Introduction

Women are considered as the embodiment of love, care, and sacrifice, since the advent of life on the earth. Despite of the multiple roles enacted by her in this sophisticated era too, the women are still being ill-treated all around the globe. A married woman is the light of her home. In her wedlock, she illuminates her surroundings through her unceasing, ever providing, and self-sacrificing character. Yet women are being exploited and violated everywhere—[MANU 1500B.C].

Gender-based violence is recognized as a major issue on international women rights agenda. Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, yet the problem is often overlooked, excused, or denied. The women may not reveal the domestic violence due to shame, fear, and guilt, or they do not want to be disloyal to their partners and family. State: India.[2]

Domestic violence is a threatened physical, sexual, financial, or emotional abuse of women by their intimate partner. It pervades every aspect of family’s life and differs from assault by a stranger. Forms of domestic violence can be broadly divided into physical abuse, psychological/emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and economic abuse. State: India.[3]

Domestic violence was recognized as a criminal offense and a public issue in India in 1983. The offense chargeable under section 498 – A of the Indian Penal Code that relates to domestic violence is any form of cruelty by husband or family member toward his wife.[4] The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 took effect in
Distributions of the sample according to various forms of domestic violence and their association among married women was conducted in three villages (R.N. Pudhur, Perumal Malai, and Elavamalai) for screening, and the convenient sampling technique was used to select a village (R.N. Pudhur) for assessing domestic violence and to assess each subject it took about 15–20 min and the purpose and procedure were explained to the women. The information was collected regarding demographic variables from the married women in the absence of her husband and their family members. This phase lasted for 15 min. In the termination phase, the tool was verified for completeness. The married women were assured about the confidentiality of the data. This phase took 10 min for each married woman.

Data management and analysis

The data collected from the subjects were compiled and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The data collected were edited, tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted, a findings obtained were presented in the form of tables and diagrams. $P < 0.05$ was considered to be significant.

The following plan of analysis was developed:

- Distribution of the sample according to demographic variable was explained using frequency and percentage.
- Distribution of frequency and percentage of types of domestic violence among married women.
- Distributions of the sample according to various forms of domestic violence were analyzed using frequency and percentage.
- Domestic violence among married women was analyzed using mean and SD.
- Association of domestic violence and their demographic variables was analyzed by Chi-square.

Materials and Methods

Study design and setting

This was a community-based descriptive research study. Data were collected from the married women between the age group of 18–40 years who are experiencing domestic violence in selected rural areas of Erode district. Data were collected for 4 weeks in the month of March–April 2013; prior permission was obtained from Mr. Balakrishnan, District B.D.O. officer of Erode district. The research problem and objectives were approved by the committee. The purpose of this study was explained to the married women and consent was taken. Participants were given the freedom to quit from a study in between if not willing and the participants were informed that participation in the study was purely on a voluntary basis and that no risks were anticipated.

Sample size and sampling method

The sample for the study was married women who are experiencing domestic violence and the sample size was 60. Erode district has 34 blocks and the Erode block was randomly selected for the study in which three rural areas were selected based on the researchers known locality, and the areas are three villages R.N Pudhur, Perumal Malai, and Elavamalai for screening the domestic violence among married. By convenient sampling technique, 20 married women were selected from three villages for assessing domestic violence.

Data collection tool and technique

Data were collected by a structure interview questionnaire method. The simple random technique was used to select the married women: Inferred that the majority of married women are less educated and belong to the low socio-economic, rural background often perceives that married life inevitably involves a certain amount of suffering, and they are expected to endure abuse and cruelty.

The records maintained at the PHCs and subcenters showed that women are less educated and belong to the low socio-economic, rural background often perceives that married life inevitably involves a certain amount of suffering, and they are expected to endure abuse and cruelty.

Results

Section I: Data on the frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of domestic violence among married women: Inferred that the majority of married women were in the age group of 26–30 years 29 (48.3%), belongs to Hindus 56 (93.3%), studied up to middle school 29 (48.3%), had arranged marriage 32 (53.3), non-consanguineous in nature 45 (75%), and majority of them were self-employed 32 (53.3%) with the monthly income of Rs.<5000, 41 (68.3%), living in nuclear family 47 (78.3%), and majority of them had two children 49 (81.7%) [Table 1].

