

Domestic Violence and Women Empowerment across Religion in India- A study on influence of various Determinants

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Abstract: The paper focus on influence of various determinants viz, General Nature (Religion, type of place of residence, State, Ethnicity, Caste, Education level of partners, justification of beating by women, alcohol consumption, type of relationship to husband before marriage), Women empowerment and Childhood Trauma influencing domestic violence and women empowerment across religions in India. Hindu, Muslim and Christian, being major religious groups in India are considered for the study. The study is based on National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5). In a country like India people are more religious. We can see influence of religion on all aspects of life. Mainly in marriage and in family life, right from match making it effect all decisions taken by an individual. People follow their religious instructions may be with slightly varied manners in all important events in their life. So, the study of religious influence on various social parameters are of great relevance.

Index Terms: Domestic violence, Women empowerment, Justification of Beating, childhood trauma, religion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Human settlement across the world is evolved over time towards the concept of wellness and justice to its members. Over the time, based on the prevailing form of governance, human society adopted customs and rules to maintain social order. Gradually there is an enhanced acceptability for equality before justice, rights and opportunity for all irrespective of class, ethnicity and gender. However, fact of the matter is, even after

75 years of independence and having a very humanistic constitution in place and enforcement of rule of law, woman in our country, in general is facing a lot of social barriers in her life. She lives with limited freedom. Men try to impose their opinions, decisions, interests, needs on women in their family, and when they fail, they enforce it leading to physical, emotional or sexual assault on women. This is termed as domestic violence (32% of ever married women have experienced domestic violence as per NFHS-5). Domestic violence (DV) against women represents a fundamental infringement of human rights and stems from the subordinate position of women in society (Heise, 1998). Recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a 'hidden global pandemic' due to its devastating impact on women's lives—spanning physical, psychological, and sexual abuse—it has garnered significant attention (Ellsberg et al., 2001); (Organization, 1997) and (Organization, 2006). It is worth mentioning here that under any of the specified circumstances* 45% of women and 44% of men

***Seven circumstances:** She goes out without telling him, she neglects the house or the children, she argues with him, she refuses to have sex with him, she doesn't cook food properly, he suspects her of being unfaithful, and she shows disrespect for her in-laws.

believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife. For both men and women, justifying wife beating is lower in urban than rural. It tends to decrease with schooling and wealth, also women's experience of violence declines sharply with her schooling and obtaining wealth (NFHS-5). This indicates that the way of living and education affect the thinking of people in a positive way. Fortunately, efforts to combat domestic violence and promote women's empowerment have gained momentum in recent years. Women empowerment significantly impacted in breaking the abusive ecosystem. Furthermore, efforts towards women's empowerment challenge societal norms that condone or normalize violence, fostering a culture of respect and non-violence. Ultimately, women empowerment contributes to create safer environments where domestic violence is less tolerated and survivors are better supported. Right to take own decision, freedom of movement and control over own income are some of the key factors that defines women empowerment as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of Government of India. Denying females their right to take decisions (11% do not participate in any of the three[†] decision making as per NFHS-5), restricting freedom of movement (5% of the women are not allowed to go to any of the three[‡] places as per NFHS-5), control over her own earnings (only 18% of the women have control over her earning alone, mainly husband controls for 14% of the women's money as per NFHS-5). Apart from above key factors, some other important determinants of women empowerment are employment (32% of the currently married women are employed), education (72% are literate), ownership of a house (42% either alone or jointly), land (32% either alone or jointly), mobile phone (54%), bank account (79%). The present study is an effort to understand the scenario by analyzing a few key instrumental factors across religions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

[†]**The Three decisions making areas:**(1) woman's own health care, (2) major household purchases, and (3) visits to the woman's family or relatives.

[‡]**Three Places of visit :**to the market, to the health facility, and to places outside the village or community.

After reviewing existing literature, a summary is provided, encompassing diverse perspectives, empirical evidence, and theoretical frameworks explored in the field.

The paper primarily focuses on examining the influence of various determinants across religion, with the following findings guiding its selection as a key aspect of the study.

