

## Prevalence of Domestic violence among Muriya tribal women in India (With special reference to Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh)

\* Dr. Preeti Sharma

\*\* Shruti Sharma

\*Head of the Department of sociology, Govt. D.B. Girls P.G. (autonomous) college Raipur Chhattisgarh  
\*\* Research scholar department of sociology, Govt. D.B. Girls P.G. (autonomous) college Raipur, Chhattisgarh

---

### Abstract

Domestic Violence (DV) is one of the most serious and frequently occurring problems in India. According to Indian mythological text Manusmriti, “*yatra naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devtah*” which means divine resides in a place where, women are respected and worshipped. Despite this famous Indian saying as well as many constitutional and legal safeguards, women in India are still subject to many gender based violence and disabilities imposed by society. The area of the research is a naxal affected region named Kutru subdivision in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh state. It is very interesting to note that the area of study for this particular research has historically been the epicentre of the famous antinaxal movement “Salwa Judum”. With the help of interview schedule, data has been gathered from 100 randomly selected participants. The objective of the research is to study the prevalence of DV among Muriya tribal women and to know the social situations of these women who are not well connected to the mainstream due to naxalism. The result shows that prevalence of DV among Muriya women of kutru subdivision is noticeable. The study reveals that alcoholism and doubting of integrity and characterlessness are the main causes of DV in the region. Level of education is very low among these Muriya women, which can be a reason that they have lack of awareness toward their legal rights. During research, few interesting facts came to light, like there is not even a single case of DV caused by dowry, foeticide and infanticide. Government’s effort on reducing alcoholism, community policing, people participation and education can lower the cases of DV in the region as well as in India.

**Keywords-** Domestic Violence (DV), Women, Gender sensitisation, alcoholism.

---

Date of Submission: 01-01-2022

Date of Acceptance: 12-01-2022

---

### I. INTRODUCTION

Jawahar lal Nehru once said that status of women in a society indicates the social, economic and mental condition of a nation. According to Indian mythological text Manusmriti “*yatra naryastu pujiyante, ramante tatra devtah*”, which means divine (god) reside in a place where women are respected and worshiped. Despite all these sayings and textual evidences about respecting women, violence against women in India is one of the most pertaining problem today. Societal norms, economic dependence, alcoholism and male chauvinism in India makes women more vulnerable to domestic violence. Karl Marx has rightly said that, ‘women are the only exploited group in history to have been idealised into powerlessness’. Defining status of women in India is very complicated. Constitution of India has ensured many fundamental rights and parliament of India enacted many acts protecting women from disabilities imposed by society and ensuring many human rights of the same. This is an irony that, yet women in who constitute a major population of India are still suffering various gender based violence. Women in India are subject to so many disabilities imposed by society, violence, inequality, objectification etc. Domestic Violence (DV) is very serious problem which Indian women are facing from a very long time.

The protection of Women from Domestic violence act, 2005 defines Domestic Violence (DV) as-

“Any action which harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or wellbeing, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse.”

a. **Physical abuse-** includes causing bodily pain, slapping, beating, danger of life, limb and health etc.

b. **Sexual abuse-** includes conduct which are of sexual in nature, rape, marital rape, humiliation, degrading dignity of women etc.

- c. **Verbal and emotional abuse**-includes conducts such as insult, verbal abuse, humiliation, ridicule especially with regard to not having a male child etc.
- d. **Economic abuse**- depriving women from basic need or basic health facilities.

Laws related to women (women specific legislation)

- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- The dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (amended in 1986)
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) act, 1987
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013
- Indian penal code, 1860
- The Indian Evidence Act 1872

**Research methodology**

In this study no hypothesis is made. The study aims at finding the prevalence of DV among Muriya tribal women in Kutru sub division of Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

**Research Design**

Descriptive research design has been used in this study.

- a. Universe – women belonging to Muriya tribal community of Kutru subdivision in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh state formed the universe and geographical area of the study respectively.
- b. Sampling – sampling is done on random style. Among 900 lower staff including constabulary working in all the three police Thana and camp (Kutru Thana, Naimed Thana, and Bedre Thana), 100 married female respondents have been chosen randomly. Out of these 100 respondents, 50 were female lower staff and 50 respondents were wives of male lower staffs working in this subdivision.
- c. Tools and Techniques of data collection – interview schedule has been formed by researcher to draw information. The interview schedule includes questions related to personal data of woman’s profile, types of violence, its reasons, manifestation, frequency etc.
- d. Sources of data- primary data is obtained from 100 randomly chosen respondents with the help of interview schedule made for this purpose.  
Secondary data is obtained through constitutional provisions, major act related to woman, literature related to DV, e-journals.

