

Study on Domestic Violence in Infertile Women

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Abstract- INTRODUCTION : Millions of men and women suffer from infertility worldwide. Infertility is defined as the failure to conceive after 12 months of unprotected regular sexual intercourse . Experiencing infertility causes aggression, anger, labile economic status, reprimand, divorce, public isolation, losing social status, deprivation, disappointment and violence . Furthermore, violence is a global disaster. Usually, women and girls are the prime victims of domestic violence. Infertility may affect the public health in many countries. Domestic violence is the intentional use of physical force, power or threat against oneself, another person or another group or community which leads to injury, death, mental harm, lack of development or deprivation. The cause of infertility and magnitude may vary with geographical location and the socio economic status. Evidences suggest that infertility is becoming a public health problem in india and 60- 80 million couples suffer from infertility every year among which 15- 20 million in india alone. National family health survey 3 shows that approximately 21 percent of women who has been interviewed have experienced physical , emotional , verbal and sexual violence in last 12 months . It is becoming more and more evident that infertility and gender based violence are the emerging health problems in india. The world health organization estimates that at least one in 5 women have experienced violence in their lives. Gender based violence have long term psychological and physical consequences and effect many aspects of women's lives.

METHODOLOGY : The study is a community based cross sectional study conducted in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Meenakshi medical college hospital and research institute. The study group 50 was selected from the women who are coming to the infertility clinic and also who are willing for the study are subjected to the series of who multi- centric interviewer based semi – structured questionnaire while ensuring adequate privacy.

RESULTS: There is a statistical significance association between socio economic class and physical abuse (kicked you or beaten you up) at 95% ($p < 0.05$).

CONCLUSION : In this study , infertile women are prone for domestic violence , with the prevalence percentage of physical abuse – 19.66 % , physical violence – 45.33% , emotional violence – 24.66% , sexual violence – 12.57% , analysis for domestic violence and alcohol consumption by the husband was found to be 20.66%.

I. INTRODUCTION

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Evidences suggest that infertility is becoming a public health problem in india and 60- 80 million couples suffer from infertility every year among which 15- 20 million in india alone. National family health survey 3 shows that approximately 21 percent of women who has been interviewed have experienced physical , emotional , verbal and sexual violence in last 12 months . It is becoming more and more evident that infertility and gender based violence are the emerging health problems in India. The world health organization estimates that at least one in 5 women have experienced violence in their lives. Gender based violence have long term psychological and physical consequences and effect many aspects of women's lives.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the prevalence of violence in the infertile women and 3 of its components i.e., emotional abuse , physical violence , sexual violence among women in age group 25-49 years in MMCH RI .
- To study the prevalence of gender based violence after the birth based on the sex of the baby .

III. METHODOLOGY

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- The study group 50 was selected from the women who are coming to the infertility clinic and also who are willing for the study .

IV. INCLUSION CRITERIA

All women presented with infertility aged 25 – 49 years, married and following 1 year after marriage who are unable to conceive naturally.

Women with the following causes for infertility

- a. Tubal factor
- b. Uterine factor
- c. PCOS
- d. Endometriosis
- e. Diminished ovarian reserve
- f. Unexplained factor
- g. Male infertility
- h. post natally after a female child

V. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Women married for less than 1 year .

- Women who are infertile for more than 2 years , doesn't want to get pregnant due to personal reasons.

VI. PROCEDURE

- ✓ Informed written consent was taken from the study participants.
- ✓ History and clinical examination of the couple obtained.
- ✓ Series of who multi- centric interviewer based semi – structured questionnaire administered while ensuring adequate privacy.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

**TABLE 1 :
INFERTILITY IN RELATION TO SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS , PARITY & OTHER MEDICAL DISORDERS :**

		Frequency	Percent
		N	%
Socioeconomic Class	Class II	12	24.0
	Class III	20	40.0
	Class IV	18	36.0
Parity	Primary	19	38.0
	Secondary	31	62.0
Co Morbidities	Diabetic	2	4.0
	Hypothyroid	6	12.0
	No Disease	39	78.0
	Hypertensive	3	6.0

Table 2:

Physical abuse :	Yes	No
	N (%)	N (%)
Household Work Not Satisfactory	37(74)	13(26)
Disobeys Husband	16(32)	34(68)
Refuses Sexual Relationship	15(30)	35(70)
Emotional violence :		
Insulted and Made Feel Bad about HERSELF	15(30)	35(70)
Belittled or Humiliated Infront of Everyone	17(34)	33(66)
Done Things to Scare and Intimidate HER on Purpose	5(10)	45(90)
Physical violence :		
Threatened to hurt HER	4(8)	46(92)
Slapped thrown Something at HER	13(26)	37(74)
Pushed HER	12(24)	38(76)
Hit HER with Fist	4(8)	46(92)
Choked Or Burnt HER on Purpose	3(6)	47(94)
Threatened to Use Knife or other Weapon	1(2)	49(98)
Kicked or Beaten HER Up	7(14)	43(86)
Sexual violence :		
She was Physically Forced You to Have Sexual Intercourse When she doesn't want to	4(8)	46(92)
She had a fear on Sexual Intercourse that something would happen	5(10)	45(90)
She was forced to do Something that found degrading or humiliating during sexual intercourse	0(0)	50(100)
Pregnancy and post partum violence :		
She has been Physically Assaulted While she was Pregnant	0(0)	50(100)

