

# DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG WORKING WOMEN IN COIMBATORE CITY

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Domestic violence is identified as a public health problem. It is associated with adverse maternal health. This study examined the prevalence and determinants of domestic violence among working women in Coimbatore City of Tamil Nadu. **Methods:** A cross-sectional household survey was carried out among eligible working women for the study. A total of 400 working women aged 18-45 years were selected using systematic random sampling Coimbatore City. Information on socio-demographic, domestic violence was collected through face-to-face interview using a pretested structured questionnaire after obtaining informed written consent. ANOVA were carried out to find the socio-demographic factors associated with ever experienced domestic violence among working women.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, Socio-Demographic Profile, Working Women

## INTRODUCTION

Violence against working women is a pervasive public health and human rights problem. In India, 44 per cent of women of reproductive age group have ever experienced physical domestic violence. Women in rural areas were more likely to have experienced domestic violence than women in urban area. Globally, the negative impact of violence on health of women has been recognized. Domestic violence increases the incidence domestic violence. Domestic violence particularly for the working women increases the risk of their life and also to their ever existence of their well being. Various studies have identified factors associated with the likelihood of domestic violence among working women. Underlying factors of domestic violence are the failure to perform duties and responsibilities, economic stress, hierarchical gender relations, lower household income, illiteracy, belonging to lower caste, age at marriage, number of living children, women employment. A few studies have also explored the relationship between domestic violence and socio demographic living of working women in India. However, the social determinants of domestic violence in urban community in India remain limited. Hence, the objective of this study was to know the prevalence of domestic violence and to understand the socio-demographic factors associated with it in Coimbatore City of Tamil Nadu.

## LITERTURE REVIEW

Domestic violence that is any act of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society. The perpetrators of domestic violence have often been found to be the males and the victims, their sexual partners. Internationally, one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in their lifetime by a member of her own family (Heise et al. 1999). Looking at the domestic front, starting from Vedic age to twenty first century, women in India perhaps have never experienced equal rights and freedom compared to their male counterparts. The concept of 'Ardhangini' [half of the body] seems to be restricted only in literatures and have never implemented in practical life. In addition to this, extracts from Ramcharitamanas of Tulsidas like '*Dhol, Gauwnaar, Shudra, Pashu aur Nari; Sakal Tadan ka Adhikari*' [drums, uncivilized illiterates, lower castes, animals and women are all fit to be beaten] besides other indicators like *Pardaha* system [hiding the face in veils], *Sati* system [self immersion of the lady in husband's pyre] that are subject to

women only; is a reflection of the history of women's subordinate status. In short, it is always the women who have to be in the tight rope, subject to inequality and looked down as an inferior sex. Starting from childhood to the end of her life she has to be under the control of father or husband or the son. The subordinate status of women combined with socio cultural norms that are inclined towards patriarchy and masculinity can be considered as an important factor determining the domestic violence.

In view of the prevalence as well as the pervasiveness of domestic violence, many researchers in the past have attempted to assess the situation besides exploring its possible cause and subsequent consequences for society in general and women in particular. INCLIN (2000), found it as a problem that cuts across age, education, social class and religion in India. The same study is of the view that 40 percent women had experienced at least one form of physical violence in their married life. Murthy et al. (2004) is of the view that numbers of family members, type of marriage and husband's education besides menstrual problems have significant influence on domestic violence. While many researchers come out with findings that lifestyle of men such as smoking, alcoholism and drugs promote men to commit domestic violence (Leonard, 1992; McKenry et al., 1995; Rao, 1997 and Bhatt, 1998), some are of the view that masculinity and domestic violence are closely interlinked (Duvvury and Nayak, 2003 and Hamberger et al., 1997). Again, persons with lower socialization and responsibility are found to be the enhancers of the problem (Barnett and Hamberger, 1992). Studies have also revealed that sons of violent parents (Straus et al., 1980 and Martin et al, 2002), men raised in patriarchal family structure that encourages traditional gender role (Fagot et al., 1998 and Malamuth et al., 1995) are more likely to abuse their intimate partners. Gendered socialization process is what mainly responsible for domestic violence (Sahu, 2003). Another study among Uttar Pradesh men by Gerstein (2000) is of the view that low educational level and poverty are important reasons for domestic violence. Further, marriage at a younger age makes women vulnerable to domestic violence (Mishra, 2000; Hindin, 2002 and Rao, 1997). Besides this, the role of inter spousal relationship, sex of the children, ownership of property, dowry, working status, autonomy, religion and caste of the person can't be ignored (Sahu, 2003; Swain, 2002 and Jejeebhoy, 1998).