Religion is culturally significant, shaping societies' socio-economic and political dynamics (Stump, 2008). (Peach, 2006) suggests that religion may surpass race or ethnicity as a variable in social geographic studies. Examining women's status within religious contexts (King, 2006). Across major world religions, male dominance persists in societal structures (Sharma, 2000). Studies on specific religions, like Islam, reveal a concerning decline in women's status coinciding with the ascent of what are perceived as advanced religions (Holm, 1994). Holm highlights severe restrictions imposed on women during menstruation and pregnancy. Furthermore, I extend the examination beyond India to encompass findings on the relationship between domestic violence and religion from diverse international contexts.

A qualitative analysis in the U.S. revealed concerns among religious leaders from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths with regard to promoting male leadership (Levitt & Ware, 2006). Religious ideologies may justify or overlook violence against women (Nason-Clark, 1997). Hindu divorced and separated women tend to have higher empowerment status compared to Muslim and other religious groups, with greater empowerment. (Biswas & Mukhopadhyay, 2018). Alongside exploring the influence of religion, many scholars also studied other factors determining domestic violence and women empowerment which were:

A Chilean study of college students revealed that individuals who experienced childhood sexual abuse, witnessed domestic violence as children, and had parents with low education were more likely to report sexual abuse (Lehrer et al., 2009). Single, divorced, and separated women often face defamation, hindering their empowerment, while widows, though not highly esteemed, have a slightly better social standing. Marital status and financial independence are key factors determining women's empowerment (Biswas & Mukhopadhyay, 2018). Low education, income, and early

marriage among women contribute to domestic violence, impacting mental and reproductive health (Zakar et al., 2016). Many women face violence and sexual abuse shortly after entering sexual relationships, with a significant portion experiencing such abuse within the first one to three years (Peterman et al., 2015).

Numerous reports highlight the profound health impacts of domestic violence, with the World Health Organization and World Bank estimating that it contributes to 5% and 19% of disease burden in women aged 15–44 in developed and developing countries, respectively (Heise et al., 1994). Victims suffer from trauma, depression, anxiety disorders, perpetuate intergenerational cycles of violence, and experience heightened risks of sexually transmitted infections (Abadi et al., 2013); (Dhakal et al., 2011).

RESEARCH GAP

As per the above literature review, we have seen how various determinants on Domestic violence influence women empowerment. However, there is scope for understanding how the above studied determinants influence across religions. In a country like India people are more religious. We can see influence of religion on all aspects of life. Mainly in marriage and in family life, right from match-making it effects all decisions taken by an individual. People follow their religious instructions may be with slightly varied manners in all important events in their life. So, the study of religious influence on various social parameters is of great relevance. A study on the influence of the parameters on these communities would enable the policy makers and religious leaders to make appropriate social intervention to reduce Domestic violence and improve women empowerment for the betterment of the society. Primary objective of all the studies of similar nature needs to be to achieve basic human rights to all, irrespective of their gender.

DATA USED IN STUDY

Data was collected from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5). NFHS surveys have been conducted under the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, is the nodal agency for all the rounds of NFHS. The NFHS provides estimates on key indicators related to population, family planning, child and maternal health, nutrition, adult health, and domestic violence, among others. Present study mainly focuses on Women's data regarding participation in household activity, ownership of land/house and domestic violence related questions. The dataset is categorized according to different religions. Among them 546007 (76.3%) were Hindus, 90729 (12.7%) were Muslim, 52146 (7.3%) were Christians and 26589 (3.7%) belonged to others religions. As the population taken together of Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions forms 96.3% of Indian population (as per NFHS-5 data which also confirms the 2011 census data), the present study primarily focuses on these three religions.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence also involves violence against children, parents, or the elderly. Domestic violence is now commonly defined broadly to include "all kinds of physical, emotional, sexual violence". The study involves both never married and ever married women. Those respondents, here women, who reported anyone of the three types of violence, is considered to have experienced domestic violence.

VARIABLE SELECTION

Dependent:

Experience of Domestic Violence: Women is said to experience Domestic violence if she experiences any of the three physical, emotional or sexual violence.

