

**TITLE:** Domestic Violence and Reproductive Health of Ever-married Women in India

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** The topic is intended for people of all walks of life as it talks about human rights. It can be of special interest to policy experts who look at the impact of a country's policies on different groups of the population. Domestic violence is an acute problem in Asian countries and there is a need for a stringent application of laws if the situation is to improve.

**ABSTRACT:** Background: Domestic violence (DV) is a matter of serious human right issue globally besides having a detrimental impact on the country' economy through increased health burdens, disability, and medical costs. Women in rigid patriarchal societies like India do not openly discuss domestic abuse experiences which lead to underreporting and unreliable statistics on the prevalence of DV. Causal inference is not plausible given that RCTs cannot be conducted in DV hence we have used mediation analysis with IV method to assess causal evidence. Method: This study uses the National Family Health Survey's (2005-2006) domestic violence module data for analysis using linear probability and 2SLS methods. The survey collected details of abuse and its effects from 69,704 ever-married women or 55% of the entire NFHS-3 sample. Results: In 2005-06, 38% of DV victims were in ages 25-34; 60% of victims had no education at all; 25% of victims were in the poorest quintile; Eastern states had the greatest number of DV victims (28%); 75% of women resided in rural areas and 54% had husband who drank alcohol. For each added experience of abuse the probability of choosing female sterilization as method of contraception increased by 1.6% to 6.4% points ( $p=0.001$ ); of unwanted pregnancy by 5.12% to 7.3% points ( $p=0.001$ ); of suffering from any sexually transmitted infection by 6.2% to 64% points ( $p=0.001$ ); and had a reduced probability of having an adult pregnancy by 7.7% to 20.2% points ( $p=0.01$ ). Conclusion: We found a statistically significant association between domestic violence and the reproductive health parameters. India needs to take strong steps to address the problem of DV and failing reproductive health of women. Health professionals and medical social workers need to be sensitized to women presenting with varied complaints due to domestic violence. A social panacea in the form of awareness that DV is condemnable under any circumstance, together with compulsory schooling and a stronger legal framework is likely to positively affect the societal attitude.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe various issues of women in low- and middle-income countries. Evaluate the role of perceptions and societal attitudes towards human health issues. Analyze and demonstrate the level of domestic violence and its relationship with reproductive health outcomes.