Section II: Data on the frequency and percentage distribution of types of domestic violence: Shows that the...
The majority of married women experienced both psychological and economical violence 60 (100%) [Tables 2 and 3].

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among married women

| S. No. | Demographic variables | f | % |
|-------|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1     | Age                   |   |   |
|       | 8–25 years           | 20 | 30.3 |
|       | 26–30 years          | 29 | 48.3 |
|       | 31–35 years          | 8  | 13.3 |
|       | 36–40 years          | 3  | 5  |
| 2     | Education            |   |   |
|       | No formal            | 5  | 8.3 |
|       | Primary              | 10 | 16.7 |
|       | Middle school        | 29 | 48.3 |
|       | High school          | 9  | 15 |
|       | Higher education     | 3  | 5  |
|       | College              | 4  | 6.7 |
| 3     | Religion             |   |   |
|       | Hindu                | 56 | 93.3 |
|       | Christian            | 3  | 5  |
|       | Muslim               | 1  | 1.7 |
|       | Others               | 0  | 0  |
| 4     | Duration of marriage |   |   |
|       | Below 1 year         | 1  | 1.7 |
|       | 1–5 years            | 36 | 60 |
|       | 5–10 years           | 0  | 0  |
|       | Above 10 years       | 23 | 38.3 |
| 5     | Type of marriage     |   |   |
|       | Consanguineous       | 15 | 25 |
|       | Non-consanguineous   | 45 | 75 |
| 6     | Employment Status    |   |   |
|       | Housewife            | 28 | 46.7 |
|       | Government employee  | 0  | 0  |
|       | Self-employee        | 32 | 53.3 |
| 7     | Monthly income       |   |   |
|       | Below 5000           | 41 | 68.3 |
|       | 5000–10,000          | 19 | 31.7 |
|       | 10,000–15,000        | 0  | 0  |
|       | Above 15,000         | 0  | 0  |
| 8     | Type of family       |   |   |
|       | Joint family         | 13 | 21.7 |
|       | Nuclear family       | 47 | 78.3 |
| 9     | Method of marriage   |   |   |
|       | Love marriage        | 24 | 40 |
|       | Exchange marriage    | 1  | 1.7 |
|       | Arranged marriage    | 32 | 53.3 |
|       | Intercaste marriage  | 3  | 5  |
| 10    | Number of children   |   |   |
|       | No children          | 2  | 3.3 |
|       | One child            | 6  | 10 |
|       | Two children         | 49 | 81.7 |
|       | Three children       | 2  | 3.3 |
|       | More than four children | 1 | 1.7 |

Table 2: Reveals frequency and percentage distribution of types of domestic violence among married women

| S. No. | Types of domestic violence | f | % |
|-------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1     | Physical violence          | 55 | 91.6 |
| 2     | Psychological violence     | 60 | 100 |
| 3     | Economical violence        | 60 | 100 |
| 4     | Sexual violence            | 13 | 13 |

Table 3: Reveals the frequency and percentage distribution of levels of domestic violence among married women

| Domestic violence | f | % |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Physical violence | 55 | 91.6 |
| Psychological violence | 60 | 100 |
| Economical violence | 60 | 100 |
| Sexual violence | 13 | 13 |

Table 2: Reveals frequency and percentage distribution of types of domestic violence among married women

| S. No. | Types of domestic violence | f | % |
|-------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1     | Physical violence          | 55 | 91.6 |
| 2     | Psychological violence     | 60 | 100 |
| 3     | Economical violence        | 60 | 100 |
| 4     | Sexual violence            | 13 | 13 |

majority of 57 (95%) were frightened, like looking angrily. It was inferred that the economical violence, the majority of the violence 57 (95%) were faced financial problems and withheld the access to finance, and the majority of 12 (92%) are sexual intercourse when need not want [Tables 3 and 4, Tables 6 and 7].

Section IV: Data on frequency, minimum and maximum score, mean, and SD of domestic violence [Table 8]: It was inferred the frequency, minimum and maximum score, mean, and SD, regarding the overall score among domestic violence. The majority score obtained in psychological violence mean score 5.2 (SD=.24), minimum and maximum score 1–10. This study shows that the obtained mean score of psychological violence was significantly more than the other types of violence. Hence, it was found to be common among married women.

