

## SYNOPSIS

1. **TITLE:** Analysing the Variations And Potential Determinants Of Domestic Violence Across All Zones Of India In NHFS 5

2. **INTRODUCTION:** Gender based violence is an ongoing struggle for women of all ages with ghastly physical, mental, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic consequences. At the same time, domestic violence and abuse, which is known to be happening in settings like cohabitation or marriage has always been a matter of concern for a majority of women due to its consistent prevalence in traditionally patriarchal countries like India. So, for the Indian context, its not particularly uncommon to use 'Gender based violence' & 'Domestic violence' synonymously. In theory, men and women are considered as the two wheels of a chariot but the reality is far from this utopian ideal as the mistreatment women face within and outside home is manifested vividly. Domestic violence is considered to be reflecting a power dynamic between partners where control is exerted through several forms of abuse, often behind closed doors. Indian households with patriarchal structures further complicate the dynamic between men and women, circling cycles of shame and silence. Along with facing violence, they face barriers in seeking help, ranging from fear of reprisal to economic dependence on their perpetrators, creating a flawed belief system about their own abilities.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has been pivotal instrument in understanding the intricate tapestry of domestic violence within the country. By meticulously gathered demographic and health related data, NFHS provides insights into prevalence, patterns, and factors contributing to this pervasive social issue. From physical violence, emotional coercion and economic dependence, the information illuminates the complex interplay of power dynamics that contribute to the gender-based violence. The scientific exploration using this transformative tool underscores the significance of data in shaping policies and initiatives at addressing this challenge comprehensively and compassionately.

Gender-based violence questions have been incorporated into NFHS 3 since its beginning, offering a compelling story about the widespread problem of domestic abuse in India. These investigations signalled a sea change by illuminating the unexplored areas of domestic abuse and violence against intimate partners. Over subsequent surveys, particularly from NFHS 4 to NFHS 5, the data has unveiled a noteworthy national trend: a gradual reduction in reported incidents from 37.2% to 31.2% and further to 29.3%.

Beneath these broad statistics, though, is a mosaic of subtle state-level differences that cast doubt on the idea of consistent advancement. A complicated riddle of regional dynamics and sociocultural elements at play is presented by the sharp increase in reported cases in some states despite the continuous reductions in others.

While certain states have demonstrated consistent declines, others have starkly experienced an alarming increase in reported cases, presenting a complex puzzle of regional dynamics and socio-cultural factors questioned.

The profound interest in this research stems not only from the numerical shifts but also because of its capacity to decipher the complex network of factors that contribute to the patterns of

domestic violence in India. It serves as a critical measure of understanding the deeper societal and cultural undercurrents influencing attitudes towards gender roles, family dynamics, and the prevalence of violence against women.

By breaking down these differences, NFHS data not only helps to focus policy actions but also emphasizes the need for customized approaches that take into account and compensate for local differences in support networks and societal norms. Moreover, the study's significance extends beyond statistical analysis to a narrative that highlights the lived experiences of individuals affected by domestic violence. It amplifies voices that often remain unheard, drawing attention to the urgent need for comprehensive support services, legal reforms, and community-based initiatives that can effectively address the root causes and consequences of gender-based violence.

Ultimately, by addressing the underlying cultural and social factors perpetuating domestic violence, light can be brought towards effective advocacy to forge a path towards a more just and empowered society for women, where every individual can live free from the threat of violence in their homes.

Evidence in the third and fourth round of NFHS showed that in India, domestic violence was most prevalent in women of 25-34 years age group, uneducated, poorest and most in the respondents from Eastern part of the country who were married younger, multiparous and economically empowered. Emotional violence was more common than sexual violence but less than the physical form of violence, being experienced the most by the respondents. Also, the weighted prevalence was high among the respondents whose partners either had a controlling behaviour or were addicted to alcohol. Only southern region of the country depicted a relative increase in prevalence of violence in round 4 compared to round 3. State-wise, maximum prevalence was observed in Manipur (50%), while minimum prevalence was seen in Sikkim (1%) as per the NFHS Round 4. (2) It was also found that the prevalence for sexual violence was more among the respondents, whose partners had a controlling behaviour, or were consuming alcohol, and had increased in Southern region of the country.

Even though it has been found that most of the factors contributing to different types of violence are the same, however the effect of targeted awareness, improvement in community norms and enforcement of legislation like Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWVDA), 2005 has been inconsistent throughout, with fluctuation in degree of domestic violence in different zones of the nation. It can be speculated that there is a gap between the process of women suffering from domestic violence to seeking help because of several reasons involving fear, shame, intimidation and embarrassment.

