

A psychological study of intimate partner violence among rural married couples of palamu division

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted on 120 cases and 60 married couples of Palamu Division selected by 2 x 2 x 2 stratified random sampling. The factors of stratification were religion (Hindu and Muslim) x gender (Husband and Wife) and age (Age group 25-34 years and Age group 35-44 years) from Palamu Division. The main objectives were: (i) To assess the prevalence of intimate partner violence among married couples of Palamu Division. (ii) To examine the impacts of religion, gender and age on intimate partner violence. The prevalence of intimate partner violence was measured by intimate partner violence prevalence scale. Statistical techniques such as percentage of scores, anova, mean, standard deviations and t test were applied for analysis of data. The results revealed that the prevalence of intimate partner violence varied among sample groups, religion have impact on intimate partner violence but not gender and age.

Keywords: *Intimate Partner Violence, Religion, Gender and Age*

Intimate Partner Violence is not something that happens between two people, it is the whole system that creates the condition of violence between people and there has to be responsibility at all levels to curb it because we create the society, we live in. We create it together. Intimate Partner Violence is a universal act that threatens life, health and happiness of all human beings. This includes threat, coercion and the arbitrary deprivation of resources. IPV is usually performed by a male or female partner. IPV is a global epidemic resulting in and gives physical, psychological, sexual and economical tortures. Every individual has basic right to live in his/her home peacefully. IPV is the most pervasive of human right violation.

Intimate partner violence is defined as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by one partner to gain control and power over the other partner. It may include the use of physical and sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse and stalking and economic abuse. Intimate partner violence is a learned behavior. Intimate partner violence (IPV) may be perpetuated by men only, women only and by both. Krug et al. (2002) defined intimate partner violence as "any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm

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to those in the relationship, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours”.

Several studies are available focusing on women as victim and men as batterer. But battering behavior resulting in domestic violence is mostly driven by personality makeup rather than by Individual Psychology. However, recent studies are reflecting that violence is a human problem; hence, women may commit violence like men counterparts. In the above scenario, the present study is an empirical study focusing IPV as a manifestation of personality makeup and not as a gendered activity. The prevalence and consequences of male violence directed towards women in intimate relationships has been well established (Lawson, 2003), however, the research on violent women in intimate relationships is far less observed. Population-based studies have consistently shown that women perpetrate as much IPV as men do (Hines and Saudino, 2003; Morse, 1995; O’Leary et al., 1989). They argue that violence is a human problem, not a gender problem, and violence by women should not be ignored because most of it is not enacted in self-defence.

FORMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Verbal Violence includes verbal attacks, shouting, screaming, and name-calling. The use of criticism, verbal threats, social isolation, intimidation or exploitation to dominate someone is known as emotional or verbal abuse. Making degrading comments about a person’s body or behaviour, forcing to commit degrading acts, confining in the house, destroying her possessions and threatening to kill her/him or the children are some examples that fall within this category.

Physical Violence may occur once, or repeatedly, and involves the use of physical force that leads to the injury of someone. Slapping, choking, or punching a person, using hands or objects as weapons, threatening a person with a knife or gun or committing murder are forms of physical abuse.

Psychological Violence includes threatening to harm the person or her or his family with which she or he lives, threatening to harm oneself, Threats of violence, Threats of abandonment, Stalking / criminal harassment, Destruction of personal property, Verbal aggression, socially isolating the person, Not allowing access to a telephone etc.

Sexual violence consists of all forms of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation, the use of threats, intimidation, or physical force to force a person into unwanted sexual acts.

Economic violence - In economic violence one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Marital assets are used as a means of control. Economic violence may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting what the victim may use, or otherwise exploiting economic resources of the victim. Economic violence diminishes the victim's capacity to support them, increasing dependence on the perpetrator, including reduced access to education, employment, career advancement, and assets acquisition. Forcing or pressurising a family member to sign documents, to sell things, or to change a will are forms of economic violence.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives

The objectives of the present research were as follows:

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1. To assess the prevalence of intimate partners' violence among married couples of Palamu Division.
2. To examine the impact of religion, gender and age on intimate partner violence.

Hypotheses

1. The prevalence of intimate partner violence will vary among sample of Palamu Division.
2. Religion, age and gender of sample groups will have no impact on intimate partner violence.

Sample

The sample consisted of 60 married couples residing in various rural areas of Palamu Division. They were selected by stratified random sampling. The factors of stratification were - 2 factors of religion (Hindu and Muslim) X 2 factors of gender (Husband and Wife) and 2 factors of age (25-34 years and 35-44 years). Thus, there were 8 strata. From each stratum, 15 cases were selected randomly making a total of 120 cases and 60 married couples. The sample design is presented in Table - 1.

