

Modernization in Women and their Attitude towards Domestic Violence

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is going on for several decades in Indian patriarchal society. But this is the time of the modern era. It's a time to change women's animated existence. Women becoming educated and in every field of life, they stand with men shoulder to shoulder. This study highlights the impact of modernization on domestic violence. Attitude towards Domestic Violence Scale (Soni & Behmani, 2018) and The Modernization Scale (Singh, Tripathi & Lal, 1979) were administered to a sample of 480 women. Using SPSS IBM 20, bivariate correlation and regression analysis were applied to analyze the data. High correlation was found between modernization and domestic violence. Regression analysis shows predictors of domestic violence. Education and position of women can predict the suppression of women and women's justification of domestic violence. Socio-religious belief and education can predict the husband's superiority. The age of marriage can predict women's justification for domestic violence. According to the results of the present study, it can be stated that education is the sole predictor of domestic violence.

Keywords: *Suppression of Women, The Superiority of The Husband, Justification of Domestic Violence*

Modernization refers to attitudes that are not traditional. It is a change in various aspects of life in an individual. When a person becomes more liberal, adopts modern ways of life and leaves the traditional old values behind, it is considered as the process of modernization. Modernization may be viewed differently by different people. For some, it is a positive aspect, but for some, it is a deterioration of the roots of a person in the form of values. Modernization regarding women's position, marriage, gender roles, etc., will impact attitude toward domestic violence too. Domestic violence, especially in India, is linked to patriarchal society, male dominance, suppressed condition of females, etc. One of the reasons for this being so prevalent and consistent in India is the orthodox and idiotic mindset of the society that considers women as physically and emotionally weaker than males (Kumar, 2010). Silberschmidt (1999) conducted an ethnographic study in Kenya and concluded that one of the reasons for violence is the transition of society from traditional to modern.

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Acculturation is a similar term to modernization, which means cultural adoption. Some researchers have explored the link between domestic violence and acculturation. “Lower acculturation is related to higher acceptance of domestic violence because lower levels of modernization are related to more restrictive and conservative beliefs about the roles of men and women” (Bhanot & Senn, 2007). A study on 330 Asian Americans examined the relationships between acculturation, attitudes towards domestic violence, and attribution of responsibility for domestic violence among Asian Americans. It reveals the acculturation of values in Asian culture was the most relevant factor of attitudes towards domestic violence (Yang, 2006). Chin (1994) and Song-Kim (1992) have also mentioned that acculturation serves as a precursor to domestic violence in Asian American families. Yick (2000) conducted a study on the relationship between the prevalence of domestic violence, gender

role beliefs, and acculturation in a sample of Chinese American couples. This study revealed an opposite pattern in comparison with the studies mentioned above. For this sample acculturation did not serve as a protective factor. It is very much evident that traditional beliefs regarding marriage, women, power, patriarchal societies have a positive impact on domestic violence. When men and women hold traditional values and beliefs, they are more likely to support and use violence and are more likely to lead an abusive marriage (Alvi, Schwartz, DeKeseredy & Bachaus, 2005).

A study on Turkish women emphasizes the importance of patriarchal beliefs and acceptance of domestic violence. This study finds some traditional beliefs and factors like brides-money along with rural residence, large family, lack of wealth, lower levels of education, and younger age at marriage is strongly associated with acceptance of violence among women (Marshall and Furr, 2010). Culture and tradition are important factors in determining attitudes towards domestic violence in women. Some studies are done on refugee women. These studies proposed some factors like language, religious beliefs, social networks, and traditional help-seeking behaviors that influenced women’s response to domestic abuse (Shiu-Thornton, Senturia, & Sullivan, 2005).

The pattern of domestic violence in society is severe and doesn’t seem to come to an end. Because men, women and even by society also it’s not viewed as a crime (Soni & Behmani, 2016). A big survey has been done by Hindin (2003) found that over half of the women in Zimbabwe (53%) believed that wife-beating is justified; not always, but in one of the five situations; mostly when a wife argued with her spouse (36%), neglected her children (33%), or went out without telling her husband (30%). Haj-Yahia (1998) also finds the same results on Palestinian women. In India also, Sahoo and Pradhan (2007) found in a study conducted upon married women, 57% of them justified domestic violence. “Women are socialized to accept, tolerate, and even justify domestic violence as a male prerogative because they have not carried out their household chores adequately, have not been obedient enough, or are found wanting in some manner” (World Bank, 2012).