Independent:

- 1) Age
- 2) Type of place of residence

- 3) Ethnicity: It has been divided into Caste, Tribe, No Caste/Tribe.
- 4) Caste: The caste variable has been divided into Schedule caste, Schedule tribe, OBC, and none.
- 5) Education level of husband: Educational qualification was divided into four categories-No Education, Primary, Secondary, Higher.
- 6) Husband/partner drinks alcohol
- 7) State: Zonal classification has been provided in Table A.
- 8) Type of relation to the current husband, prior to marriage: It has been divided into two Blood relation, non-Blood relation.
- 9) Current marital status: Respondents are categorized into Unmarried, Married, Widowed and Divorced.
- 10) Beating Justified by Women

Determinants of Women's empowerment:

- 11) Education level of the respondent
- 12) Working status
- 13) Owns a mobile phone
- 14) Owns a bank account
- 15) Ownership of house/land
- 16) Wealth Index: Divided into three categories Poor, Middle, Rich.
- 17) Freedom of movement: Women is said to have freedom for movement if she is allowed to go to the market, health facility, places outside the village alone or with someone else.
- 18) Participation in Decision Making: Women are considered to take part in decision making if she makes decision alone or with husband/partner or with any other person regarding her own health, large household purchases, and spending her earnings.
- 19) Respondent earns more than her husband

Childhood adversities related to domestic violence:

- 20) Experienced physical violence from parents
- 21) Respondents father ever beat her mother

Zone	States/Union territories included
North	Jammu & Kashmir, Himanchal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Chandigarh
Central	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh
East	Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand
North East	Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam
West	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa
South	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar

Table A: Distribution of States/Union Territories according to specific zones considered in the study

STATISTICAL METHODS

Chai Square Test:

Bivariate analysis is carried out using the Chi-Square test of independence to test the association between domestic violence and all covariates (explanatory variable) of women's status as listed above.

Chi-square test is applied to find out whether the two variables in a bivariate contingency table under the study are dependent or independent.

Our two hypotheses: i) Null hypothesis H_0

ii) Alternative hypothesis H_1 .

H_0 : The two attributes are independent

H_1 : The two attributes are dependent

The null hypothesis can be tested either at 5% or 1% level of significance. Significant chi-square statistics indicate that the explanatory variable was statistically significant and therefore there is an association between the variables. And the individual Wald test is examined. The Wald test (a.k.a. Wald Chi-Squared Test) is a parametric statistical measure to confirm whether a set of independent variables are collectively 'significant' for a model

or not. It is also used for confirming whether each independent variable present in a model is significant or not.

Logistic Regression:

The logistic regression technique is one of the most popular techniques used to assess the effects of multiple explanatory variables (continuous or categorical) on a dichotomous dependent variable i.e. the dependent variable assumes only two values (1 = success, 0 = failure). If the Wald test is significant at 5%, then odds ratios were computed to assess the relationship between the dependent variables and the independent variables.

Logistic Regression can be expressed as,

$$\log\left(\frac{p(X)}{1-p(X)}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \epsilon$$

where $p(x)/(1-p(x))$ is termed odds, and the left-hand side is called the logit or log-odds function.

Simple logistic regression uses the following null and alternative hypotheses:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0: \beta_1 &= 0 \\ H_1: \beta_1 &\neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

The null hypothesis states that the coefficient β_1 is equal to zero. In other words, there is no statistically significant relationship between the predictor variable, x , and the response variable, y . The alternative hypothesis states that β_1 is *not* equal to zero. In other words, there *is* a statistically significant relationship between x and y .

Interpretation of Odds Ratio:

For categorical predictors, the odds ratio compares the odds of the event occurring at 2 different levels of the predictor. A level is set as the reference category against which all the other categories of the variable are compared. Odds ratios that are greater than 1 indicate that the event is more likely at that particular level. Odds ratios that are less than 1 indicate that the event is less likely at that level as compared to the reference level.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

A) Domestic violence among Hindu-Muslim-Christian by different Determinants

Table 1A, 1B and 1C presents the percent distribution of women categorized according to the religion Hindu, Muslim, Christian

respectively, who experience domestic violence in various categories of women defined by variables related to women's empowerment measures. The last column of these tables presents the p-values for significant tests for association between Explanatory variables and experience of domestic violence.