**Data Analysis**

**Table 1.** Description of answers to the question “Does your husband consume alcohol on a regular basis”?

s.no.	Answer of the respondents	No. of respondents	percentage
01.	Yes	80	80%
02.	No	20	20%
03.		Total=100	100%

**Note-** majority of the women (80%) said their husbands are alcoholic.

So among tribal community in Bijapur, especially the Muriya tribe maximum males consume various types of alcohol on a regular basis. Hence many corollary question such as, ‘do they abuse their wives after consuming alcohol and consequently perpetrate DV on them?’ arises.

**Table 2.** Description of answers to the question “Does your husband make or try to make sexual relation with you against your will (have you faced marital rape?)”?

s.no.	Answer of the respondent	No. of respondents	Total
01.	Yes	30	30%
02.	No	70	70%
03.		Total=100	100%

**Note-** 30% of the respondents say in normal situation they have not faces marital rape but when their husbands are drunk they try to dominate them and marital rape happens. Even slapping and beating during sex also takes place.

**Table 3.** Description of answers to the question “have you ever faced physical abuse caused by your husband or other members of your family”?

s.no.	Answer of the respondent	No. of respondents	Total
01.	Yes	40	40%
02.	No	60	60%
03.		Total = 100	100%

**Note-** Among all the respondents, 40% said that they have faced one or more forms of physical abuse. 80% of the women, who have faced domestic violence said that their husbands have abused them and they generally do that when they are drunk. So researcher can derive that alcoholic husbands tend to perpetuate domestic violence.

## II. CONCLUSION

The findings derived from the data gathered are as follows:

- The study reveals that only 2% of the respondents are being victim of DV by their in-laws/family members. The study finds that love marriage is very common among Muriya tribe and many of them live separately from their parents. So chances of in-law to be involved in domestic violence is less.
- 80% of the married men among Muriya tribe of Bijapur are alcoholic. The study reveals that there are very less who prefer to drink at night, but maximum of them chose to drink alcohol any time of the day. Sometimes these males are missing for few days because of excessive consumption.
- 30% of them have faced marital rape or non-consensual sex. 80% of the marital rape victims have faced physical abuse during sex which includes kicking, slapping, pulling hairs and non-consensual scratching.
- 40% of the Muriya women have faced physical abuse. 20% of them face DV in front of their kids.
- 20% of the respondents faced domestic violence because their husbands doubted them of adultery or cheating.
- 50% of the respondents answered that their partners do verbal and emotional abuse to them.
- There is not even single case of female feticide and infanticide. The fact came to light that violence caused by demand for son or bearing only girl children is not present.
- It is very intriguing to note that there is not even a single case of dowry demand or violence caused due to dowry demand. Another interesting fact came to light that in Muriya tribe, demand for dowry is not present and if somebody demands, the society punishes that person/family through their social instruments.
- 10% of the respondents have faced economic abuse. The respondents brought forth a very interesting fact as the cause of their economic abuse. Their husbands tend to spend their earnings in gambling through local customary evils like “murga ladai (cock fight)”. Hence they are left with very little to share with their wives or cater to their economic needs. Moreover, in case of earning wives (through menial low earning jobs like cleaning utensils, sweeping etc. in somebody else’s home) the abusive husbands even try to hijack whatever little has been earned by their wives. Another dimension of economic abuse extends to prohibition/restriction imposed by some of the husbands on their earning wives, blaming them of adultery/characterlessness.
- Only 12% of the respondents have had any prior knowledge about “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005”. One of the probable reasons for this lack of awareness is lack of connectivity from the mainstream because the research area has been severely affected with left wing extremism (naxalism) for the last four decades. Level of education is also low among Muriya tribe because of the lack of the reach of the state apparatus as well as civil society in the area which in turn is also a reason for the lack of awareness about the current legislation of the state.
- Although most of the Mudiya women are economically engaged in some kind of a job but awareness towards their rights is very low among them.
- 13% of the respondents told that their husband have more than one wives. Another 30% told that they have a reasonable doubt that their husbands are either engaged in extra marital relations or they have kept more than one wife elsewhere. Because of which the husbands do not give enough time and importance to one wife. And hence very easily get irritated even with the genuine demands of the wives. This again becomes the reason for perpetration of DV on these women by their husbands.

