Addressing Violence against women through working with intimate partner: An inter personal framework in India

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Abstract: *Intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs across all socioeconomic, religious, and cultural groups and in all types of circumstances. Women carry the majority of the burden of IPV globally. The most frequent perpetrators of violence against women are male intimate partners or ex-partners, despite the fact that women may be violent in relationships with men, frequently in self-defence, and that violence can occasionally occur in same-sex couples. Compared to someone close to them, men are much more likely to face violent acts from strangers or acquaintances. The ecological model, which suggests that violence is a result of forces working at four different levels—individual, relational, community, and societal— is the most popular paradigm for analysing violence. Researchers have begun to analyse data at these levels in a variety of settings; however, there is currently little research on community and social impacts. While certain risk factors are context-specific and vary across and within nations, others are consistently recognised throughout research from many different countries (e.g. between rural and urban settings). We found that less IPV was experienced by women who had at least a secondary education, owned property, and had significant intra-household decision-making authority. Research and practise implications are presented.*

Key Words: *Intimate Partner Violence, Ethnic Traditions, Societal Aggression, Victimisation & Empowering*

1. INTRODUCTION:

An existing or previous companion or husband may hurt another person physically, sexually, or psychologically. This is known as "intimate partner violence," a widespread health problem. Actual assault, sexual misconduct, emotional insults, and psychological manipulation are all examples of IPV. According to the WHO, nearly a third of females worldwide have been subjected to physical or sexual abuse by a current or former partner. IPV affects women, their communities, and societies in a variety of ways. The sufferer experiences decreased health and quality of life, involving melancholy, PTSD, and attempts at suicide [1]. According to statistics, Southeast Asia has the highest prevalence of IPV in the world, with rates approaching 50%. Approximately 32% of females in our country, which has 17% of the world's female populace, report having been the victim of either physical or sexual IPV from an intense relationship. The prevalence rate of IPV has reduced from 38.6% (NFHS-3) to 27.6% (NFHS-4) during the previous 12 years, based on the National Demographic and Health survey. Data on feminist issues of either physical or sexual IPV in the previous 11 months shows that there has been a minor fall from 25.4% in 2007 (NFHS-3) to 23% in 2017, despite the apparent decrease in career IPV[2]

BACKGROUND AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

The Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 objectives created in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, are meant to serve as a "template to build a more sustainable and better world for everyone." The SGDs are expected to be accomplished by the year 2031, according to the UN Charter. The SDG's fifth objective calls for achieving equality and the rights of all weaker sections. Certainly, this objective has come closer to being realised, as seen by the notable global drop in the frequency of female genital mutilation and child marriages. Females' confidence has been identified in prior research as a critical element providing defence against DV and IPV. Much research on IPV in South Asia in recent days has shown that empowering females is made up of a number of variables that produce an overarching neuroprotective effect linked to lowering IPV rates amongst females. According to an inhabitant's research conducted in rural parts, IPV was less common among females who had more cross-functional and cross-judgement authority. Increased educational achievement of females and their spouses was connected with a decreased chance of IPV victimisation, according to an investigation that looked at 83,629 married females in India between the ages of 14 and 47[3].

2. METHODS:

Sample

The Indian National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), published in 2015–2016, provided the data for this research. It is a trans-sectional research design that is fully representative and has a two-stage random stratified strategy. communities in rural parts of the country and volume is calculated Groups in urban areas were the main sample units (PSUs). The second phase was the regular random choice of houses.

A sampling of 699,688 women between the ages of 14 and 48 were questioned for the NFHS-4. According to the study's professional conduct, one qualified female may be selected randomly from each home and asked to take the family violence component after receiving permission. The family violence course was completed successfully by 47,346 ever-married females in aggregate to guarantee that the intimate partner violence subpopulation was representative of the general population, special weighting was utilised to account for the inclusion of only one female per home. Our sampling was restricted to participants who had entire components (i.e., no incomplete information), and as a result, we were able to get a valid response from 45 ever-married women. About 4.8% of observations had incomplete data, which were managed by ranking elimination. Measures Our research implemented previous sexual and physical abuse as well as career physical and sexual violence as its continuous dependent factors. These parameters had a dichotomous coding system. Physiological Neglect: From the participants' reports of physical violence, two variables—physical maltreatment in the last year vs. lifelong abuse—were established. Participants were polled to see if they had ever witnessed any of the following actions by their partners or spouses in order to gauge their experiences of physical assault: (6) punched; (7) struck with a punch or possibly something dangerous; or (8) thrown at.

