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Intimate Spousal Violence Against Women and its Consequences on Pregnancy Outcomes and Reproductive Health of Women in India

ABSTRACT

This study has tried to examine the link between physical, sexual and emotional violence against married women by their partner/husband and its consequence in terms of adverse pregnancy outcome by abortion, ever had termination of pregnancy, current unintended pregnancy and reproductive health in terms of sexually transmitted infection, and prolonged Labour during pregnancy.

For this study data used from Demographic & Health Survey of India (NFHS-4, 2015-16). The study focuses on ever married women in age group 15-49 who have answered positive for at least one question about specific acts of Physical, sexual and emotion violence committed by husband considered as case of violence.

The physical, emotional and sexual intimate violence experienced 29.8%, 13.8% and 6.96% by ever married women respectively. Among married women, unwanted pregnancy, Abortion, Mssssmiscarriages and ever had termination of pregnancies has found strongly association with the physical, and sexual type of violence. Similarly the abortion and ever had termination of pregnancies also found adversely affected by partner violence. For the reproductive health, the risk of STI 77% increases by the sexual violence and 44% by the emotional violence among battered women.

Mahadev J. Bramhankar

Ph. D. Bio-statistics and Demography
International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai
Email: bramhankarakash@gmail.com
Phone: 8956961646

INTRODUCTION

Spousal violence against women has been increasingly recognized as the public and reproductive health problem. According the WHO (world health organization) one in three women battered physically or sexually worldwide. A multi-country study by WHO (2006) revealed that, physical violence ranged from 12.6% in Japan 61% in Peru and physical and sexual intimate partner violence varied between 15% in Japan and Ethiopia and Peru. Peru and Ethiopia have strong prevalence of sexual violence which ranges 48% to 59% whereas Japan has lowest prevalence. (Silverman et al., 2010) women experiencing physical violence were more likely risk reported for the an unwanted pregnancies resulting in live birth than those than those experiencing sexual violence and also pregnancy loss in the form of miscarriage, induced abortion or still birth. The several clinical based various part of globe which gives some other reproductive health problems, specially developing regions have strong association link of intimate spousal violence and symptoms of STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) which was given in study of (Silverman, 2007). So, to know, what is the situation of spousal violence and its consequences on their reproductive health and pregnancy outcome? To answer to these questions, this study has tried to find out and examine the link among women's health with physical, sexual and emotional violence against them.

Objectives

- To understand the level and pattern of spousal violence against women in India.
- To examine the effect of spousal violence on pregnancy outcomes.
- To study the consequences of spousal violence on women's reproductive health.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study uses data of nationally representative Demographic & Health Survey (DHS) of India which well known as National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16). This study focuses on ever married women in age group 15-49. There were different question asked regarding spousal violence to women, who have answered positive for at least one question about specific acts of Physical, sexual and emotion violence committed by partner towards her at any time in married life considered to have experienced intimate spousal violence. The analysis was restricted to ever married women. To analyze the data and to examine the association among various factors, descriptive statistics were calculated and possible associations between factors were explored by conducting cross tabulations. Crude odds ratios (OR) between different forms of intimate-partner violence with adverse pregnancy outcomes and reproductive health indicators by using bivariate logistic regression. Multivariate logistic regressions were used to obtain adjusted odds ratios (AORs).

RESULTS

- The physical, emotional and sexual intimate spousal violence experienced 29.8%, 13.8% and 6.96% by ever married women respectively.
- Multivariate logistic regression found that (AOR: 1.72); substantially increased likelihood for the currently unwanted pregnancy by sexual spousal violence among battered women.
- For ever had termination of pregnancy is 43% substantially increased more possibility for ever had termination of pregnancy among violence experienced women as compared to not.
- Among married women, unwanted pregnancy, abortion and ever had termination of pregnancies has found strongly association with the physical, and Sexual type of violence.
- For the reproductive health, the risk of STI (adjusted OR=1.77) 77% by the sexual violence and (adjusted OR=1.44) 44% by the emotional violence among battered.
- The prolong labour during pregnancy has significantly increase risk by physically, sexually and emotional violence.

DISCUSSION

Our study demonstrate that, women experience sexual violence is more likely for abortion which was found same in earlier existing literature which indicates that women who experienced spousal violence are at higher risk of having an abortion (Silverman et al, 2007).

