
Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

Dr Sreekumar D Menon^{1*}

ABSTRACT

In India comprehensive house hold data on this prevalence and costs of domestic violence are lacking. The multi-site study by the international clinical epidemiologists network (INCLEN) is a pioneering effort to estimate comparable rates of violence within and across: India, Chile, Brazil, Egypt and Philippines. According to Violence Prevention Alliance under Global Campaign for Violence Prevention (WHO, 1997), “Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in psychological harm, mal development or deprivation”. Children are exposed to or experience domestic violence in many ways. In most domestic violence poses a serious threat to children’s emotional, psychological and physical well-being, particularly if the violence is chronic.

Keywords: *Violence, Parents, Children, Psychological, Emotional*

The international centre for research on woman (ICRW) has conducted a three year research program on domestic violence in India in partnership with researchers from a range of Indian academic and activist organizations. The goal of the program was to provide reliable and sound information with which to identify replicate, expand and advocate for effective response to domestic violence. Violence is the undue exercise of physical power against a person or other living things to cause an injury. It includes threats of physical force, use of abusive language and harassing actions.

Domestic violence in India is endemic .Around 70% woman in India are victims of domestic violence according to Renuka Choudhary, former Union minister for women and child

¹ PhD, MPhil, MSc, MBA, MS, PGDLL & AL, PGDMM, PGDPM & IR, MIMA, Faculty Member, RTTC, BSNL, Trivandrum, Kerala, India

*Responding Author

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

development. In most domestic violence poses a serious threat to children's emotional, psychological and physical well-being, particularly if the violence is chronic.

Not all children exposed to violence are affected equally or in the same ways. For many children, exposure to domestic violence may be traumatic, and their reactions are similar to children reaction to others traumatic stressors.

Short term affects of domestic violence on children: children's immediate reactions to domestic violence may include – generalized anxiety, sleeplessness, night mares, difficulty in concentrating, high activity levels, increased aggression, and increased anxiety about being worry about their safety or the safety of a parent.

Long term effects of domestic violence on children are physical health problems, Behavior problems in adolescence (eg juvenile delinquency ,substance abuse).Emotional difficulties in adulthood(e g depression, anxiety disorder PTSD).

Exposure to domestic violence has also been linked to poor school performance, impaired ability to concentrate, difficulty in completing school work, and lower scores on measure of verbals, motor and social skills.

In addition to these physical, behavioral, psychological and cognitive effects, children who have been exposed to domestic violence often learn destructive lessons about the use of violence and power relationships. Violence also linked to expression of intimacy and affects. Violence can be observed under different forms. Violence can be both self inflicted and interpersonal. Self inflicted violence is when an individual harms or causes injury to oneself whereas interpersonal violence is between individuals. It comprises violence within the families against spouse, children and elderly in the family. The commonest form of violence within families is the 'domestic violence'.

'Domestic violence' is a behavioral, emotional, psychological, physical or sexual abuse that one person in an intimate relationship uses in order to control the other. It can take many forms such as threats, name calling, isolation, withholding of money, power or privileges, actual or threatened physical harm or sexual assault. According to Population Reports (2000) domestic violence is violence between intimate partners. It is not just hitting and fighting or an occasional argument rather it is chronic abuse of power.

In Indian society, domestic violence is present at high rate since earlier. A number of studies have indicated that physical abuse of Indian women is quite high ranging from 22% to 60% of women surveyed (Mahajan, 1990 and Rao, 1996). The National Crime Record Bureau (2000) revealed a shocking increase in violence against women i.e. 71.5% which includes torture and

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

dowry deaths during the period from 1991 to 1995. In another study 18% to 45% of married men in five districts of Uttar Pradesh agreed that they physically abused their wives (Narayana, 1996). United Nations Population Fund (2007) reported that as many as 70% of married women in India between the ages of 15-49 are victims of beating. Jejeebhoy (1998) carried out a study regarding violence against women in Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu and have reported that violence against women is 36 % to 38% in Uttar Pradesh and 42% to 48% in Tamilnadu.

Ego clashes between spouses have been found to be one of the major reasons behind marital discords involving working women (The Hindu, May 14, 2003, p.3). One of the most serious effect of family violence is the damage it can do to a woman's perceptions over time, so that she becomes habituated to the behavior, seeing it as normal or as something she deserves. Most of the women tolerate this violence because they witness the same treatment being meted out to their elder senior women relations and therefore, consider it as normal behaviour customary and of minor nature.

Home environment effects children to a great extent, many people think that children are too young to understand what is happening in the home. Witnessing domestic violence leaves strong imprints in their minds and it can have long lasting impacts on their personality. Children of all ages ranging from infants to adolescents get affected by domestic violence.

In every society, the child suffers incalculable harm which may be mental, emotional, physical and sexual at the hands of those who are supposed to mould them into wholesome personalities. The victims who are thus, scared of life may either belong to childhood or adolescence period.