So the major reason behind DV among Mudiya tribe are alcoholism, doubting on integrity of their wives, gambling, polygamy, left wing extremism and lack of education.

## III. SUGGESTION

Government-

- Effective enforcement of the existing laws and acts should be ensured.
- The state machinery should come up with some innovative ways and means to generate awareness regarding women related legislations in such areas.

- Government should use local agencies like gram panchayat, gram sabha, anganwadi, health workers and locally influential people to spread awareness among people against domestic violence.

#### Judiciary-

- Strong and steady action should be taken in cases of DV caused by alcoholism.
- More special courts should be made for speedy trial.
- The reach of the district legal service authority(which provide free legal aid to the poor and marginalised) should be made more in depth and inclusive so that even the women of these far flung naxal affected areas become aware of their legal rights of getting free legal aid from the state machinery.

#### Police-

- The environment of the police Thana campus should be made more conducive for a women victim in such areas so that she chooses to come to thana instead of going for customary ways of grievance redressal.
- Female police should be trained to deal cases of DV with utmost sensitivity.
- There should be a separate cell which will exclusively deal with the cases of DV.
- Strict action should be taken against those police officer who dismiss the woman victim saying that DV is a routine affair and police can't do anything about it.
- Routine training should be conducted on district as well as state level so that not only the female officer but also male officers become more and more sensitised towards DV.
- Because of lack of the staff, many thanas do not have a designated woman protection officer. So every Thana should ensure that there is at least one woman police officer who is designated as the woman protection officer.

Other than police, Government, judiciary and NGOs, society also plays a very important role in elimination of any kind of crime against women. Wide spread awareness, community policing, education and prevention of alcoholism can help reduce cases of Domestic Violence drastically.

### REFERENCES

- [1]. Ackerson L.K., Kwachi I, Barbeau, Subramanian SV. Exposure to domestic violence associated with adult smoking in India: a population based study. *Tobacco control*.2007; 16(6):378-383. [PMC free article] [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [2]. Begam S, Dwivedi SN, Pandey A, Mittal S. Association between domestic violence and unintended pregnancy in India: findings from the national family health survey-2 data. *National Medical Journal of India*.2010; 23(4):198-200. [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [3]. Bontha V, Kakar S. Domestic violence against women in eastern India: a population bed study on prevalence and related issues. *BMC public health* 2009, 9(129) [Google scholar].
- [4]. Chowdhary N, Patel V. The effect of spousal violence on women's health: findings from the Stree Arogya Shodh in Goa, India. *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*.2008; 54(4):306-312 [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [5]. Chowdhary R, kaithwas M, Rana G. Domestic violence against women in India a study. *PANACEA International Research Journal*; 2019; 1(2): 2347-369x [Google scholar]
- [6]. Gundappa A, Rathod PB. Violence against women in India; preventive measures. *India Stream Research Journal*.2012; 2(4):1-4 [Google scholar].
- [7]. Jian D, Sanon S, Sadowski I, Hunter W. Violence against women in India: evidence from rural Maharashtra, India. *Rural Remote health*.2004, 4:304-321. [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [8]. Jejeebhoy SL: Wife beating in rural India: a husband's right? *Economic and Political weekly*.1998, 33:855-862 [Google scholar]
- [9]. Koski AD, Stephenson R, Koenig MR. Physical violence by partner during pregnancy and use of prenatal care in rural India. *Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition*.2011; 29(3): 245-254 [PMC free article] [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [10]. Krishnan S. Do structural inequality contribute to marital violence? Ethnographic evidence from rural Maharashtra, India. *Rural Remote Health*.2004, 4: 304-321 [Pub Med] [Google scholar]
- [11]. Kumar S, Devi K. Domestic violence against women Indian perspective. 2019. *South Asian Law Review Journal* .v5: 98-109 [Google scholar].
- [12]. Mahapatra M, Gupta RN, Gupta V, Kundu AS. Domestic violence during pregnancy in India. *Journal of interpersonal violence*.2011; 26(15): 2973-2990 [Pub Med] [Google scholar].
- [13]. Ministry of HRR. "Platform for action-Violence against women-Assessment" Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India; 2000.
- [14]. Mishra S. yatra naryastu pujoyante ramnte tatra devtah.2017; <http://santwanamishra1.wordpress.com/>
- [15]. "Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" official website Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India.