(5) burned or suffocated; (6) confronted with a knife, pistol, or other form of violence; and (7) had their strings or hair pulled. "Previous physical punishment" was scored as 1 if respondents indicated suffering any physical violence in the previous year; otherwise, their responses were recorded as 0. "Lifetime opportunity physical violence" was scored as 1 if respondents said they had ever been subjected to physical violence; otherwise, it was marked as 0. Sex crimes Two variables—lifetime vs. recent sexual abuse—were developed based on the user's account of sexual assault. Respondents in the NFHS poll indicated that the only kind of compulsion that qualified as "sexual assault" was the physical imposition of sexual actions or relations.

If women said they were now employed, their job performance was categorised as "1," otherwise it was marked as "0." Land ownership was marked as 1 if a woman owned a home or piece of land; otherwise, it was classified as 0. Using just a digital image of six factors linked to women's employment in judgement on the following issues: (1) complainant's universal healthcare; (2) significant domestic purchases; (3) trips to friends or relatives; (4) what to do with money that hubby earns; (5) how to splurge participant's income; and (6) use of contraceptives, the intra-household judgement call index was calculated. These factors were classified as 1, and all other replies were recorded as 0, depending on whether women took these judgments alone or together with their spouse or partner. The total of these six factors was used to calculate an indicator from 0 to 6, with higher numbers indicating that women had more judgement authority. When a woman engaged in any of the following behaviours in the house before informing her spouse: neglecting her kids; arguing with her husband; refusing to have intimacy with him; or improperly preparing food—she justified the aggression by endorsing wife maltreatment, especially beatings. The accompanying indication was used to determine the degree of contact with violence: seeing her dad beat up her mom. If a woman said she saw her father beat her parents, she was assigned a 1; otherwise, she was assigned a 0. The following actions were used to determine whether a spouse was attempting to control: (1) forbids responding from meeting with girlfriends; (2) restricts the participant's interaction with his family; (3) insists on knowing the respondent's whereabouts; or (4) does not entrust the opponent with finances.
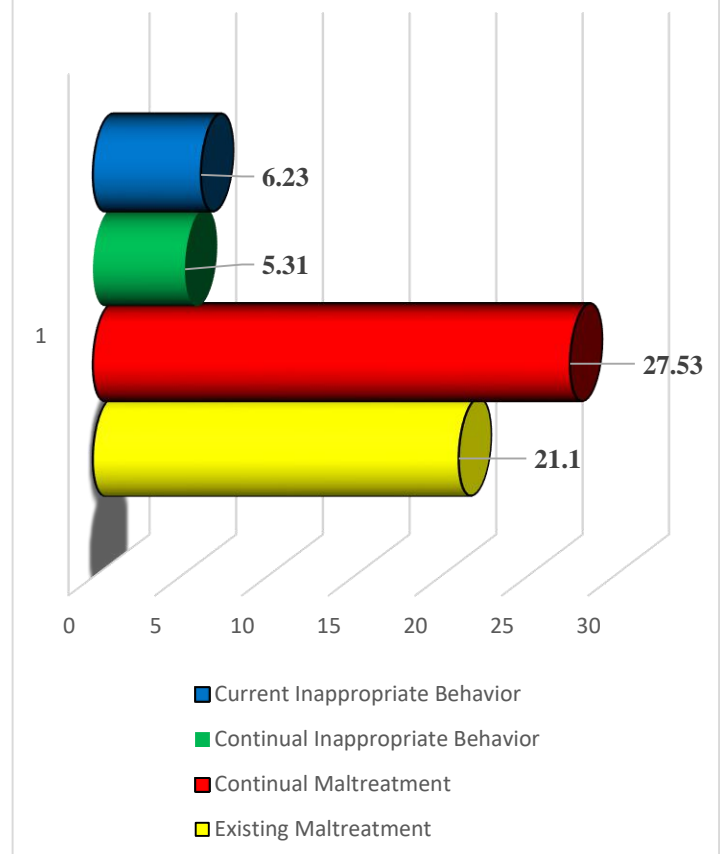
Table 1: Terms Exploited in The Current Study

Inappropriate Behavior	They were also asked if people had ever been physiologically coerced into having consensual sex they didn't wish to have, coerced into other undesired sex encounters, or coerced physiologically into performing sexual acts they didn't really like to undertake in order to discover if they had ever encountered sex assault from their married men or affiliates. "Retrospective molestation" was recorded as 1 only if respondents said they had been the victim of any physical harassment in the previous year; otherwise, it was marked as 0. "Lifetime opportunity molestation" was recorded as 1 if respondents said they had ever been the victim of abuse; otherwise, their replies were classified as 0.
Maltreatment	We compiled the results into an indicator: Any one of those included by partners and