The risk of unintended pregnancies due to sexual spousal violence 1.72 fold increased risk by adjusting household characteristic which on the same line with result another study (Cripe et al, 2008) Battered women have low nutritional status and more likely to be infected by sexually transmitted infections (STI), women who faced sexual violence are at high risk of STI Infections as well. These findings are in line with similar studies by Stephenson (2006) and Vlahov (1998).

The risk of prolonged Labour during pregnancy found higher among battered women in India. Cumulatively it shows the impact of spousal violence on the health of women. This study also discussed about the higher prevalence of current unwanted pregnancy and ever had termination of pregnancy among those women who experienced physical of sexual violence in her married life by her husband or partner.

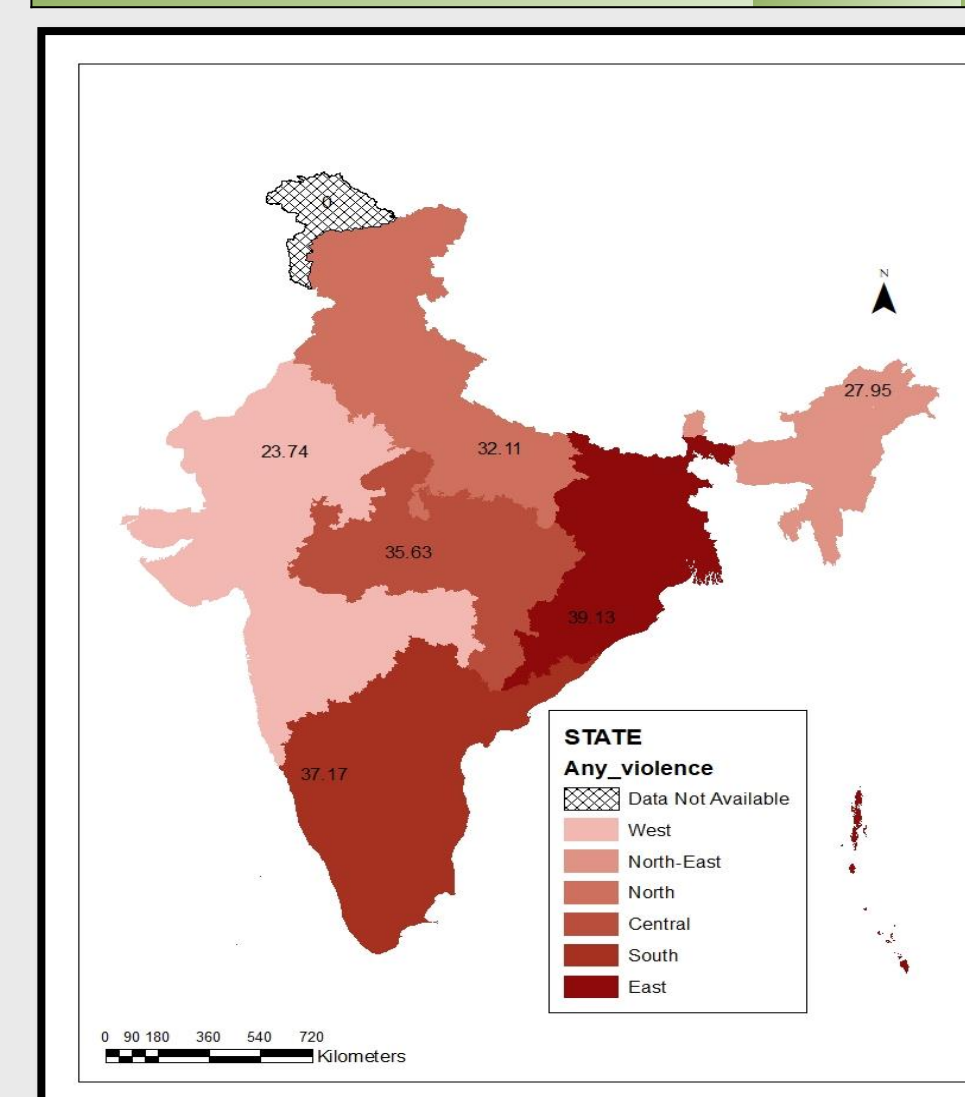
Conclusion

The given study demonstrate that the prevalence of spousal violence is various region to region. Intimate spousal violence against women found positively relation with adverse pregnancy outcomes and reproductive health problem in India. On the basis of given result, it shown that spousal violence against ever married women adversely affect the maternal and reproductive health of women.