The variable "Owns a bank account" is not significant at 5% level for all the three religions. "Relation with husband prior to marriage" is not significant at 5% level for Hindu and Muslim. "Freedom of movement" is not significant at 5% level in Muslim and Christian. In Christian "Type of residence, Respondent earning more than husband/partner, Participation in decision making" are the remaining variables which is not significant at 5% level.

I) Determinants of general nature

Religion and Domestic Violence: Hindus are more exposed to domestic violence than Muslims and Christians. Among Hindus 32% of the women face domestic violence compared to those in Muslim (29.7%) and Christians (21.8%).

Type place of residence and Domestic Violence: Respondents belonging to Rural regions are more exposed to domestic violence in all the three religions. Christians (19.7%) living in urban regions are least exposed to domestic violence as compared to Hindus and Muslims living in urban or rural regions.

State and Domestic Violence: Experience of domestic violence across the states differ from religion to religion. Among Hindu women in southern (39.4%) and central (36.6%) region are facing more domestic violence, those in western (20.6%) and northern (20.8%) regions are least likely to face domestic violence. Among Muslims women belonging to central (36.9%) and north eastern (35.4%) region are facing more domestic violence, those in northern (18.7%) and western (19.6%) are least likely to face domestic violence. Among Christians women belonging to eastern (28.4%) and southern (24.3%) regions are more likely to face domestic violence, those in northern (11.1%), central (12.2%) and western (13.8%) are less likely to face domestic violence.

Ethnicity and Domestic Violence: Different religion have different level of exposure to domestic violence in different ethnicity. Women belonging to tribe (34.7%) are most likely to

face domestic violence and those who don't belong to any caste/tribe (20.6%) are least likely in Hindu. Women don't belong to any caste/tribe (30.7%) are most likely to face domestic violence and those belonging to tribe (22%) are least likely in Muslims. Women belonging to caste (29.6%) are most likely to face domestic violence and those who don't belong to any caste/tribe (14.3%) are least likely in Christians.

Caste and Domestic Violence: Women belonging to Scheduled Caste are more likely to face domestic violence in all the religions (Hindu 36.2%, Muslim 39.4%, Christians 36.9%). Those belonging to none of the caste are least likely to face domestic violence in Hindu (23%) and Christians (16%), whereas in Muslims those belonging to Scheduled Tribe (17.4%) are least likely.

Husband's/partners education level and Domestic Violence: Those women whose husband/partner is uneducated are more exposed to domestic violence (Hindu 42.2%, Muslim 37.4% and Christian 27.1%) as compared to those whose husband/partner have Higher education (Hindu 20%, Muslim 17.7%, Christian 15.8%) among all the three religions.

Beating justified by women and Domestic Violence: Women who justifies beating are more likely to face domestic violence in all the religions. (Hindu 44.4%, Muslims 40.2%, Christians 33.6%) as compared to those who do not justifies beating (Hindu 24.9%, Muslims 23%, Christians 16.6%).

Husband/Partner drinks alcohol and Domestic Violence: Women whose husband/partner drinks alcohol are more likely to face domestic violence (Hindu 49.5%, Muslims 65.2%, Christians 13.9%) as compared to those whose partner/husband do not drink alcohol (Hindu 24.7%, Muslims 26.5%, Christians 34.1%).

Type of relationship to husband before marriage and Domestic Violence: Women who had blood relationship with their husband before marriage are more likely to face domestic violence in Hindu (40.2%) and Christians (39.3%) as compared to those who had no blood relation (Hindu 37.2%, Christian 26.7%). In Muslims women who had no blood relation (35.2%) with their husband were more likely to face domestic violence as compared to those who were blood relatives (34.7%).

II) Determinants of Women's Empowerment

Education level and Domestic Violence: Domestic violence is more faced by uneducated women as compared to educated women and is least experienced by women having Higher education among all the religions. As the level of education increases the chance of exposure to domestic violence decreases.

