



Domestic Violence against Women in South Asian Countries

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Abstract

The study has been undertaken to investigate domestic violence against women in South-Asian Countries. Domestic violence has many short-term and long-term severe adverse consequences on women. Domestic violence against women is a serious social problem. In fact, the condition of women rights is very alarming in regardless of different socio-economic status, geographical conditions, and distinct cultural norms. Domestic violence is also the cause of mortality and morbidity. In addition, the present findings contribute to growing body of evidence showing that prevalence of domestic violence against women is very high in South-Asian Countries. Hence, it is an absolute necessity to aware society about domestic violence and its negative impact on the life of women through various programs because legal and punitive measures are not enough to mitigate this issue.

Key Words: Domestic Violence, Women, South Asia.

Introduction

Numerous South Asian studies on domestic violence exhibits that domestic violence is pervasive and ubiquitous. Regardless of the geographical location, level of modernization and liberalization, varied in socio-economic status of families, many women are still exposure to domestic violence. Ample studies across various populations suggest that domestic violence is associated with considerable mental and physical morbidity. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development adopted by united nations also talks about elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres under target 5.2. Unfortunately, the prevalence of domestic violence is still noticeable to a great extent. World Health Organization on multi-country study collected information on prevalence of various forms of domestic violence.

Objective

The present study is focused exclusively on South Asian Countries namely- Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. The objective is-

1. To study the prevalence of risk factors and forms of domestic violence against women in South Asian Countries

Methodology

The investigator has used secondary data derived from using google scholar, websites of organization such as World Health Organization. In addition, several articles, reports, journals and researches pertaining to the topic of the paper were also scrutinized. The investigator has found that majority of the studies considered the last past year and lifetime experiences of domestic violence or both in order to acknowledge the prevalence of risk factors and forms of domestic violence. Therefore, the present paper is based on the same aforementioned frequency and timing of experiences as well.

Findings

1. Risk factors of domestic violence against women: - Substance or drug use by their intimate partner, low socio-economic status, low-level of educational status of either men or women, belong to lower caste, unemployment status of either men and women, existing of patriarchal norms-based society, large family size, early age at marriage, poverty, unequal power relation between genders, religion or spiritual cause such as prevent women from going to religious practice.
2. Forms of domestic violence against women: -
 - a) Verbal Abuse in distinct forms of yelling, shouting, use of bad language, use of excessive loudness.
 - b) Physical abuse in distinct forms of slapping, pushing, pulling of hair, kicking, twisting of arms or ears, choke on purpose, punching with a fist, burning, hurting with belt and stick, dragging, throwing objects, threatening with a gun or another weapon, stabbing with a knife.
 - c) Sexual abuse in distinct forms of unwanted touching, forceful sex, pressure for any unwanted sexual acts, sexual harassment involves gestures and physical contact of a sexual nature that are deliberate, repeated and unwelcome.
 - d) Emotional/Psychological abuse in distinct forms of insult to make her feel bad, exclusion of women in decision making, prohibition on natal family visiting marital home, restriction on return to natal family home, doing things to scare women in purpose.
 - e) Economic abuse in distinct forms of prevent women from working, controlling of women's occupation by their intimate partner, withholds money for basic requirements like food and medical treatment, total control of finances and assets by husband.

Discussion

The findings of the study demonstrate that despite various international agreements and regional efforts, prevalence of domestic violence is very high in South Asian Countries. The investigator has found that physical abuse to be the most common forms of domestic violence followed by sexual abuse and emotional/psychological abuse. Besides, overlapping nature of risk factors and different forms of domestic violence is also observed. In addition, World Health Organization on multi-country study found that intimate partners who tend to inflict physical and sexual abuse are tend to have highly controlling behaviour. Hence, it is right to say that the decline of domestic violence is remain low even after an incredible growth in domestic violence research in South Asian countries. One of the studies also shows that prevalence of accepting domestic violence is highest in South Asian countries specifically in Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan in comparison to other 35 countries which was studied.

Conclusion

The evidence provided in the present paper shows that domestic violence is lethal and a significant social problem. Although, this is based on South-Asian Countries but the findings are notable worldwide interest because people living in these countries are culturally diverse. The results corroborate studies from a wide range of setting such as Ukraine, Cambodia, US, Brazil etc. stating the prevalence of domestic violence and its associated risk factors and forms. Hence, to mitigate domestic violence, a multicomponent response is needed. Different types of joint programs to curb human rights violation of women and resulted in improved reproductive health for all women in South Asian Countries.

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