

## Intimate Partner Violence in Women of Alcoholic Spouses

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### ABSTRACT

The focus of this research work is to throw light on the influence of alcohol in men who are involved in intimate partner violence among the spouses of these men on administration of domestic violence questionnaire and Mini plus to rule out comorbid psychiatric illness. A cross sectional study comprising of 50 spouses of patients diagnosed as ADS as per ICD 10 admitted in Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru for de addiction treatment. Results of the domestic violence questionnaire and Mini plus were verified to get an in-depth picture of the domains of domestic violence revealing all women in this study suffered domestic violence and economic abuse being the maximum among the abuse pattern and major depressive disorder with past suicidal attempts in these spouses was revealed.

**Keywords:** *Intimate Partner Violence, Alcohol Dependence Syndrome, Economic Abuse.*

Intimate partner violence is commonly defined as all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that may be committed by an intimate partner. It includes battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other practices harmful to women, spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.

Physical abuse is that involving contact intended to cause fear, pain, injury, other physical suffering or bodily harm and strangulation in the context of Intimate partner violence has received significant mention which is recognized as one of the most lethal forms of Intimate partner violence; yet, because of the lack of external injuries, and the lack of social awareness and medical training in regard to it, strangulation has often been a hidden problem.

Sexual abuse, is defined by World Health Organization as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion. It also includes obligatory inspections for virginity and female genital mutilation.

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## **Intimate Partner Violence in Women of Alcoholic Spouses**

Emotional abuse or psychological abuse is a pattern of behaviour that threatens, intimidates, dehumanizes or systematically undermines self-worth. Economic abuse is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources.

Local customs and traditions are often responsible for maintaining certain forms of Intimate partner violence. Such customs and traditions include son preference (the desire of a family to have a boy and not a girl, which is strongly prevalent in parts of Asia), which can lead to abuse and neglect of girl children by disappointed family members; child and forced marriages; dowry; the hierarchic caste system which stigmatizes "lower castes" and "untouchables", leading to discrimination and restricted opportunities of the females and thus making them more vulnerable to abuse; strict dress codes for women that may be enforced through violence by family members; strong requirement of female virginity before the wedding and violence related to non-conforming women and girls; taboos about menstruation leading to females being isolated and shunned during the time of menstruation; female genital mutilation (FGM); ideologies of marital 'conjugal rights' to sex which justify marital rape; the importance given to family honour.

The relationship between alcohol or other substance abuse and Intimate partner violence is complicated. A prevailing myth about violence is that alcohol and drugs are the major causes of Intimate partner violence. In reality, some abusers rely on substance use (and abuse) as an excuse for becoming violent. Alcohol allows the abuser to justify his abusive behaviour as a result of the alcohol. While an abuser's use of alcohol may have an effect on the severity of the abuse or the ease with which the abuser can justify his actions, an abuser does not become violent "because" drinking causes him to lose control of his temper.

Alcohol does affect the user's ability to perceive, integrate and process information. This distortion in the user's thinking does not cause violence, but may increase the risk that the user will misinterpret his partner or another's behaviour.

### ***Need For The Study***

Violence against women is a serious problem in India. Overall, one-third of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 have experienced sexual violence. The incidence of intimate partner violence has been increasing over the years. Women married to men who get drunk frequently are more than twice as likely to experience violence as women whose husbands do not drink alcohol at all. Cross-sectional studies from different low and middle income countries report that men who misuse alcohol are 1.6 to 4.8 times more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence.

Most of the patients attend psychiatry department at general hospital setup with history of alcohol use in dependence pattern. Spouses of such patients have increased risk of undergoing intimate partner violence. As an effort to find out the intimate partner violence victims among spouses of ADS patients this study was initiated.

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Alcoholism is considered as an ongoing stressor, not only for the individual, but for family members as well. Spouses are particularly affected given the intimate nature of their relationship and the constant exposure to the behaviour of the alcoholic(5). Specifically with respect to intimate partner violence, alcohol dis inhibits men from engaging in restraint in contexts in which it is socially and culturally acceptable to engage in verbal or physical abuse against their spouse. Children who witnesses violence or threats of violence between parents are more likely to display harmful drinking patterns later in life.

During a 2013 single-day survey of the National Domestic Violence Hotline in USA, call centers averaged 14 calls every minute for the 24-hour period, two-thirds of cases reported involved excessive use of alcohol.

### *The Objectives Of The Study:*

- To find out intimate partner violence among spouses of alcohol dependents, visiting psychiatry department at a tertiary care centre.
- To assess predominant domain of intimate partner violence scale.

## **METHOD**

A Longitudinal study in which 50 spouses of Patients diagnosed with ADS attending a tertiary care centre at Bengaluru was considered for this study.

