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## The Risk of Domestic Violence among Housewives in Selected Urban Area at Puducherry

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### Abstract

Domestic violence affects men and women of all ages, races, religions, and incomes. However due to the secrecy of domestic violence, it is often a hidden social problem. It is estimated that one in every three women worldwide are victims of intimate partner violence. This study aimed to assess the risk of domestic violence among housewives in urban area at Puducherry. A quantitative non-experimental descriptive research design was used. Total sample of 100 were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Data were collected by using socio-demographic variables, structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the domestic violence among house wives in urban areas of Lawspet and Villianur. The findings revealed that out of 100 sample with respective of age, residence, area, duration of marital life, No. of child, education, religion all of them are in safe zone. There is no one in high risk of domestic violence. The study concluded that housewives had adequate level of knowledge towards domestic violence.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, Housewives.

### Introduction

Domestic violence affects men and women of all ages, races, religions, and incomes. However due to the secrecy of domestic violence, it is often a hidden social problem. The invisibility of the problem is largely attributed to the belief that it is a private family matter, which should not be made known to outsiders. This problem is a world-wide concern. In 1994, the World Bank compiled a study on domestic violence experienced by women in 35 countries. The results indicated that one quarter to one half of women in the countries studied had been physically beaten by their partners. It is estimated that one in every three women worldwide are victims of intimate partner violence.

Using a feminist lens, this study focus on the survivors of intimate partner violence, who have made leaving their abusive partner a preferred choice in life. It looks at the process they went through; and, the resources that enabled them to stay out permanently. This is a phenomenological inquiry into the lives of women; into their lived experience of intimate partner violence; and, into the process they experienced in leaving such a relationship.

We not only see leaving an abusive relationship as both a choice and a process but also view staying out of abusive

relationships as a choice and a process. I concur with Liang *et al.* (2005) that helpers need to view domestic violence as a complex phenomenon that is subjectively experienced by each woman and is thus affected by distinct histories and values. Consequently, their choice to leave or to stay must be respected.

All the above spurred my personal interest in the topic. So the aim of this study is to explore women experience of leaving an abusive relationship and how they were able to overcome obstacles and utilize resources to leave. This study also allowed women to express their own opinion about what helped them leave their abusive relationships. It is my belief that women, and everyone for that matter, have a right to live an abuse-free life.

It is hoped that the experiences as told by the abused women who have left can promote continuation of social activism and advocacy to heighten public awareness, raise public conscience, and generate greater understanding of the plight of women who struggle to free themselves from the grip of intimate partner violence. All this needs to translate into practical support and interventions by family, religious authorities, social welfare departments, the criminal justice

system, and all other parties concerned. Knowledge is power and understanding opens up the possibility of change.

The intent of this study is to gain information from the women who have left the abusive relationship and are able to share that knowledge with women who are looking for ways to escape the violence. This study describes women experience of intimate partner violence and the leaving experience. As the process of telling of their experiences unfolds, it will illuminate the reasons that women leave, providing an explanation of specific aspects of the process that made a difference for the women. Thereby, it contributes to the development of a comprehensive picture of intimate partner violence. This research emphasized the actions of abused women, what they do, rather than examine why a woman stays in an abusive relationship, the researcher looked at how she actively ends the relationship.

### Statement of the Problem

A descriptive study to assess the risk of domestic violence among Housewives in selected urban areas at Puducherry.

### Objectives

Main objectives of the study were

- i). To assess the risk of domestic violence against women.
- ii). To associate the risk of domestic violence with selected demographic variable

### Materials and Methods

This quantitative research adopted descriptive research design. The study was conducted in selected urban areas in Puducherry among 100 housewives who were selected based on purposive sampling technique with inclusion and exclusion criteria. Tool was developed by the researcher based on the review of literature, books, journals, guidance of expert opinions and personal experience. The questionnaire has 2 sections; section A: Lethality and section B: Behaviors. A "Yes" answer to questions A, B or C means high dander and automatically triggers a referral. To determine whether a referral should be made when answers to A, B or C are "NO", add the numbers that have been circled, and divide the sum by 29 to determine their score. If the client has left some of the items blank, add up the numbers that have been circled by the client, and divide the sum by the number of questions she answered. A score of 2.3 or greater indicates that a referral need to be made.

Data collection was done by using structured questionnaire. Prior to data collection investigator explained the purpose of research and got consent from the clients. Permission asked from Area Medical officer and DPPH. Per day 10 samples were collected and we completed data collection procedure in 10 days. Each client was given 10-20 minutes to answer the questionnaire. Each day around 10 samples were interviewed by the researcher. After collecting the data, the researcher created knowledge regarding domestic violence to the clients.

### Results and Discussion

The results shows that, most of the house wives aged between 20-30 years 41(41%) and 31-41 years 41(41%), all women are married (100%), the majority of the women residing in urban (70%), area of living is lawspet 70(70%), the majority of the women had number of years of marriage between 6-10 years 36(36%) and 56(56%) women had 2 children, 62(62%) of women had secondary education, than 86(86%) of women comes under Hindu religion. Among 100 samples, the demographic variable of age statistically significant maximum

prevalence was equally distributed among 20-30 years of age group (21) and 30-40 years of age (21).

**Table 1:** Prevalence of domestic violence.

Prevalence of Domestic Violence	Frequency	Percentage
Safe	100	100%
Violence	0	0%

The above table 1 shows that among 100(100%) of house wives under safe, and 0% of violence. The comparison of the each demographic variables with the domestic violence. The result revealed that each demographic variables are 0% of violence and 100% of safe.

### Conclusion

By the study, out of 100 samples no women were exposed to violence. To improve the awareness, pamphlets were distributed to the public. So it necessary to incorporate information about domestic violence by nurse to public through awareness programme to protect the acceptance of vaccine by the public. Health care workers play a unique role on prevention of domestic violence, and continuously creating awareness to the public about domestic violence and protect the women's from the domestic violence.

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