Many studies are of the view that violence by intimate partner most likely undermines the sexual and reproductive health of the women. This extensive violence has significant harmful effects like unwanted pregnancy (Khan et al., 1996), gynecological disorders (Golding and Taylor 1996) and physical injuries to private parts (Starck et al., 1979) besides large-scale mental health impacts (UNICEF, 2000). Again, many of the commonly associated disorders/problems are found to be inadequately addressed (Mitra, 1999; Visaria, 1999; Dave and Solanki, 2000 and Jaswal, 2000). Further, as Freedman has written, violence by husbands against wife should not be seen as a break down in the social order rather than an affirmation to patriarchal social order (Travers, 1997). Similarly, Jejeebhoy (1998) is of the view that not only wife beating is deeply entrenched, but also people justify it. Thus, domestic violence is simply not a personal abnormality but rather it roots in the cultural norms of the family and the society. Again, looking from another angle, it is found that many of the victims of domestic violence has either refused to name the perpetrator of the assault or attributed the injuries to other reasons (Daga et al., 1999).

In order to develop effective intervention programme and policy, it is vital to know the socio demographic profile of the working women towards the issue in-depth. Most of the studies conducted in the past are small in nature and reflects the regional picture that might not be a true picture of the whole country. In view of the above discussion, it seems essential to understand the socio demographic profile of the working women's viewpoint besides the assessment of the problem and its correlates at national level. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to study whether the socio economic and demographic profile of the working married women has any kind of impact on the Domestic violence. Specifically, the objectives of the present paper are as follows:

- To investigate the socio-economic and cultural causes that lead to domestic violence.
- To comprehend the factors those constrain the respondent in non-reporting of the domestic violence.
- To suggest ways and means to curb this domestic violence on women, that is, the need of the hour and to curtail the illness of domestic violence.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design used in this study is descriptive in nature. The descriptive design helps to study in depth the characteristics concerning individuals, group and situation. Each of these variables has different dimensions and these dimensions were analyzed separately. Influence of socio-demographic variable on these variables was analyzed. The present investigation mainly uses the descriptive method to study the attitude of working married women towards domestic violence and the influence of their socio economic and demographic profiles.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. Working women's age influences their domestic violence.
2. Working women belonging to various religions significantly differ in their domestic violence.
3. Working women from rural and urban areas differ significantly in their domestic violence.
4. There exists a significant difference in domestic violence of working women belonging to nuclear family and joint family.
5. There is a significant difference in domestic violence of working women from different income groups.
6. There is a significant difference in domestic violence of working women belonging to different occupations.
7. Working women's educational qualification influences their domestic violence.
8. There is a significant difference in domestic violence of working women belonging to government and private organisations.

## POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The married working women constituted the population of the subjects in the present research. The random sample method was used to draw the sample for the present study. The Coimbatore district constituted the area of the study. The random sample method was used to draw the married working women sample for the present study. The selection of industry where the respondents were working was made on random basis in Coimbatore district. While the investigator visited each company, he obtained the list of all married women. Thus 400 married working women from different sectors constituted the sample for this study. The sample has been selected by random sampling technique from the population working married women.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### H1: Working women's age influences their domestic violence

**Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and F-ratio of working women from different age groups.**

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage	MEAN	SD	S.Em	F Ratio	Sig.
18-20	36	14	67.17	17.78	0.804	44.923	0.01
21-35	196	49	58.61	9.44	0.63		
36-45	148	37	60.7	10.35	0.789		

The table above shows the mean, S.D, S.Em and F ratio of working women's domestic violence in terms of their age. There are 36 working women whose age is between 18-20. Their mean adjustment is 67.17, S.D is 17.784 and S.Em is 0.804. There are 196 working women whose age is 21 to 35 years. Their mean adjustment is 58.61. and the corresponding S.D is 9.449 and S.Em is 0.630. There are 148 working women whose age is 36 to 45 years. Their mean adjustment is 60.70 and S.D is 10.345 and S.Em is 0.789. The F ratio (44.92) indicates that working women belonging to various age groups differ significantly in their adjustment problems.

