i>		
Hitting	23	43.00
Kicking	25	40.00
Beating	27	51.00
Slapping	40	74.00
<i>Harmful effects of physical violence on women</i>		
Can't sit properly	27	50.00
Can't walk properly	31	58.00
Can't perform activities	38	68.00
<i>Intensity of physical violence</i>		
Increased due to lockdown	40	70.00
Usual as before	15	30.00

**Table 2. Status of physical violence according to independent variables of women**

Variables	Category	N	Mean	SD	t	P
Age (yrs.)	<30	17	4.22	1.29	0.75	>0.05
	>30	38	4.51	1.38		
Occupation	Working	35	4.00	1.39	1.01	>0.05
	House wife	20	3.64	1.19		
Monthly income (Rs.)	<5000	29	3.63	1.30	0.28	>0.05
	>5000	26	3.54	1.10		
Educational	<5 <sup>th</sup> std.	30	4.47	1.30	0.38	>0.05
	> 5 <sup>th</sup> std.	25	4.34	1.21		

properly. Most of the women (70.00%) faced intensity of physical violence increased during the lockdown. Similar results were found by Ravindran & Shah (2020).

The Table 2 indicated the status of physical violence according to the age, occupation, family income and educational status of women. Those women who below 30 years of age the status of physical violence (4.22) was similar to that of women above 30 years of age (4.51). That was evident by the t-value (0.75) which was insignificant. However, Kalokhe *et. al* (2017) reported that the women with over age of 50 experienced higher risk of physical violence. The status of physical violence for working women (4.00) was like that of women who were housewives (3.64) and it was clear from the t-value (1.01) which was insignificant. The women whose family income was below Rs.5000, the status of physical violence (3.63) was similar to that of women whose family income was above Rs. 5000 (3.54) and that was evident from the t value (0.28) which was insignificant. The women whose educational status was below 5<sup>th</sup> grade status of physical violence (4.47) was similar to that of women whose educational status was above 5<sup>th</sup> grade (4.34) and it was clear from the t-value (0.38) which was insignificant.

**Table 3. Psychological violence against women during lockdown**

Forms of violence	No.	%
<i>Experienced psychological violence</i>		
Verbal abuse	34	62.00
Insult	37	69.00
Blaming	20	38.00
Shaming	28	52.00
<i>Harmful effects of psychological violence</i>		
Stress	34	63.00
Depression	39	72.00
Anxiety	37	69.00
Harming self	31	58.00
<i>Intensity of psychological violence</i>		
Increased due to lockdown	39	72.00
Usual as before	16	28.00

**Psychological violence :** The above Table 3 shows the status of psychological violence against women during lockdown. As per the data the higher percentage of women with 69.00 per cent who experienced psychological violence through insult, verbal abuse (62.00%), shaming (52.00%) and the less percentage of women with 38.00 per cent through blaming. Most of the women (72.00%) were affected by depression

followed by anxiety (69.00%), stress (63.00%) and harming self (58.00%). The data also revealed the intensity of psychological violence had increased by 72.00 per cent due to lockdown Ravindran & Shah, 2020 also reported similar results.

**Table 4. Status of Psychological violence according to the independent variables of women**

Variables	Category	N	Mean	SD	t	P
Age (yrs.)	<30	21	1.96	0.95	0.18	>0.05
	>30	34	2.01	1.02		
Occupation	Working	32	2.54	1.18	0.17	>0.05
	House wife	23	2.49	1.09		
Family income (Rs.)	<5000	28	2.19	1.08	0.14	>0.05
	>5000	27	2.15	1.02		
Educational status	< 5 <sup>th</sup> std.	33	2.10	1.10	0.10	>0.05
	> 5 <sup>th</sup> std.	22	2.07	1.06		

The Table 4 reveals the status of psychological violence according to the age, occupation, family income per month and educational status of women. The status of psychological violence in women whose age was below 30 years (1.96) was similar to that of women whose age was above 30 years (2.01) and it was evident from the t value (0.18) which was insignificant. The status of psychological violence for working women (2.54) was similar to that of women who were housewives (2.49) and it was evident from the t value (0.17) which was insignificant. Women whose family income was below 5000 Rupees the status of psychological violence (2.19) was similar to that of women whose family income was above 5000 Rupees (2.15) and it was evident from the t value (0.14) which was insignificant. The status of psychological violence in women whose educational level was below 5<sup>th</sup> grade (2.10) was similar to that of women whose educational level was above 5<sup>th</sup> grade (2.07) and it was evident from the t value (0.10) which was insignificant.