Section V: Association between domestic violence among married women with their selected demographic variables: Table 9 shows that there was a significant association between employment status and the physical violence (P < 0.05) among married women and there was no significant association between other demographic variables such as age, type of marriage, duration of marriage, employment status, type of family, and the physical domestic violence (P > 0.05) among married women

Discussion

The results of the study were discussed according to the objectives of the study and to assess the domestic violence among married women in selected rural area.
Table 4: Reveals frequency and percentage distribution of various forms of physical violence (n=55)

| S. No. | Forms of physical violence          | f  | %  |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----|----|
| 1      | Assaulted by husband                | 42 | 76.4|
| 2      | Assaulted by family members         | 31 | 56.4|
| 3      | Scaled or burnt                     | 1  | 1.8 |
| 4      | Threatened to beat with any object  | 52 | 94.4|

Table 5: Forms of psychological violence (n=60)

| S. No. | Form of psychological violence         | f  | %  |
|--------|----------------------------------------|----|----|
| 1      | Good relationship with husbands family members | 34 | 56.7|
| 2      | Abusive language                       | 55 | 91.7|
| 3      | Not send to parents house              | 43 | 71.6|
| 4      | Frightened like looking angrily        | 57 | 95  |
| 5      | Ignored and showed difference          | 11 | 18.3|
| 6      | Made deprived of privileges            | 6  | 10  |
| 7      | Neglected by husband and family members | 4  | 6.7 |
| 8      | Denied of personal needs               | 6  | 10  |
| 9      | Not being involved in decision making  | 44 | 73.3|

Table 6: Shows forms of economical violence (n=60)

| S. No. | Form of economical violence           | f  | %  |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----|----|
| 1      | Faced by financial problems           | 57 | 95  |
| 2      | Permit to handle money                | 42 | 70  |
| 3      | Not allowed to choose/buy things      | 12 | 20  |
| 4      | Allowed to purchase                   | 51 | 85  |
| 5      | Withheld the access to finance        | 57 | 95  |
| 6      | Not allowed to go for job             | 41 | 68.3|

Domestic violence among married women

Domestic violence is an important problem among married women. This study findings show that the majority of married women experienced both psychological and economical violence 60 (100%). These result findings are similar to S Abd El Maqsound et al. (2011) conducted a cross-sectional study on the prevalence and risk factors of domestic violence against married working women in Alexandria, Egypt. Overall, the prevalence of domestic violence was 67% among psychological abuse was most common, 48% followed physical violence 40%, sexual violence 38%, and financial abuse 30%. The study concluded that domestic violence against women is an important neglected public health problem in the Egyptian community.[9]

Demographic variables of domestic violence among married women

The study findings showed that most majority of married women were in the age group of 26–30 years 29 (48.3%), belongs to Hindus 56 (93.3%), studied up to middle school.

Association between the selected demographic variable and domestic violence

It was inferred that there was a significant association between employment status and the physical violence (P < 0.05) among married women and there was no significant association between other demographic
Table 9: Shows association between domestic violence among married women with their selected demographic variables

| S. No. | Demographic variables | f | % | $\chi^2$ |
|-------|-----------------------|---|---|---------|
|       | **Physical violence**  |   |   |         |
| 1     | Age                   |   |   |         |
| a.    | 20–25 years           | 20| 30.3| $\chi^2=0.792$ |
| b.    | 26–30 years           | 29| 48.3| df=18 |
| c.    | 31–35 years           | 8 | 13.3| p>0.05 |
| d.    | 36–40 years           | 3 | 5  | NS     |
| 2     | Type of marriage      |   |   |         |
| a.    | Consanguineous marriage | 15| 25 | $\chi^2=0.838$ |
| b.    | Non-consanguineous marriage | 45| 75 | df=6, p>0.05 |
| 3     | Duration of marriage  |   |   |         |
| a.    | Below 1 year          | 1 | 1.7 | $\chi^2=0.481$ |
| b.    | 1–5 years             | 36| 60 | df=12 |
| c.    | 5–10 years            | 0 | 0  | p>0.05 |
| d.    | Above 10 years        | 23| 38.3| NS |
| 4     | Employment status     |   |   |         |
| a.    | Housewife             | 28| 46.7%| $\chi^2=17.05$ |
| b.    | Government employee   | 0 | 0  | df=5.99 |
| c.    | Self-employee         | 32| 53.3%| p<0.05 |
| 5     | Type of family        |   |   |         |
| a.    | Joint family          | 13| 21.7| df=6 |
| b.    | Nuclear family        | 47| 78.3| p>0.05 |