This study aims to answer this question whether the variables of modernization (socio-religious, marriage, education, and position of women) affects the domestic violence (suppression of women, superiority of husband, justification of domestic violence) or not. We controlled there earning effects on the study as we studied both groups. Authors hypothesized that as well as the attitude of modernization increases domestic violence decreases.

METHODS

Sample

The target sample of this study was married women. The sample comprised 480 women, out of which 240 were earning and 240 were non-earning. The total sample was divided into 6 groups based on their education and if they were earning or not.

The groups were as follows:

1. Up to 12th pass earning married women (N=80)
2. Graduate earning married women (N=80)
3. Post-graduate earning married women (N=80)
4. Up to 12th pass non-earning married women (N=80)
5. Graduate non-earning married women (N=80)
6. Post-graduate non-earning married women (N=80)

Inclusion criteria- Women age 25-45 years and married for at least one year was taken in this study.

Exclusion criteria- Women who are unable to read and write in the Hindi language weren't included in this study.

Measures

To accomplishing the objectives of this study and collect the data, the following tools and tests were used:

Attitude towards Domestic Violence Scale

This test was developed by Soni & Behmani, 2018. The test measures the attitude towards aspects of domestic violence:

1. Suppression of women
2. Superiority of husband
3. Justification of domestic violence

This is a 6-point scale with 1 = completely disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = little disagree, 4 = little agree, 5 = agree and 6 = completely agree. More the total score more a person has an attitude supporting domestic violence and vice-versa.

To determine the internal consistency Cronbach Alpha was used. Cronbach Alpha for suppression of women factor was 0.79, for the superiority of husband was 0.74 and for justification of domestic violence was 0.81. The correlations ranged from .44 to .70.

The Modernization Scale

This test was developed by Singh, Tripathi, and Lal (1979). The test measures the attitude towards for aspects of modernity i.e. -

1. Socio-religious
2. Marriage
3. Position of women
4. Education

Split-half reliability (Odd-even method) was calculated and after Spearman-Brown's Correlation was found to be $r=.78$ for the total scale. The concurrent validity for socio-religious $r = .97$, education $r = .64$, marriage $r = .61$ and position of women $r = .86$. These

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high correlations demonstrate that subscales have high validity. The correlations ranged from .61 to .97.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the bivariate correlations of the Modernization with Domestic Violence variables. As expected, all the variables of Modernization are highly negatively correlated with the variables of Domestic Violence. As well as an attitude toward modernization increases domestic violence become non-supportive or decreases.

Table 1. Correlation between the Modernization and Domestic Violence variables.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Socio-Religious	1						
2. Marriage	.416**	1					
3. Education	.331**	.468**	1				
4. Position of Women	.314**	.496**	.604**	1			
5. Suppression of women	-.229**	-.333**	-.428**	-.510**	1		
6. Superiority of husband	-.313**	-.251**	-.306**	-.203**	.319**	1	
7. Justification of domestic Violences	-.292**	-.421**	-.450**	-.521**	.659**	.468**	1

Note: ** $p < .0.01$. (1-tailed).

A series of regression (using the Enter method) was applied to assess the discriminant validity of the Modernization (Table 2-9). For all multiple regression analyses performed, collinearity was tested based on Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) for individual variables. The VIF values larger than 6 indicates excessive collinearity. Table 2 shows that education and the position of women predict the level of suppression in women. All the VIF values in this and other regression models (2-9) are less than 2 which means that collinearity was not an issue for this analysis.

Table 2. Regression predicting suppression of women (domestic violence) from the Modernization

	B	SE	Beta	t	Sig.
Socio-Religious	-.023	.030	-.034	-.776	.438
Marriage	-.047	.039	-.058	-1.205	.229
Education	-.103	.031	-.167	-3.302	.001
Position of women	-.262	.036	-.370	-7.232	.000
R Square	.287				.000

Table 3 shows that both socio-religious and education predict the husband's superiority.