**Table 5. Financial abuse against women during lockdown**

Financial abuse	No.	%
Experienced financial abuse	38	68.00
<i>Effects of financial abuse on women</i>		
Lot of dependence	38	70.00
Financial instability	33	61.00
Concern about future plans	30	56.00
Intensity financial abuse		
Increased due to lockdown	39	72.00
Usual as before	16	28.00

*Financial abuse* : The Table 5 reveals that total 68.00 per cent of women had experienced of financial abuse

during lockdown. Most of the women (70.00%) were dependent financially on others. The data also revealed that the intensity of financial abuse was increased due to lockdown by 72.00 per cent while 28.00 per cent of women said that it was usual as before.

**Table 6. Status of financial abuse according to the independent variables of women**

Variables	Category	N	Mean	SD	t	P
Age (yrs.)	<30	19	2.89	1.08	0.06	>0.05
	>30	36	2.91	1.11		
Occupation	Working	33	2.52	1.51	0.08	>0.05
	House wife	22	2.49	1.33		
Family income (Rs.)	<5000	31	1.54	0.91	0.20	>0.05
	>5000	24	1.49	0.89		
Educational status	<5 <sup>th</sup> std.	29	1.92	0.91	0.25	>0.05
	> 5 <sup>th</sup> std.	26	1.98	0.89		

The Table 6 highlights the status of financial abuse in women of below 30 years (2.89) was similar to the women of above 30 years (2.91) and it was clear that the t-value (0.06) which was insignificant. The status of financial abuse for working women (2.52) was similar to the housewives (2.49) and the t-value was (0.08) which was insignificant. The status of financial abuse in women with family income of below Rs. 5000 (1.54) was similar to the women with family income of above Rs. 5000 (1.49) and also evident from the t-value (0.20) which was insignificant. The status of financial abuse in women with education of below 5<sup>th</sup> std. (1.92) was similar to the women with education of above 5<sup>th</sup> std. (1.89) and that was also insignificant (t-value, 0.25).

**Table 7. Status of sexual violence against women**

Forms	No.	%
Experienced sexual violence	42	78.00
<i>Harmful effects of sexual violence on women</i>		
Infertility	28	52.00
Sexually Transmitted Infections	11	20.00
Unwanted pregnancy	38	68.00
<i>Effects on mental health</i>		
Depression	38	68.00
Stress	42	78.00
Substance abuse	34	62.00
<i>Intensity of sexual violence</i>		
Increased due to lockdown	42	75.00
Usual as before	13	25.00

*Sexual Violence* : The Table 7 shows that total 78.00 per cent of women had experienced sexual violence during lockdown and the majority of women (68.00%)

had faced unwanted pregnancy as the harmful effects of sexual violence followed by infertility, STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) etc. Jeong *et al.* (2020) and Saikia, (2020) also reported that most of women experienced sexual violence under IPV (Intimate Partner Violence). The mental health was affected because of sexual violence and most of the women (78.00%) had faced the problem of stress, depression and substance abuse etc. The intensity of violence has increased due to lockdown (75.00%) while 25.00 per cent of women experienced usual as before lockdown. Ravindran & Shah, 2020 also found similarity in results.

**Table 8. Status of sexual violence according to independent variables of women**

Variables	Category	N	Mean	SD	t	P
Age in (yrs.)	<30	21	4.11	1.18	0.97	>0.05
	>30	34	4.45	1.38		
Occupation	Working	36	4.00	1.39	0.45	>0.05
	House wife	19	3.84	1.19		
Family income (Rs.)	<5000	29	4.10	1.30	0.65	>0.05
	>5000	26	3.89	1.10		
Educational status	<5 <sup>th</sup> std.	30	4.12	1.30	0.89	>0.05
	>5 <sup>th</sup> std.	25	3.82	1.21		

Table 8 highlights the status of sexual violence in women of below 30 years (4.11) was similar to that of women above 30 years (4.45) and it was evident from the t-value (0.97) which was insignificant. The status of sexual violence for working women (4.00) was similar to that of housewives (3.84) and the t-value (0.45) which

was insignificant. The status of sexual violence in women with family income of below Rs. 5000 (4.10) was similar to the women with family income of above Rs. 5000 (3.89) and it was clear from the t-value (0.65) which was insignificant. The status of sexual violence in women with below 5<sup>th</sup> grade (4.12) was similar to that of women with above 5<sup>th</sup> grade (3.82) and it was depicted from the t-value (0.89) which was insignificant.

*Implications of the study*: The present study highlights the poor condition of women because of domestic violence and it tells about the need for the improvement of women's condition and to aware them about what is domestic violence.

## CONCLUSION

It is analysed that both housewives and working women have stayed at home for longer duration due to the era of COVID-19 lockdown and the results indicate that the intensity of domestic violence was higher as compared to usual days among working women and housewives. There was no difference seen in domestic violence among women according to their age, working status, family income and educational status. These factors are needed to be more focused to reduce the problem of domestic violence.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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