Children may exhibit a wide range of reactions to exposure to violence in their homes. Younger children sometimes do not understand the meaning of abuse but they tend to believe that they must have done something wrong. They don't have the ability to express their feelings verbally. Children may become withdrawn, non verbal and exhibit regressed behavior which may lead to eating and sleeping problems, anxiety and physical complaints like headaches etc. It is also common to observe temper tantrums, irritability, frequent fighting at school and between siblings, lashing out at objects, teasing pet and attempts to gain attention through hitting, kicking or choking peers and family members. Girls are more likely to exhibit withdrawal. Adolescent children are at the risk of academic failure, school drop-out, delinquency and substance abuse (Martin et. al. 1987; Attala et. al.1995 and Holden & Ritchie, 1991). Nair (1997) and Sunny (2003) reported that witnessing domestic violence can cause long term effects, the children have more physical and mental problems, become more likely to be abusive as adults if they are males.

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

The psychological effects for both women and children include loss of self esteem, loss of faith in one's own perception of reality, constant fear of attack, fear of self assertion, depression, feelings of shame, self blame, failure, powerlessness and worthlessness. Domestic violence damages the quality of life not only of the victim, but also the children and the whole family. Moreover, the damage is not temporary but it leaves everlasting marks on the victim and the family. Children are known to be the worst victims of the growing menace of domestic violence. Therefore, it is important to study the children for their physical growth, emotional and cognitive development. With this backdrop, the present study has been planned with the following objectives.

Objectives Of The Study

1. To know the domestic violence in families of the school/college going teenagers.
2. To study the impact of domestic violence on physical growth of school/college Teenagers.

Statement Of The Problem

Domestic violence is usually a pattern of obsessive behaviors, which serve to establish coercive control of one partner over the others. These behaviors may include physical assault, threats of harm or psychological abusive behavior.

Kerala is the pioneer state in the country declared 100% literacy and Kottayam district is the first among Kerala state who achieved 100% literacy. Kottayam is also called as the land of letters. All School going teenagers are belonged to parents of a literate state. A general saying is that domestic violence is less in literate families. Whether literacy is playing a role in violence, hence characterization of the children or not.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A systematic procedure has been adopted for conducting the present investigation. The result of the present study are based on cross-sectional data collected from 504 school children ranging from 12-19 years. The data were collected from 10 schools in and around Pampady Town.

Even though hundreds of pupils are their in this schools, only selected few were served with questionnaire as per the directions of the principals/Head of the schools. Criteria for sample selection was well planed and carefully executed as mention below:

- i. Children between 12 to 19 years of age were selected (both boys and girls)
- ii. Children should be living with their parents (both mother and father).
- iii. Children from single parent families were not selected.

Age being the most important factor and this factor was carefully assessed. Date of birth was most carefully recorded from the school registers.

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

TABLES AND CALCULATIONS

Table No. 1, Participation based on age group:

S No	Age Group Yrs	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
1	11.5-12.5	32	30	62	12.3
2	12.5-13.5	33	31	64	12.7
3	13.5-14.5	32	30	62	12.3
4	14.5-15.5	32	30	62	12.3
5	15.5-16.5	33	31	64	12.7
6	16.5-17.5	32	31	63	12.5
7	17.5-18.5	33	30	63	12.5
8	18.5-19.	34	30	64	12.7
Total		261	243	504	100

261yrs and 243 girl students participated in the survey.

Table No. 2, Type of Family:

Type Of Family	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Joint family	71	70	141	28
Nuclear family	182	181	363	72

72% of the students are coming from nuclear family &28% coming from joint family

Table No. 3, Family members details

No Of Members	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
3-5	154	153	307	60.91
6-8	86	85	171	33.92
9-11	21	05	26	05.17
total	261	243	504	100

About 61% of student's family having 3-5 number members.

Table No. 4, Birth order details

Order	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
First born	75	101	176	34.92
Later born	186	142	328	65.08
Total	261	243	504	100

65% children are born later were as 35 % are first born children

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

Table No. 5, Father's education details

Educational Level	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Up to class X	31	26	57	11.3
Up to Degree	94	86	180	35.7
Above degree	136	131	267	53
Total	261	243	504	100

It can be seen that majority of the children's father (88.7) having qualifications minimum degree

Table No. 6, Mother's education details

Educational Level	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Up to class X	17	13	30	5.95
Up to degree	64	65	129	25.6
Above degree	180	165	345	68.4
Total	261	243	504	100

Table No. 7, Occupation of the Father

Type Of Job	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Daily wages	28	22	50	9.92
Salaried class	120	103	223	44.24
Self employed	113	118	231	45.84
total	261	243	504	100

It can be seen that 44.24% of the parents only salaried, balance all are self employed or having daily wages.

Table No. 8, Occupation of the mother

Type Of Job	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
House wife	144	116	260	51.59
Daily wages	32	28	60	11.90
Salaried class	24	22	46	9.72
Self employed	61	77	138	26.79

It can be observed that 51.59 mothers are house wife even though they are having qualifications.