Table 3. Regression predicting superiority of husband (domestic violence) from the Modernization

	B	SE	Beta	t	Sig.
Socio-Religious	-.201	.043	-.220	-4.653	.000
Marriage	-.079	.056	-.074	-1.406	.160
Education	-.178	.045	-.220	-3.984	.000
Position of women	-.033	.052	.035	.632	.527
R Square	.148				.000

Table 4 shows that marriage, education, and position of women predict domestic violence’s justification.

Table 4. Regression predicting justification of domestic violence (domestic violence) from the Modernization

	B	SE	Beta	t	Sig.
Socio-Religious	-.064	.037	-.073	-1.738	.083
Marriage	-.161	.048	-.156	-3.353	.001
Education	-.120	.038	-.155	-3.151	.002
Position of women	-.293	.044	-.327	-6.585	.000
R Square	.327				.000

DISCUSSION

The Modernization of a woman was very influential in their attitude towards domestic violence. Women who had modernized beliefs in socio-religious, education, marriage and position of women aspects had non-supportive beliefs for domestic violence. This study aimed to investigate the relations of the modernization of domestic violence.

Modernization and suppression of women: In the current study, education and position of women were negatively related to women’s suppression. It showed education and position of women among the variables of modernization, can predict the suppression of women. As the level of education and position of women in society increases; attitude towards suppression of women decreases. More educated the women, less supportive attitude towards domestic violence.

Modernization and superiority of husband: The findings of the present study showed socio-religious and education of women were negatively related to the husband’s superiority. It shows socio-religious beliefs and education of women among the variables of modernization, can predict the husband’s superiority. This finding is consistent with the findings of Bhanot & Senn (2007). Some more researches show somehow similar results. These were founded by Yang (2006), Chin (1994), Song-Kim (1992) and Shiu-Thornton, Senturia, & Sullivan (2005).

Modernization and justification of domestic violence: The findings of the present study showed marriage, education, and position of women were negatively related to the justification of domestic violence. These all variables of modernization can predict the women’s justification of domestic violence. Although no research could be found showing any direct relation between these structures in the literature review, this finding, somehow, confirmed the results found by Marshall & Furr (2010).

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On the basis of this research's result we can say that, as the level of education increases attitude towards suppression of women, the superiority of husband and justification of domestic violence becomes non-supportive. More educated the women, less supportive attitude towards domestic violence. It is very much clear that having a law ("Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005") is not enough. It is important for people, especially women to realize their importance and having an attitude of modernization. Hornbeck, Johnson, LaGrotta, and Sellman (2007) noted the following concern regarding this law: "the main barrier to successful implementation the Act is the deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset of Indian society". While there are some Acts that focuses on civil remedies, but only the enactment of laws may not be enough. It is necessary to be a cultural shift about the roles and relationships between men and women (Singh, Hurley & Singh, 2016). Attitude change is must not for women-only but men also.

Looking at the sensibility of this topic, this study is an effort to study the attitude towards domestic violence to modernization variables to understand the mindset affecting their attitudes. It is very much clear that we need to understand the attitudes of women regarding domestic violence and the factors affecting these attitudes. This study is conducted particularly on women because it is believed that if a person is having a fever he/she has to take the medicine. That means the one who is suffering should stand up for themselves and this is possible when they realize that it is wrong to suffer from any kind of brutality. The researchers support the fact that these victims will need some kind of support from their environment as well. But the first step is to stand up for oneself. Domestic violence is a global problem faced, mainly by women. Its prevalence is very high in society. As it is well known that patriarchy and traditional roles assigned to women in India are one of the root causes of many problems faced by women in our country. This study is aimed to understand the modernization; attitude change among women can enhance their safety; can decrease domestic violence.

Limitations

This study has attempted to contribute to society and research, but still, there are limitations in this study. The first was related to the sample. The sample included only females in this study. It would be better if their counterparts can be studied together to gain more insights into the problems. Second, this study was correlational research. Thus, no conclusions could be drawn about causality. Other limitations include the use of self-report measures. Further research, using alternative methods and samples, is needed to highlight the relationship between domestic violence and modernization.

Practical implications

This study can help make some policies regarding education and for some special education that can be given in the schools. Thus, this study can prove as a very important factor in social changes in the country, especially in the Education sector.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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