Showing ANOVA of working women from different Age Groups					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Sq	F Ratio	Sig.
Between Groups	15529.29	3	5176.428	44.92	0.01
Within Groups	81812.47	396	115.229		
TOTAL	97341.76	399			

Showing Mean difference, S.E. difference and t-ratio of working women from different age groups.

Age Group	No. of Respondents	Mean Diff	S.E Diff	T Ratio	Sig
18-20	36	8.56	0.174	8.419	0.01
21-35	196				
18-20	36	6.47	0.015	5.672	0.01
36-45	148				
21-35	196	-2.09	-0.159	2.095	0.05
36-45	148				

The above Table shows mean difference, S.E difference and t-ratios of different age groups of working women. The difference in the domestic violence problems of working women whose age is 18-20 and 21-35 years is 8.419 and is statistically significant. The t-ratio 5.672 is the difference in the domestic violence problems of working women whose age is 18-20 and 36-45 years. The value is statistically significant. These ratio indicates that working women of 18-20 years experience more problems of domestic violence than the other groups. While comparing working women belonging to 21-35 years with that of 36-45 years, the first group (21-35) shows better adjustment than the second group (36-45) since the t-ratio 2.095 is statistically significant.

Hence, the hypothesis that working women's age influences their adjustment problems is **accepted**.

**H2: Working women belonging to various religions significantly differ in their domestic violence**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and F-ratio of working women from different religion						
Religion	No. of Respondents	MEAN	SD	S.Em	F Ratio	Sig
Hindu	190	63.6	11.653	0.528	0.098	N.S
Muslim	80	63.17	11.719	0.904		
Christians	130	63.47	12.025	1.566		

Showing ANOVA of working women from different religion					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Sq	F Ratio	Sig.
Between Groups	26.828	2	13.414	0.098	NS
Within Groups	97314.93	397	136.871		
TOTAL	97341.76	399			

The above tables shows the mean, S.D, S.Em and F-ratio of working women's domestic violence in terms of their religion. There are 190 working women who belong to Hindu and their mean adjustment is 63.60, S.D is 11.65, and S.Em is 0.528. There are 80 working women belonging to Muslim and their mean adjustment is 63.17, S.D. is 11.72, and S.Em is 0.90. The number of working women who belong to Christian religion is 130 and their mean adjustment is 63.47, S.D. is 12.03, and S.Em is 1.566. The F ratio (.098) is not significant and it indicates that these groups do not differ significantly in their adjustment problems.

So, the hypothesis that working women belonging to various religions significantly differ in their domestic violence problems is **not accepted**.

**H3: Working women from rural and urban areas differ significantly in their domestic violence.**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and t-ratio of working women belonging to rural and urban areas.						
Area	No. of Respondents	Mean	SD	S.Em	t-ratio	Sig
RURAL	128	67.4	11.551	0.586	10.57	0.01
URBAN	272	58.76	9.995	0.554		

The table above shows the mean, adjustment scores, S.D, S.Em and t-ratio domestic violence myth of working women from rural and urban areas. There are 128 working women belonging to rural area and their mean adjustment is 67.40, S.D is 11.551 and S.Em is 0.586. There are 272 working women belonging to urban area and their mean adjustment is 58.76, S.D is 9.995, and S.Em is 0.554. The t-ratio (10.570) indicates that these two groups differ in their domestic violence problems. Since the t- ratio statistically significant. Working women from rural area show more problems of domestic violence than working from urban area.

Hence the empirical hypothesis that working women from rural and urban area differ significantly in their domestic violence problems is **accepted**.

**H4: There exists a significant difference in domestic violence of working women belonging to nuclear family and joint family**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and t-ratio of working women from nuclear family and joint family						
Type of Family	No. of Respondents	Mean	SD	S.Em	t-ratio	Sig
Nuclear	184	65.02	11.279	0.522	13.569	0.01
Joint	216	60.53	11.894	0.757		

The above table shows the mean, S.D, S.Em and t ratio of domestic violence of working women from nuclear family and joint family. There are 184 working women belonging to nuclear family and their mean adjustment score is 65.02, S.D is 11.279 and S.Em is 0.522. The total number of working women belonging to joint family are 216 and their mean adjustment score is 60.53, S.D is 11.894 and S.Em is 0.757. The t- ratio (13.569) is statistically significant and this reveals that working women significantly differ in their domestic violence problems. Working women from joint family show more domestic violence than working women from nuclear family.