It is well known that the impact of such violence is profound on physical, mental and reproductive health of women of all ages but unfortunately, this is still a grey area of research because of the dearth of data and failure of reporting cases. Also, a very small number of women seek medical assistance for immediate problems related to violence of any kind, especially sexual violence. This study will penetrate on analysing the findings of NFHS 5 and discovering trends in areas of study which would be elaborated in the methodology.

**3. RESEARCH QUESTION:** Which states and union territories in each zone of India have experienced an increase in domestic violence between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 and how do the potential determinants correlate with the increase in domestic violence in these states and union territories?

**4. OBJECTIVES:** i) To determine which states and union territories in each zone of India have experienced a significant increase in domestic violence rates between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21).

ii) To identify and quantify potential determinants of domestic violence in the selected states and union territories in NFHS 5.

iii) To assess the relationship between the identified determinants and the increase in domestic violence rates in the selected states and union territories.

iv) To compare the influence of various determinants on domestic violence across different zones of India, highlighting any regional differences.

## **6. MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

**STUDY DESIGN:** The study undergone for this research is cross-sectional study as the data used here is secondary in nature as extracted from NFHS 5 which was collected in 2017-19 followed by 2020-21 and the observations were recorded and analysed.

**SETTING:** The research wouldn't be taking place in a particular geographic location since the study is based on secondary research, but the States and Union Territory selected to be studied are Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam, Jharkhand and Ladakh. States were selected on the basis of highest increase observed in the gender-based violence. Ladakh was the Union Territory with highest violence in northern zone and hence was the only UT selected for the study. Eastern zone didn't mark any increase in gender based violence from NFHS 4 to 5 so the state with lowest decrease was taken into account.

## **STUDY POPULATION**

- **Inclusion criteria:** Ever married Indian women from 18-49 years of age who were alive, cohabiting with their husband at the time of study and faced gender-based violence of any kind in their household were the study population

- **Exclusion criteria:** Women with the said age group but not married, women outside the age range, women not cohabiting with their partner since more than 12 months were excluded from the study.

- **Study tools:** The study would involve a systematic pattern of selection of states/UT of interest based on the findings from the difference in percentage of gender-based violence faced by the women in NFHS 4 and NFHS 5. The data sets would be retrieved from the survey dataset files from Demographic and Health Survey available upon approval of synopsis of the research topic. Stata version 17 or SPSS will be used for analysis.

**DURATION OF STUDY:** 3 months – 26<sup>th</sup> March – 24<sup>th</sup> June

**SAMPLE SIZE:** Sample size for this study depends on the states and union territories being selected after studying the trend of increase in domestic violence in all the different zones.

**SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:** Sampling technique for this study is the same as that of the technique by which NFHS respondents were selected and no additional sampling has been conducted.

**DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE:** The data sets will be retrieved from the survey dataset files from Demographic and Health Survey available upon approval of synopsis of the research topic. The dependent variable would be the question stating whether the respondent has ever faced any type of physical, sexual or emotional violence in the household.

**OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:** Legally, the term domestic violence refers to abusive behaviour in any personal relationship that allows one partner to intimidate, or to gain power & control over the other, often having thought to occur between married spouses or in other intimate relationships.

Apart from the demographic independent variables, there would be other variables involving perception of gender based violence, history of violence at home, sexual independence, decision making, alcohol consumption pattern.

**7. DATA ANALYSIS PLAN:** Statistic tests will be done using Stata/SPSS with p value > 0.05 considered as statistically significant. Univariate analysis and following by bivariate analysis will be done by applying logistic regression.

**8. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** No ethical considerations are required for the study as the responses taken during NFHS 5 were taken with consent from the participants.

**9. IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH:** Researching the variations in domestic violence across different states has crucial implications. It helps identify regional patterns and disparities, shedding light on how cultural, socio-economic, and legal factors affect the prevalence and nature of domestic violence. This state-specific analysis can inform targeted interventions and policies tailored to each region's unique needs and circumstances. By pinpointing areas with higher rates of domestic violence, the study can guide the allocation of resources and the implementation of effective prevention and support programs. Furthermore, it can encourage collaboration among state governments, NGOs, and community organizations to address domestic violence more effectively, contributing to a comprehensive national strategy to combat gender-based violence

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