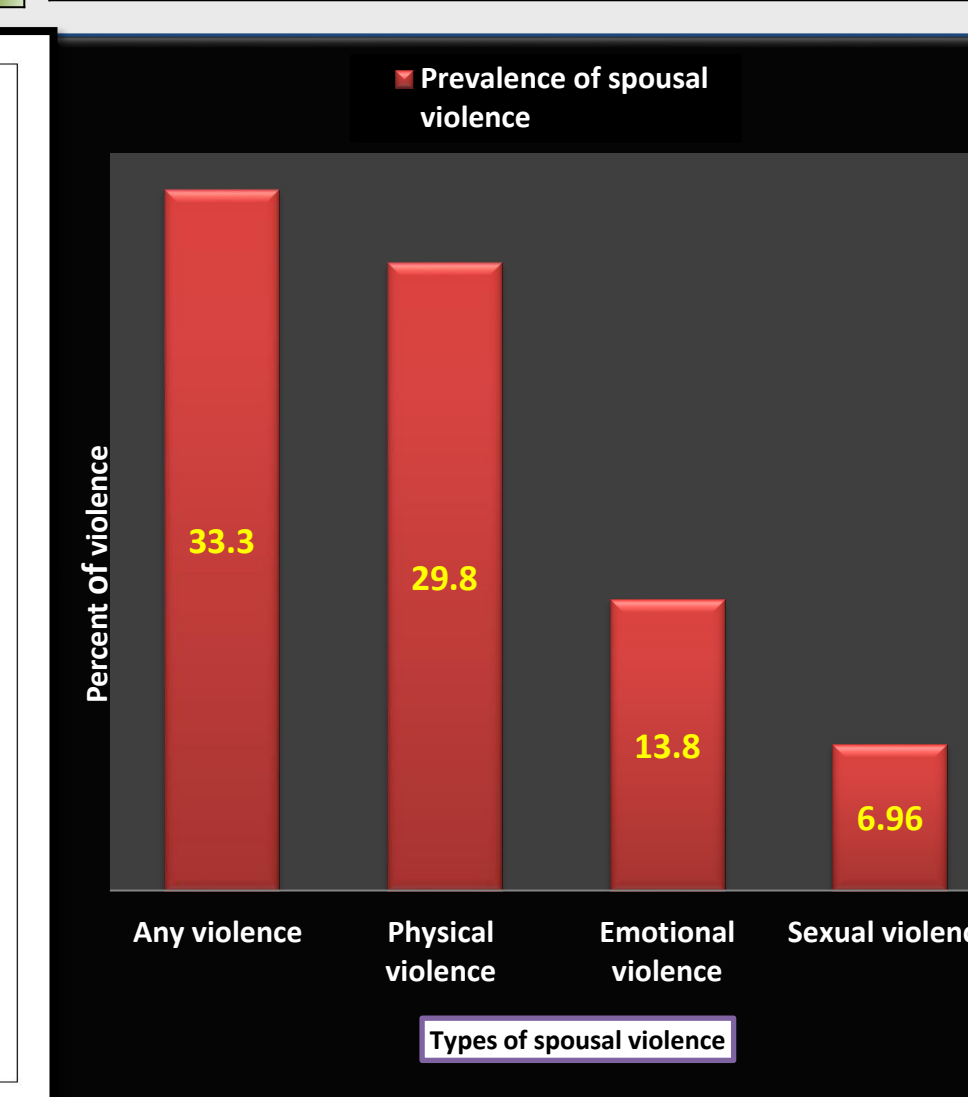
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Prevalence given for the various question asked for the different forms of violence to ever married women in ages 15-49 year age group, 2015-16		Emotional violence	
Physical violence		ever been insulted or made to feel bad by husband/partner	7.43%
Pushed her, shook her, or threw something at her	12.44%	ever been threatened with harm by husband partner	5.14%
Twisted her arm or pulled her hair	10.37%	ever been humiliated by husband/partner	8.62%
Slapped her	25.37%	Sexual violence	
Punched her with his fist or with something that could hurt her	7.67%	Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to	5.31%
Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up	7.71%	Forced her to perform any sexual acts she did not want to	2.48%
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife, gun, or any other weapon	0.81%	Forced her with threats or in any other way to perform any sexual acts she did not want to	3.52%
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	1.53%		



Prevalence of spousal violence region wise in India



Level of of spousal violence in India