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	spouses has been experienced by women: 2) being smacked; 3) being struck with a punch or possibly something sharp; 4) being booted or pushed; 5) being suffocated or burned; 6) being armed with a knife, pistol, or other object; and 7) being given the arm-twisting or hair-pulling treatment. "Previous physical punishment" was scored as 1 if respondents said they had been subjected to any physical violence in the previous year; otherwise, it was marked as 0. "Lifetime verbal violence" was scored as 1 if respondents said they had ever experienced violent assault of any kind, whereas every other answer was classified as 0.
Age during wedding	a capable of modifying the age indication of women at weddings
Females educative achievement	No schooling, early school (which was before through the conclusion of the fifth grade), higher school (those who had attended sixth grade and up to the end of tenth grade), and education (those who had gone above the tenth grade in education) were the 4 dummies variables for schooling.
Assets proprietorship	"Wealth creation" was marked as 1 if a woman had a residence or patch of property; otherwise, it was classified as 0.
Workings/engaged	The lady was categorized as 1 if she was employed outside of the home at the day of the interview, and 0 if she wasn't.
Capability to mark inner family choices index	To measure the different parameters, we utilised a score. (1) Who typically makes healthcare coverage decisions for you? Who typically decides on significant commodity items? (3) Who has the final say on whether or not to visit friends or family? (4) Who makes the financial decisions about the spouse's salary? (5) Who determines how the participant's wages are spent? (6) A person who chooses to use contraception. They were marked as 1 if women made decisions concerning these goods or if their opinions were taken into account. If not, they were recorded as 0. The possible answers were then added to produce an indicator with numbers ranging from 0 to 6, with a greater value suggesting more internal judgement authority in the family.
Age during meeting	a constant indicating the person's appearance at the time the interview took place
No. of Kids	a constant indicating the number of kids living at the time of the conversation
Family Conviction	Hindu females was coded as 1; else they were coded as 0
Capital Status	Based on five economic indicators—weaker, intermediate, better, and richest—the DHS statistics categorised families into five groups. This was recompiled as the low, medium, and affluent classes' regression models. The middle and lower classes did not alter; the affluent comprised the wealthiest and poorest, and the impoverished classes would include the lowest and weakest.
Province	According to the participants' responses on their states of residence, this factor was divided into the North, Northeast, Eastern, West, Central, and South categories.
Rustic/city	Urban dwelling is 0; rural habitation is 1.
Background	Scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward classes, and no caste were the categories for this statistic.
Authorization of spouse exploitation	If a woman was raped and engaged in any of the following measures: (1) mistreating her children; (2) going out without notifying her husband; (3) fighting with her partner; (4) declining to have sex with her spouse; or (5) improperly preparing meals
Earlier experience to viciousness	Violence exposure was categorized as 1 if a lady said she saw her father beat her mother; otherwise, it was coded as 0.
Spouse's monitoring activities	Depending on whether a woman reported that her spouse: (1) forbids respondents from meeting with female friends; (2) restricts participant interaction with family; (3) demands to be informed of the complainant's location; or (4) doesn't trust opponent with finances.

Table 2: Evocative Indicators of Societal Features (N = 45)

Data	%	SE
Existing Maltreatment		
No	78.7	0.003
Yes	21.1	0.003
Continual Maltreatment		
No	72.47	0.003
Yes	27.53	0.003
No	94.65	0.002
Yes	5.31	0.002
Continual Inappropriate Behavior		
No	93.71	0.002
Yes	6.23	0.002
Current Inappropriate Behavior		
Age at first marriage (mean)	18.61	0.027
Learning		
No Learning	31.81	0.003
Prime	14.59	0.002
Secondary	43.63	0.004
Higher than secondary	9.81	0.002
Working		
No	75.5	0.003
Yes	24.3	0.003
Assets Proprietor		
No	57.68	0.004
Yes	41.77	0.004
Inner domestic choice creation index (0–6)	3.69	0.011
Specific Stage		
Oldness (Avg)	32.72	0.052
Explanation of Brutality		
No	57.81	0.004
Yes	41.33	0.004
Do not know	0.71	0.004
Contact to Brutality		
No	81.25	0.003
Yes	18.79	0.003
Governing partner		
No	60.21	0.004
Yes	39.73	0.004
Family Stage		
Areas		

Fig. 1 Estimations of Occurrence Amount of Close Spouse Ferocity Amongst Females In Our Country