Hence, the empirical hypothesis that there exists a significant difference in domestic violence problems of working women belonging to nuclear family and joint family is **accepted**.

**H5: There is a significant difference in domestic violence of working women from different income groups.**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and F-ratio of working women from different income groups						
Income Level	No. of Respondents	MEAN	SD	S.Em	F Ratio	Sig
Upto Rs.50,000	126	66.53	9.962	0.525	108.231	0.01
Rs. 50,001 to 1,50,000	238	64.77	10.835	0.689		
Rs. 1,50,001 and above	36	50.17	9.767	0.944		

The above table shows the mean S.D, S.Em and F ratio of domestic violence of working women from different income groups . There are 126 working women whose income is upto Rs.50,000 and their mean adjustment is 66.53, S.D is 9.96, and S.Em is 0.525. There are 238 working women whose income is between Rs.50001 to Rs.150000 and their mean adjustment is 64.77, S.D is 10.84, and S.Em is 0.689. The number of working women whose income is above Rs.150000 is 36 and their mean adjustment is 50.17, S.D is 9.77, and S.Em is 0.944. The F- ratio (108.231) indicates that these three groups differ significantly in their adjustment problems.

Showing ANOVA of working women from different income groups					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Sq	F Ratio	Sig.
Between Groups	22718.74	2	11359.37	108.231	0.01
Within Groups	74623.02	397	104.955		
TOTAL	97341.76	399			

**Showing Mean difference, S.E difference and t-ratio of working women from different income groups.**

Group income (monthly)	No. of Respondents	Mean Diff	S.E Diff	T Ratio	Sig
Upto 50,000	126	1.76	1.64	2.069	0.05
50,001 - 1,50,000	238				
Upto 50,000	126	16.36	4.19	14.983	0.01
1,50,000 and above	36				
50,001 - 1,50,000	238	14.6	2.55	11.983	0.01
1,50,000 and above	36				

The above shows ANOVA of working women from different income groups. Table 5.15 shows the mean difference, S.E difference and the t-ratio of working women different income groups. Working women whose income is upto Rs.50,000 and working women between Rs.50,001 to Rs.1,50,000 is statistically significant, since the t-ratio 2.069 is statistically significant. Similarly when working women whose income is upto Rs.50000 compared with the domestic violence problems of working women whose income is above Rs.150000 and above the second group (Rs 1,50000 and above) shows little domestic violence than the first group (upto Rs.50000).while comparing the domestic violence problems of working women belonging to Rs.50001 to 150000 with the working women belonging to the other group Rs.150000 and above, the second group shows a less domestic violence than the first group (Rs 50001 to 150000) since the t-ratio (11.983) is significant. Hence, the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in domestic violence problems of working women from different income groups is **accepted**.

**H6: There is a significant difference in domestic violence of working women belonging to different occupations**

Table below shows the mean adjustment scores, S.D, S.Em and F ratio of working women belonging to different occupational groups. There are 80 working women who are into business and their mean adjustment is 70.25, S.D is 10.03, S.Em is 0.664. There are 242 working women who are working in private companies and their mean adjustment is 67.13, S.D is 10.75, and S.Em is 1.304. There are 78 working women belonging to Government organization and their mean adjustment score is 60.62, S.D is 10.170, and S.Em is 0.553. The F-ratio (72.352) indicates that these different occupational groups of working women differ significantly in their domestic violence problems. ANOVA of working women from different occupation groups is shown below

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and F ratio of working women belonging to different occupational groups						
Occupational Groups	No. of Respondents	MEAN	SD	S.Em	F Ratio	Sig
Business	80	70.25	10.025	0.664	72.354	0.01
Private Companies	242	67.13	10.754	1.304		
Government Organizations	78	60.62	10.17	0.553		

Showing ANOVA of working women from different occupational Groups					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Sq	F Ratio	Sig.
Between Groups	22791.65	3	7597.218	72.354	0.01
Within Groups	74550.11	396	105.00		
TOTAL	97341.76	399			

There is a difference in the domestic violence of working women running a business and working in a Private organization (t-ratio 2.213). Working women from the private sector show a less Domestic violence than those who belong to running of a business. Working women working Government Organizations and Private Sectors (12.936), since the t – ratios are statistically significant. working women who are in Private Sector show little high domestic violence myth than those who belong to Government organizations.

So, the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in domestic violence problems of working women belonging to different occupations is **accepted**.