Table 1: Sample Design

Religion		Hindu		Muslim		Total
Gender		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	
Age	25-34	15	15	15	15	60
	35-44	15	15	15	15	60
Total		30	30	30	30	120

Tools used in data collection

1. Personal Data Questionnaire
2. Intimate Partner Violence Prevalence Scale

A brief description of the test materials are as follows:

- 1. Personal Data Questionnaire (PDQ):** The personal data questionnaire was prepared by the research scholar to elicit information on personal information, such as name, age, caste, religion, gender, marital status, education, etc.
- 2. Intimate Partners Violence Prevalence Scale:** Intimate Partner Violence Prevalence Scale was developed by Jayaswal (2016). This scale consists of 50 questions with 3 response alternatives: Always, Sometimes and Never. Each question reflects abusive behavior of the partner. Score are 2, 1 and 0 for Always; Sometimes and Never responses respectively. Thus, range of scores is 0 – 100. Higher scores indicate higher prevalence of intimate partner violence.

The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient reliability was 0.89 and Guttman Split – Half coefficient was 0.83 of this test. The questionnaire was validated against Domestic Violence Scale prepared by Lakra (2014). Sores of both scales were correlated with each other and the correlation coefficient was found out to be $r = 0.77$, which is highly significant at 0.01 level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Prevalence of Intimate Partners' Violence among Married Couples of Palamu Division

In order to measure the prevalence of intimate partners' violence among married couples of Palamu division, intimate partners' violence prevalence scale was administered. On the basis of obtained scores, three levels of prevalence of intimate partners' violence were categorized- low, moderate and high. Percentage of married couples are presented in Table 2 and Figure 1.

Table 2 Prevalence of Intimate Partners' Violence among Rural Married Couples of Palamu Division

Sample	Low Prevalence of IPV		Moderate Prevalence of IPV		High Prevalence of IPV	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	89	74.20	27	22.50	4	3.30

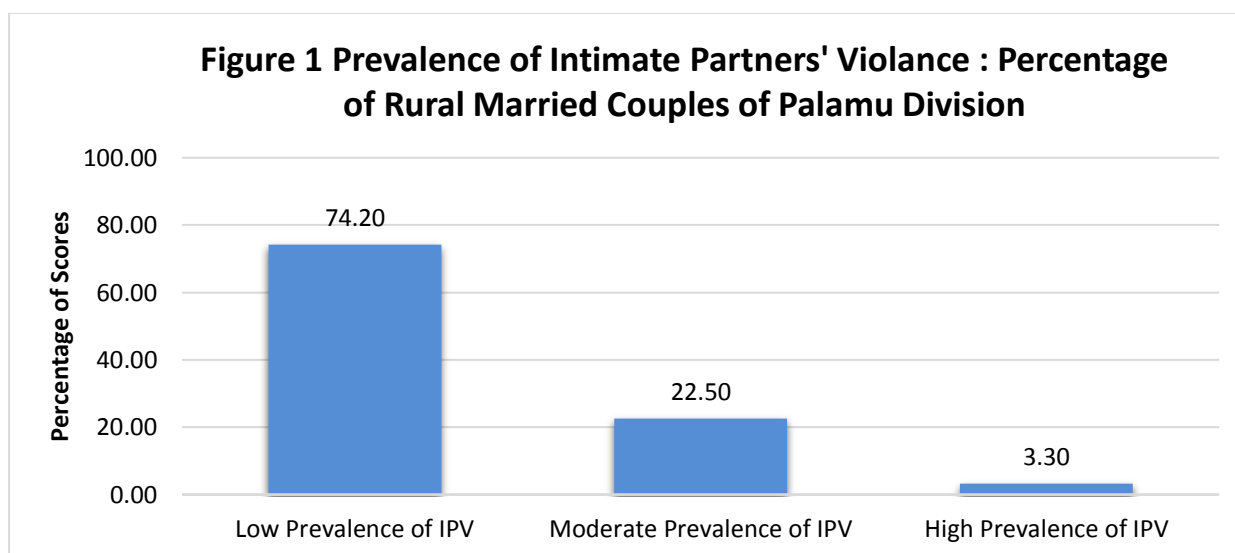


Table 2 and Figure 1 show that

- 74.20% married couples had low prevalence of intimate partners' violence.
- 22.50% married couples had moderate prevalence of intimate partners' violence.
- 3.30% married couples had high prevalence of intimate partners' violence.