- Current Inappropriate Behavior
- Continual Inappropriate Behavior
- Continual Maltreatment
- Existing Maltreatment

North	20.15	0.003
Northeast	12.1	0.002
Central	25.59	0.003
Eastern	16.1	0.002
West	11.13	0.002
South	14.47	0.003
House		
Rural	67.11	0.004
Urban	32.79	0.004
Assets Ownership Index		
Poor	36.3	0.004
Middle	20.37	0.003
Rich	42.43	0.004
Religion		
Hindu	79.11	0.004
Other	20.81	0.004
Class		
SC	18.81	0.004
ST	16.74	0.003
OBC	41.67	0.004
None	22.39	0.003
No. of offspring (Avg)	2.11	0.01

Note: SE = Std. Error

3. ANALYSIS:

STATA Statistical Software Release 15 was used to conduct all data analysis. The sampling characteristics were given a summary analysis. Due to the categorical nature of all response variables, distinct logistic regressions were carried out for every event, including lifelong molestation, previous physical molestation, previous physical assault, and previous sexual assault. The findings of the balanced regression models for every explanatory variable are a reflection of the assessment performed for every multiple regression. Research values are used to produce summary analysis, measurement deviation, and multinomial logit findings owing to the intricacy of the NFHS-4 sampling procedure. Since several regions only had one PSU, variability estimations were made using the confidence technique.

4. RESULTS:

The study population consisted of the 45 women that were used in the analysis, which is presented in Table 2. In comparison to sexual assault, which affected roughly 6.23% of the women, extreme abuse was suffered by many more than 27.5% of the women. Almost 5.3% of the women in our group who claimed recent sex crimes did so, compared to even more than one-fifth of the women who reported recent extreme assault (see Fig. 1). Members' median age at their initial marriage, according to indicators of female empowerment, ranged from 16 to 66 years old. 43.63% of the women in our group had finished their high school, compared to 31.81% who had not. Despite having jobs, just 27% of the women in our study were homeowners, with 41% of them owning their own home, whether it's a home or a piece of property. According to the examination of the personal qualities of our group of respondents, the female age varied from 16 to 47 years, with an average age of 34 years. 1/5th of the women in the sample said their families had subjected them to abuse.

The findings of the stacked logistic regression modelling of the domestic, independent, and personal characteristics influencing preceding and career physical violence are presented in Table 3. Women with higher schooling (24%–26%) and further schooling (48%–50%) had decreased probabilities of experiencing violent assault

over the last year and across their career compared to women with no schooling. Interestingly, compared to women who'd been jobless, women who'd been working showed greater chances of suffering physical assault in the last year (OR = 1.20; 95% CI = 1.11-1.31) and throughout the course of their lives (OR = 1.28; 95% CI = 1.21-1.38). Women who possessed any assets, such as a home or property, had a 10% reduced chance of experiencing violent assault over their lives compared to women who owned nothing (OR = 0.91; 95% CI = 0.85-0.97). Mean levels on the selection scale, which reflect a woman's level of family structure, were associated with lower risks of previous (OR = 0.94; 95% CI = 0.94-0.96) and career (OR = 0.96; 95% CI = 0.97-0.98) emotional violence. Additionally, it was shown that being associated with subsequent was linked to substantially reduced chances of physical assault in the last year (OR = 0.98; 95% CI = 0.98-1.01) as opposed to marginally greater chances of overall physical assault (OR = 1.02; 95% CI = 1.00-1.01). It's fascinating to note that lifelong molestation probabilities were vastly smaller for those who were younger at the time of their initial marriage (OR = 0.98, 95% CI = 0.97-1.00).

Table 3: Weighted Logistic Regression Results Predicting Physical Abuse (_N_=45)

Terms	Current behaviour	Inappropriate	Continual Inappropriate behaviour	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Females' liberation actions				
Age at initial wedding	0.98	0.97–1.00	0.97	0.96–1.00
Academics				
Prime Edu	0.94	0.86–1.04	0.98	0.90–1.08
Secondary	0.72	0.66–0.80	0.74	0.68–0.80
Higher	0.5	0.42–0.61	0.48	0.41–0.57
Working (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	1.2	1.11–1.31	1.28	1.21–1.38
Holds Assets (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	1.02	0.95–1.07	0.91	0.83–0.97
Inner family choice index (0–6)	0.95***	0.93–0.96	0.95	0.94–0.99
Distinct Phase				
Age	0.98	0.98–1.00	1.02	1.00–1.00
Justification for violence (ref: No)				
Yes	1.61	1.51–1.73	1.71	1.60–1.82
Do not know	0.9	0.62–1.30	0.81	0.56–1.12
Experience to ferocity (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	2.9	2.71–3.15	3.46	3.21–3.75