### *Inclusion criteria:*

- Spouses of patients fulfilling alcohol dependence criteria as per ICD-10
- Willing to give informed consent
- Age 18-55 yrs

### *Exclusion criteria:*

- Other Axis I psychiatric illness
- Consecutive Patients attending the department of psychiatry with a history of alcohol dependence were screened. Those fulfilling ICD-10 criteria were considered.
- 50 Spouses of such patients were interviewed after obtaining informed consent.
- Privacy during interview and confidentiality was assured
- They were briefed about intimate partner violence and its different domains.

### *Tools:*

- Demographic profile was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire proforma.
- A 20 item domestic violence questionnaire developed by Indu et al, (2011) was administered.
- Mini plus was administered to rule out co morbid psychiatric illness.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Data was analyzed using software Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24.

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**Table no 1: Indicates education of these women, maximum were below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 women completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade respectively.**

Age	n	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	<9 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	illiterate
20-25	08	7	1	0	0	0
26-30	10	10	-	-	-	-
31-35	18	-	-	15	3	-
36-40	12	-	-	-	12	-
41-45	02	-	-	-	-	2

**Table no 2: Indicates the occupation of women of alcoholic spouses**

N	skilled	semiskilled	unskilled	housewife
08	6	2	-	-
10	4	3	3	-
18	1	5	4	8
12	-	-	-	12
02	-	-	-	1

**Table no 3: indicates the ANOVA results for domestic violence and it's sub factors of abuse**

		ANOVA				
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
h/o abuse for yrs	Between Groups	902.717	23	69.440	1.189	.367
	Within Groups	934.750	26	58.422		NS
	Total	1837.467	49			
physical abuse	Between Groups	2.562	23	.197	.670	.761
	Within Groups	4.117	24	.294		*
	Total	6.679	47			
psychological abuse	Between Groups	2.133	23	.164	.737	.706
	Within Groups	3.117	24	.223		*
	Total	5.250	47			
sexual abuse	Between Groups	1.998	23	.154	.579	.834
	Within Groups	3.717	24	.265		*
	Total	5.714	47			
economical abuse	Between Groups	2.991	23	.230	.812	.643
	Within Groups	4.250	25	.283		*
	Total	7.241	48			
Abuse is during absence of others	Between Groups	20.133	23	1.549	1.062	.448
	Within Groups	23.333	26	1.458		NS
	Total	43.467	49			

\*0.05 level, NS- Not significant.

### Intimate Partner Violence in Women of Alcoholic Spouses

The ANOVA results indicate that abuse in others absence and economical abuse being the highest which is significant at 0.05 level while, physical, sexual and psychological abuse follows next indicating no significance.

**Table no 4: ANOVA results indicating factors of MINI plus and domestic violence questionnaire:**

ANOVA						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
DVTOTAL	Between Groups	2211.050	23	170.081	.666	.768
	Within Groups	4087.917	26	255.495		*
	Total	6298.967	49			
GRADE	Between Groups	12.117	23	.932	.865	.599
	Within Groups	17.250	26	1.078		*
	Total	29.367	49			
major depressive episode	Between Groups	.133	23	.010	.197	.997
	Within Groups	.833	26	.052		**
	Total	.967	49			
dysthymia	Between Groups	.000	23	.000	.	.
	Within Groups	.000	26	.000		
	Total	.000	49			
Suicidality	Between Groups	2.283	23	.176	.784	.667
	Within Groups	3.583	26	.224		*
	Total	5.867	49			
Risk of Suicidality	Between Groups	2.283	23	.176	.784	.667
	Within Groups	3.583	26	.224		*
	Total	5.867	49			

\*0.05 level, \*\* 0.01 level.

The results reveal that on MINI plus there is a significant result on domestic violence scale and the grade of violence which is significant at 0.05 level and suicidality and risk of suicidality among these women being significant at 0.05 level. While, it is significant at 0.01 level for major depressive episodes.

## Intimate Partner Violence in Women of Alcoholic Spouses

The results revealed during the study indicate that spouses of the alcoholic dependent men were suffering from domestic violence on the economic front and especially in others absence indicating that these men depended on them for their financial needs and when they were refused economic aid they physically, psychologically and sexually harassed these women in others absence. These women suffered from major depressive episodes and had suicidal ideas and attempts in the past as well.

### CONCLUSION

This study highlights the fact that spouses of alcohol dependent patients were victims of domestic violence, particularly on the economic front followed by physical, psychological and sexual domains.

These women suffered from major depressive disorder and reported suicidal attempts in the past and suicidal risk in the present.

Majority of these women were Hindus, studied below 9<sup>th</sup> standard, housewives within 30-35 years of age Maximum numbers were housewives and of the 11 women who were skilled were into tailoring, dyeing, and computer operators etc.

### LIMITATIONS

The sample was mainly from the urban areas and those who visited the Outpatient unit of the psychiatry department.

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