**Showing Mean difference, S.E difference and t-ratio of working women from different occupational groups.**

Group income (monthly)	No. of Respondents	Mean Diff	S.E Diff	T Ratio	Sig
Business	80	3.12	-0.64	2.213	0.05
Private companies	242				
Business	126	9.63	0.111	11.118	0.01
Government Organizations	78				
Private companies	126	17.17	-0.538	12.936	0.01
Government Organizations	78				

**H7: Working women’s educational qualification influences their domestic violence.**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and F- ratio of working women from different educational groups.						
Educational Groups	No. of Respondents	MEAN	SD	S.Em	F Ratio	Sig
Upto 10+2	124	72.45	9.693	0.622	171.081	0.01
Graduate and Post Graduate	236	64.67	8.158	0.587		
Other Courses	40	54.74	8.756	0.581		

The above table shows the mean adjustment scores, S.D, S.Em and t-ratio of working women from different educational groups. There are 124 working women whose educational qualification is Upto 10+2 and their mean adjustment score is 72.45, S.D is 9.693, and S.Em is 0.622. There are 236 working women whose educational qualification is graduation and Post graduation and their mean adjustment score is 64.67, S.D is 8.158, and S.Em is 0.587. The number of working women belong to others category are 80 and their mean adjustment score is 54.74, S.D is 8.76, and S.Em is 0.581. The F ratio (171.08) indicates that these groups of working women having different educational qualifications is significant and differ in their domestic violence problems.

<b>Showing ANOVA of working women from different educational groups.</b>					
	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Mean Sq</b>	<b>F Ratio</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Between Groups	40842.23	3	13614.08	171.081	0.01
Within Groups	56499.53	396	79.58		
TOTAL	97341.76	399			

**Showing Mean difference, S.E difference and t-ratio of working women from different educational groups**

<b>Group Education</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Mean Diff</b>	<b>S.E Diff</b>	<b>T Ratio</b>	<b>Sig</b>
Upto 10+2	124	7.78	0.035	8.92	0.01
Graduate and Post Graduate	236				
Upto 10+2	124	17.71	0.041	20.76	0.01
Others	40				
Graduate and Post Graduate	236	17.47	0.576	11.928	0.01
Others	40				

There is a difference in the domestic violence of working women who have got higher secondary qualifications and graduates (t-ratio 8.92). Graduate working women show less domestic violence than those who have got higher secondary qualifications. Similarly, working women who have got higher secondary experience more problems of domestic violence than working women who have got other degree (20.76). Graduate working women experience less problems of domestic violence than other educational group working women (t-ratio 11.928). Thus, graduate and post-graduate working women experience less problems of domestic violence when they are compared with other categories of working women. It is understood from the table that working women's domestic violence

problems is influenced by their educational qualifications. Hence, the empirical hypothesis that working women's educational qualification significantly influences their domestic violence problems is **accepted**.

**H8. Working women belonging to government and private organisations.**

Showing Mean, S.D, S.E m and t-ratio of working women from government and private organizations.						
Type of Organization	N	Mean	S.D	S.E.m	t-ratio	Sig.
Government	161	62.17	15.52	1.8	0.61	NS
Private	239	63.08	13.78	0.64		

The above shows difference in the adjustment problems of working women from government and private organizations. There are 161 working women from government organization whose adjustment score is 62.17 and 239 working women represent private organizations whose mean

adjustment score is 63.08. The t- ratio (0.61) indicates that working women from these two organizations do not differ in their domestic violence problems, since the t-ratio is statistically not significant. Hence, the hypothesis that there is a significant difference in domestic violence problems of working women belonging to government and private organizations is **not accepted**.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite efforts made by various sections of society and the Government to curb the menace of domestic violence against women, there is a rise in domestic violence. This can be curbed by Educating women about her rights, Community screening for domestic violence, Providing adequate assistance to the victim, By offering safe shelters, crisis intervention, advocacy, and education and prevention programs, Provision of strict laws and punishment for offence of domestic violence. The varying causes which can spark the violence within the four walls of homes need to be analyzed carefully and a wise study of the factors causing the violence may prevent a family to suffer from the menace of domestic violence. The domestic violence may have a far wider and deeper impact in real life than what has been covered in this essay. What is required is to see closely the association of the factors provoking a particular form of domestic violence. If these factors can be controlled then more than one form of violence can be prevented from harming an individual or our society and India would be a much better place to live in.

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