

Spousal Domestic Violence of Married Women in India

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ABSTRACT The national family health survey in its 3rd round during 2005 – 06 had collected information on different forms of spousal violence experienced by ever married women between the ages of 15 – 49 years (66,658) belonging to all states and union territories of India. Making use of this data from its all India report, in this paper, an attempt is made to identify the prevalence rate, forms and the factors correlated with the forms of the violence and to examine help seeking behavior of men and women. At all India level, 35 percent of ever married women had experienced physical spousal violence, whereas 16 percent and 10 percent had encountered emotional and sexual violence, respectively. Further, these magnitudes vary considerably across the states and union territories of India. The correlation analysis revealed that, with a few exceptions, the magnitude of all the three forms of spousal violence has a negative correlation with percentage of women and men who have 10 + years of education, who are exposed to mass media, and also with the percentage of households wealth index that falls under 4 – 5 quintiles (richer and richest) at different levels of significance. Conversely, the levels of either 1 or 2 types of spousal violence positively correlated with the percentage of women belonging to Hindu and Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities as well as with the percentage of men and women employed during 12 months preceding the survey.