Impact of Religion, Gender and Age on Intimate Partners' Violence among the Married Couples of Palamu Division

In order to find out the impacts of religion, gender and age of the married couples on intimate partners' violence, analysis of variance was used. The F values are presented in Table 3. The results revealed that:

Table 3 F. Values Showing the Impact of Religion, Gender and Age of the Married Couples on Intimate Partners' Violence

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Level of Significance
Religion	2100.033	1	2100.033	8.714	0.01
Gender	8.533	1	8.533	0.035	NS
Age	333.333	1	333.333	1.383	NS
Religion x Gender	1.633	1	1.633	0.007	NS
Religion x Age	1346.7	1	1346.7	5.588	0.05

Table 3 F. Values Showing the Impact of Religion, Gender and Age of the Married Couples on Intimate Partners' Violence

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Level of Significance
Gender x Age	0.133	1	0.133	0.001	NS
Religion x Gender x Age	340.033	1	340.033	1.411	NS
Error	26991.07	112	240.992		
Total	104728	120			
Corrected Total	31121.47	119			

The F value showing the impact of religion on intimate partners' violence was 8.714. This was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that religion had significant impact on intimate partners' violence.

The F value showing the impact of gender on intimate partners' violence was 0.035. This was not statistically significant. This indicates that gender had no significant impact on intimate partners' violence.

The F value showing the impact of age on intimate partners' violence was 1.383. This was not statistically significant. This indicates that age had no significant impact on intimate partners' violence.

't' Value Showing the Impact of Religion on Intimate partners' violence among Rural Married Couples

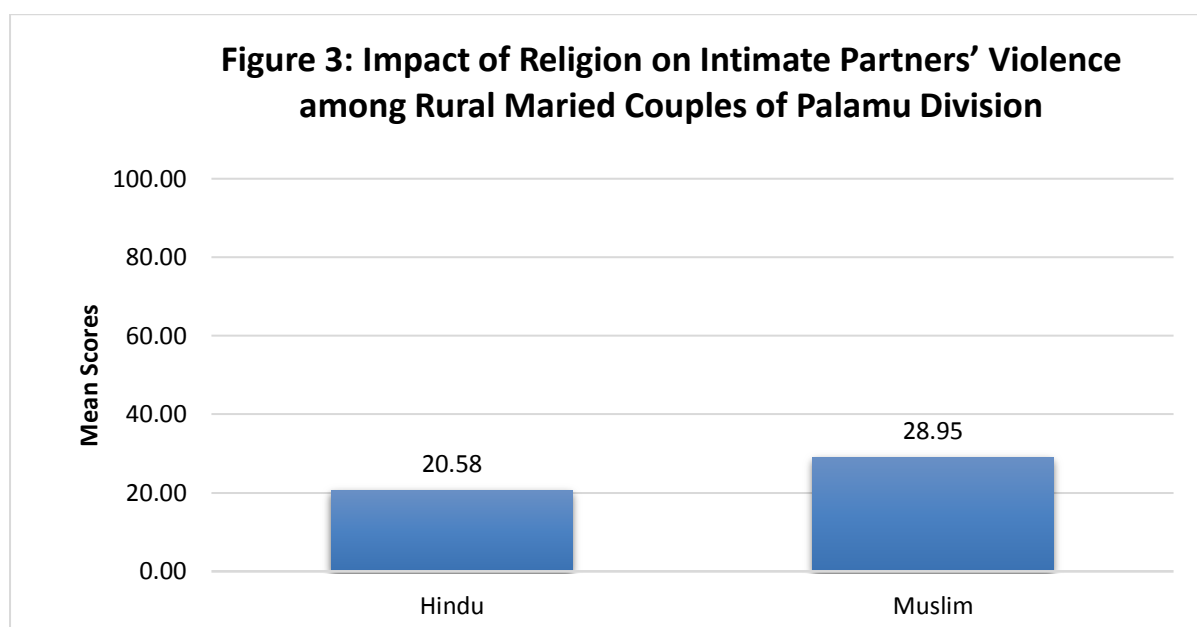
The mean score, SD, and t value of Hindu and Muslim rural married couples on intimate partners' violence are presented in Table 4 and Figure 3. The results revealed that:

Table 4 Impact of Age on Intimate Partners' Violence among Rural Married Couples

Religion	N	Mean	SD	t -value
Hindu	60	20.58	17.55	2.92*
Muslim	60	28.95	13.57	

Note: *Significance at 0.05 Level

The mean score of Hindu married couples and Muslim married couples were 20.58 and 28.95 respectively. The difference of mean scores between Hindu married couples and Muslim married couples was 8.37 and t value was 2.92. This value was statistically significant at 0.05. This indicates that Muslim married couples were high in intimate partners' violence than the Hindu married couples.



CONCLUSION

The first objective of the study was to assess the Prevalence of intimate partners' violence among rural married couples of Palamu division. The major result revealed that most of the married couples had low prevalence of intimate partners' violence and very few married couples had high prevalence of intimate partners' violence. The second objective of the study was to examine the impact of religion, gender and age on intimate partner violence. The result revealed that religion of married couples had significant impact on intimate partners' violence whereas gender and age had no impact on intimate partners' violence. The result revealed that: Muslim married couples were significantly more exposed to intimate partners' violence than the Hindu married couples.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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