Directing spouse (1 = Yes, 0 = No)	2.65***	2.47–2.84	2.39***	2.25–2.55
Family Staying Areas				
Northeast	1.06	0.92–1.23	1.27***	1.11–1.44
Central	1.23***	1.10–1.38	1.37***	1.23–1.52
Eastern	1.19**	1.05–1.34	1.40***	1.25–1.57
West	0.82**	0.72–0.95	0.89	0.78–1.02
South	1.36***	1.19–1.56	1.17*	1.03–1.33
House (1 = Urban, 0 = Rural)	1.1	1.00–1.21	1.05	0.97–1.15
Prosperity index (ref: Poor class)				
Middle class	0.83***	0.76–0.91	0.84***	0.77–0.91
Rich class	0.68***	0.61–0.75	0.70***	0.64–0.77
Conviction (1 = Hindu, 0 = Other)	1.07	0.98–1.17	1.10*	1.01–1.20
Class (ref: Scheduled caste)				
Scheduled tribe	0.88*	0.79–0.98	0.80***	0.72–0.88
Other backward class	0.88**	0.80–0.97	0.89*	0.81–0.97
None	0.74***	0.66–0.84	0.79***	0.71–0.89
Number of children	1.08***	1.06–1.11	1.10***	1.07–1.12

5. DISCUSSION:

The existing literature looked at the relationship between gender equity and both physical and sexual IPV amongst wedded women in light of our commitment to attaining the SDGs, with an emphasis on global goals about female representation. This study allowed us to conclude that female empowerment did affect our women's lifespans and previous IPV reduced risk, therefore validating our theory. The major points of our investigation are presented here. It is important to remember that our research specifically targeted already wedded women in our country. That might aid in understanding why our researchers indicated lower incidence rates of IPV than those found in the various publications given previously in this text. The findings show that significant characteristics of female empowerment, such as postponing weddings, having at least some higher education, purchasing land, and having more effects of family judgement authority, are strongly linked to lower odds of encountering violent IP [4].

6. LIMITATIONS:

The relevant restrictions must be taken into account while analysing the research outcome. To start, although examining the link between IPV victimisation and women's empowerment is helpful, it just offers a look into a pretty complicated phenomenon. Moreover, emphasising gender empowerment alone as a defence for IPV victimisation may unintentionally promote victimisation by implying that women are to blame for the maltreatment and that if they only had enough authority, they wouldn't suffer from it. The reality that IPV crosses demographic criteria and underscores the requirement for more detailed research into coping mechanisms versus IPV makes this sort of statement harmful in addition to completely false.

Furthermore, it's conceivable that individuals rarely report their exposure to IPV as well as other morally undesirable behaviours (i.e., child marriage, which is illegal in our country). To lessen the potential for underestimation, the NFHS-4 information gathering crew, however, took special precautions to protect priority privacy. For instance, to boost respondent familiarity, female panellists were recruited to conduct the interviews. The fact that the questionnaire was carried out through facial expressions, which may have diminished the feeling of anonymity and may have contributed to some respondents' continued reluctance to share their true circumstances, The use of the revised Conflicts Strategy Measure (CTS) in NFHS to determine IPV is yet another potential drawback. The revised CTS has received criticism for its several flaws, despite the fact that it was tested in numerous nations and determined to be genuine. Participants are tacitly discouraged from discussing their personal encounters with maltreatment that is either authorised or results from such an unidentified source since aggression is contextualised in the framework of resolving conflicts. Additionally, it serves as inspiration for misuse (e.g., self-defence, control). Furthermore, as claimed by Speizer and Pearson (2011) [8].

7. CONCLUSION:

Overall, our data highlights the need for additional studies to look into Indian women's IPV victimisation factors. Delayed marriage was only shown to affect physical IPV victimisation and not sexual IPV, despite the fact that owning money, having a better degree, and having the ability to make decisions are all related to decreased odds of suffering life and recent physical or sexual IPV. Surprisingly, women in our group who were working had a greater probability of IPV victimisation in the last year and during their career. Men's "masculine reaction," or their perception that their power has been questioned, could be a contributing factor in this link. Our results show that in order to attain SDG 5 and lower the incidence of IPV victimisation amongst Indian women, coordinated efforts involving several partners are required to push for increased female empowerment at all levels, particularly at the federal, regional, and local level.

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