Punched or Kicked In her Abdomen While she was Pregnant	0(0)	50(100)
She has been Assaulted After the Birth of Female Baby	5(10)	45(90)
Coping and impact :		
Physically Fought Back When Hit	6(12)	44(88)
Feels That Husbands Violence Has Affected her Physical and mental health	8(16)	42(84)
Alcohol Consumption by Husband	12(24)	38(76)

**TABLE 3:
COMPARISON OF SOCIO ECONOMIC CLASS WITH PHYSICAL VIOLENCE :**

		THREATENED TO HURT HER		Total	P Value
		Yes (%)	No (%)		
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	0(0)	12(26.1)	12(24)	0.488
	CLASS III	2(5)	18(39.1)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	2(5)	16(34.8)	18(36)	
Slapped thrown Something at HER					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	4(30.8)	8(21.6)	12(24)	0.787
	CLASS III	5(38.5)	15(40.5)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	4(30.8)	14(37.8)	18(36)	
Pushed HER					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	1(8.3)	11(28.9)	12(24)	0.289
	CLASS III	5(41.7)	15(39.5)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	6(50)	12(31.6)	18(36)	
Hit HER with Fist					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	1(25)	11(23.9)	12(24)	0.880
	CLASS III	2(50)	18(39.1)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	1(25)	17(37)	18(36)	
Choked Or Burnt HER on Purpose					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	1(33.3)	11(23.4)	12(24)	0.400
	CLASS III	2(66.7)	18(38.3)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	0(0)	18(38.3)	18(36)	
Threatened to Use Knife or other Weapon					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	0(0)	12(24.5)	12(24)	0.404
	CLASS III	0(0)	20(40.8)	20(40)	NS
	CLASS IV	1(100)	17(34.7)	18(36)	
Kicked or Beaten HER Up					
SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS	CLASS II	1(14.3)	11(25.6)	12(24)	0.023
	CLASS III	6(85.7)	14(32.6)	20(40)	S
	CLASS IV	0(0)	18(41.8)	18(36)	

VIII. RESULTS

In our study , infertile women are prone for domestic violence , and their prevalence of physical abuse is 19.66% , prevalence of physical violence is 45.33%, emotional violence is 24.66%, sexual violence is 12.57%. We have also analysed the correlation for domestic violence and alcohol consumption by the husband which came up to 20.66% . We have also analysed the correlation of the socioeconomic class with the physical violence experienced by the women where there is a statistically significant association was found between the socioeconomic

class and physical violence (kicked or beaten her up) with a P value <0.05 at 95%.

IX. DISCUSSION

Evidences suggest that infertility is becoming a public health problem in India and 60- 80 million couples suffer from infertility every year among which 15- 20 million in India alone. National family health survey 3 shows that approximately 21 percent of women who has been interviewed have experienced physical , emotional , verbal and sexual violence in last 12 months . The world health organization estimates that at least one

in 5 women have experienced violence in their lives. Gender based violence have long term psychological and physical consequences and effect many aspects of women's lives.

Yildizhan et al. (2009) found the prevalence of domestic violence against infertile women to be 33.6%.³ Ardabily et al. (2011) found the prevalence of domestic violence to be 61.8%, psychological violence 33.8%, physical violence 14% and sexual violence 8% in infertile women⁴. Pasi et al.² have reported that infertile women experienced physical or sexual violence more frequently than fertile women, also reported that 76.3% of infertile women and 65.9% of those who have at least one child have experienced violence. In our study there is 45.3% of prevalence of domestic violence which is nearly correlating with the Yildizhan et al study.

X. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of this study, prevalence of domestic violence was relatively high among infertile women. Therefore, identification and prevention of this public health issue seems crucial. Violence against women ' the recent happenings in the country tops the list of emerging new concerns for the girls and women in our country. Eradication of gender bias lays the foundation for change . feticide is an act of violence when in the womb itself.

Initiating health care to the women and also educating male child a non-violent environment which creates a healthy environment to the female.

REFERENCES

- [1] Yildizhan et al. (2009) found the prevalence of domestic violence against infertile women to be 33.6%.³
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AUTHORS

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