Table No. 9, Due to domestic violence/house problems/stress(physical/mental) did you have experience on the following –Tick mark your opinion

S/No	Opinions	No	Some Times	Regularly
1	Feel anxious or nervous when you are with your parents	B-143 G-140	B-105 G-94	B-13 G-08
2	Observed any types of scolding/abusive words used by your parents to each other	B-30 G-24	B-161 G-160	B-70 G-59
3	Experienced appetite change	B-150 G-64	B-98 G-140	B-13 G-39

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

S/No	Opinions	No	Some Times	Regularly
4	Psychological withdrawal and isolation	B-35 G-26	B-150 G-144	B-76 G-73
5	Experienced exam fear and worries	B-180 G-176	B-61 G-60	B-20 G-07
6	Experienced poor concentration in studies	B-40 G-31	B-185 G-175	B-07 G-36
7	Feeling of hopelessness and helplessness	B-130 G-153	B-121 G-60	B-10 G-30
8	Sadness	B-182 G-181	B-74 G-59	B-05 G-03
9	Rebellion at home or school	B-31 G-163	B-190 G-70	B-40 G-10
10	Competition for siblings for attention	B-150 G-203	B-93 G-30	B-20 G-10

Table No. 10, Significance Table

Item	numbers	mean	SD (Std deviation)	SEM (std mean error)	t	Df	Significance
Anxiousness/nervousness	504	1.65	0.611	0.37	240	6	.08
Scolding among parents	504	1.29	0.591	.035	260	6	.000
Psychological withdrawal	504	1.31	0.563	.033	254	6	.001
Appetite change	504	1.71	0.677	0.39	253	6	0.07
Exam fear	504	1.63	0.593	0.36	239	6	0.06
Poor concentration	504	1.27	0.592	0.33	259	6	0.001
Feeling of hopelessness	504	1.64	0.609	0.36	242	6	0.09
Sadness	504	1.66	0.613	0.38	241	6	0.08
Rebellion nature	504	1.30	0.562	0.032	255	6	0.02
competition	504	1.70	0.767	0.38	251	6	0.06

GENERAL FINDINGS

- 1) For both boys and girls, domestic violence will not create any anxiousness / nervousness among the teenagers.
- 2) All the teenagers were observed scolding of parents with each other.
- 3) Domestic violence have no significance on the appetite change of the teenagers.
- 4) Domestic violence have significance on psychological withdrawal of teenagers from school or from house.
- 5) It is observed that domestic violence have not much influence on exam fear and worries of teenagers.

Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges

- 6) Influence of domestic violence on scolding of parents to each other: It is observed that the asymptotic significance is less than 0.05, hence there is a significant relationship between domestic violence and public scolding by parents on the teenager's characterization.
- 7) Psychological withdrawal: It is observed that asymptotic significance is less than 0.05, hence there is a significant relation between domestic violence and psychological withdrawal by the school going teenagers
- 8) Experience of poor/lack of concentration: It is observed that asymptotic significance is less than 0.05; hence there is a significant relation between domestic violence and experiencing of poor concentration among the teenagers
- 9) Rebellion nature: It is observed that asymptotic significance is less than 0.05, hence there is a significant relation between domestic violence and showing of rebellion nature among the school going teenagers
- 10) Insomnia: It is observed that asymptotic significance is less than 0.05; hence there is a significant relation between domestic violence and showing of insomnia by the school going teenagers

REFERENCES

- Attala, J. M., Bauza. K., Pratt, H. and Vieira, D. (1995) Integrative review of effects on children of witnessing domestic violence. *Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing*, 18:163-172.
- Holden, G. W. and Ritchie, K. L. (1991) Linking extreme marital discord, child rearing and child behaviour problems: Evidence from battered women. *Child Development*, 62:311-327.
- Jejeebhoy, S. J. (1998) Associations between wife-beating and foetal and infant death: Impressions from a survey in rural India. *Studies in Family Planning*, 29:300-308.
- Mahajan, A. (1990) Instigators of wife battering. In: S. Sooshma (Ed.), *Violence Against Women*. Arihant Publishers, Jaipur.
- Martin, M. J., Schumm, W. R., Bugaighis, M. A., Jurich, A. P. and Bollman, S.R. (1987) Family violence and adolescents' perceptions of outcomes of family conflict. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 49:165-171.
- Nair, G. R. (1997) An anatomy of child abuse. *Social Welfare*, 44:76-78.
- Narayana, G. (1996) Family violence, sex and reproductive health behavior among men in Uttar Pradesh, India. Unpublished.
- Rao, V. (1996) Wife beating in rural South India: A qualitative and economic analysis. *Social Science Medicine*, 26:49-54.
- Sunny, C. (2003) Domestic violence against women: Report on a situational analysis in Ernakulum district, Kerala. *Social Change*, 33: 26-54. Tandon, S. L. (2003) Domestic violence – why and how? What to do. *Social Welfare*, 50:4-13.

How to cite this article: S Menon (2016), Influence of Domestic Violence in the Characterization (Growth, Psychological Behavior and Academic Performance) of Teenagers in School / Colleges, *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Volume 3, Issue 4, No. 75, ISSN:2348-5396 (e), ISSN:2349-3429 (p), DIP:18.01.050/20160304, ISBN:978-1-365-50727-4