|       | **Psychological violence** |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1     | Age                         |
| a.    | 20–25 years                 | 20| 30.3| $\chi^2=0.608$ |
| b.    | 26–30 years                 | 29| 48.3| df=15 |
| c.    | 31–35 years                 | 8 | 13.3| p>0.05 |
| d.    | 36–40 years                 | 3 | 5  | NS |
| 2     | Type of marriage            |
| a.    | Consanguineous marriage     | 15| 25 | $\chi^2=0.057$ |
| b.    | Non-consanguineous marriage | 45| 75 | df=5, p>0.05 |
| 3     | Duration of marriage        |
| a.    | Below 1 year                | 1 | 1.7 | $\chi^2=0.244$ |
| b.    | 1–5 years                   | 36| 60 | df=10 |
| c.    | 5–10 years                  | 0 | 0  | p>0.05 |
| d.    | Above 10 years              | 23| 38.3| NS |
| 4     | Employment status           |
| a.    | Housewife                   | 28| 46.7%| df=5.99 |
| b.    | Government employee         | 0 | 0  | p>0.05 |
| c.    | Self-employee               | 32| 53.3%| NS |
| 5     | Type of family              |
| a.    | Joint family                | 13| 21.7| df=5 |
| b.    | Nuclear family              | 47| 78.3| p>0.05 |

There was no significant association between selected demographic variables such as age, education, duration of marriage, type of family, and the physical domestic violence ($P > 0.05$) among married women.

| Economic violence |
|-------------------|
| 1 Age             |
| a. 20–25 years    | 20 | 30.3 | $\chi^2=0.125$ |
| b. 26–30 years    | 29 | 48.3 | df=15 |
| c. 31–35 years    | 8  | 13.3 | p>0.05 |
| d. 36–40 years    | 5  | 5    | NS |
| 2 Type of marriage |
| a. Consanguineous marriage | 15| 25 | $\chi^2=0.843$ |
| b. Non-consanguineous marriage | 45| 75 | p<0.05 |
| 3 Duration of marriage |
| a. Below 1 year   | 1  | 1.7  | $\chi^2=0.965$ |
| b. 1–5 years      | 36 | 60   | df=10 |
| c. 5–10 years     | 0  | 0    | p>0.05 |
| d. Above 10 years | 23 | 38.3 | NS |
| 4 Employment status |
| a. Housewife      | 28 | 46.7%| df=5.99 |
| b. Government employee | 0 | 0 | p>0.05 |
| c. Self-employee  | 32 | 53.3%| NS |
| 5 Type of family  |
| a. Joint family   | 13 | 21.7| df=5 |
| b. Nuclear family | 47 | 78.3| p>0.05 |

| Sexual violence |
|-----------------|
| 1 Age           |
| a. 20–25 years  | 20 | 30.3 | $\chi^2=0.315$ |
| b. 26–30 years  | 29 | 48.3 | df=9 |
| c. 31–35 years  | 8  | 13.3 | p>0.05 |
| d. 36–40 years  | 3  | 5    | NS |
| 2 Type of marriage |
| a. Consanguineous Marriage | 15| 25 | $\chi^2=0.391$ |
| b. Non-consanguineous Marriage | 45| 75 | p>0.05 |
| 3 Duration of marriage |
| a. Below 1 year  | 1  | 1.7  | $\chi^2=0.075$ |
| b. 1–5 years     | 36 | 60   | df=6 |
| c. 5–10 years    | 0  | 0    | p>0.05 |
| d. Above 10 years| 23 | 38.3 | NS |
| 4 Type of family |
| a. Joint family  | 13 | 21.7| df=3 |
| b. Nuclear family| 47 | 78.3| p>0.05 |

of marriage, type of family, employment status and the domestic psychological violence, economical, and sexual violence ($P > 0.05$) among married women.

The study findings by Kuntala Roy et al. (2012) concluded that little progress in reducing level of violence may be achieved without significant changes in prevailing individual and community attitude toward violence.[12]

**Conclusion**

The findings of the study showed that the majority of married women, 33 (55%) had severe economic violence, and 35 (58.3%) had moderate psychological violence. There was a significant association between employment status and physical violence ($P < 0.05$), and there was no significant association between the selected
demographic variable and other types of domestic violence ($P > 0.05$).

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