Wealth Index and Domestic Violence: Women belonging to poor category are more likely to face domestic violence in all the three religions (Hindu 38%, Muslim 35.6%, Christians 23.9%). Women belonging to rich category are least likely to face domestic violence (Hindu 23.6%, Muslim 24.2%, Christians 18%).

Respondents working status and Domestic Violence: Women who belong to working category are more likely to face domestic violence in all the three religions (Hindu 38.5%, Muslim 36.4%, Christians 26.9%) as compared to the non-working women (Hindu 28%, Muslim 28%, Christians 17.1%).

Owns a mobile phone and Domestic Violence: Domestic violence is experienced more by those women who don't own a mobile phone. Those among Hindu (35.4%), Muslim (32.5%) and Christian (27.2%).

Respondents earns more than her husband and Domestic Violence: Women who earns more than their husband are less likely to face domestic violence in Hindus (36.8%), whereas in Muslims (43.4%) and in Christians (27.4%) they are more likely to face domestic violence.

Takes part in Decision making and Domestic Violence: Those women who do not take part in decision making are more likely to face domestic violence in all the religions (Hindu 44.7%, Muslim 47.6%, Christians 27%) as compared to those who takes part in decision making (Hindu 38%, Muslim 34.1%, Christians 26%).

Freedom of movement and Domestic Violence: Those women who have freedom of movement are less likely to face domestic violence in Muslims (29.6%) whereas in Hindus (28.8%) and in Christians (21.9%) they are more likely to face domestic violence. And those women who do not have freedom of movement are more likely to face domestic violence in Muslims (31.1%) and less likely to face violence in Hindus (28.8%) and Christians (16.5%).

Owens a house/land and Domestic Violence: Those women who own house/land are more likely to face domestic violence in all the religions. (Hindu 34.4%, Muslims 30.9%, Christians 24.2%) as compared to those women who don't own a house/land (Hindu 29.5%, Muslims 28.4%, Christians 18.3%).

III) Ever faced childhood trauma related to domestic violence

Experienced physical violence from parents: Those women who have experienced physical violence from parents in childhood days have more chance to face domestic violence in all the religions (Hindu 62.1%, Muslims 67.1%, Christians 49.7%) as compared to those who have not experienced this (Hindu 30.3%, Muslims 27.6%, Christians 20.7%).

Respondent's father ever beat her mother: Those women whose father ever beat their mother are more likely to face domestic violence in all the religions (Hindu 58.2%, Muslims 61.8%, Christians 49.2%) As compared to those whose father didn't ever best their mother (Hindu 25.2%, Muslims 23.2%, Christians 17.3%).

B. Association between Determinants and Domestic Violence among Hindu-Muslim-Christian

After the performing the Chi-Square test, we found that there were certain variables that were insignificant. So, all the remaining variables for the three religions that are significant at 5% level are included in the logistic regression analysis.

Table 2A, 2B and 2C presents the result of three logistic regression models one for each religion, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian are fitted considering Domestic violence as binary dependent variable (No=0, Yes=1) and all other variables which are significant at 5% level in the bivariate analysis. The column for odds ratio (O.R.) gives the risk/chance experiencing domestic violence in the different categories to the reference categories marked as "ref".

I) Determinants of general nature

State (North) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, women belonging to Central, Eastern, North-Eastern, Western and Southern regions have 1.282, 1.018, 1.232, 1.044 and 1.020 times more than the North respectively. Among Muslim, women belonging to Central, Eastern, North-Eastern, Western and

Southern regions have 2.910, 2.394, 2.529, 1.226 and 2.139 have more risk than the North respectively. Among Christians, women belonging to Central, Eastern, North-Eastern, Western and Southern regions have 1.111, 3.174, 2.051, 1.280 and 2.573 times more risk than the North respectively.

Type of residence (Urban) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu Women living in rural regions have 1.309 times more risk of experiencing domestic violence than Urban regions. Among Muslim Women living in rural regions have 1.652 times more risk than Urban.

Ethnicity (Caste) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, women belonging to Tribe is having 1.126 times more risk than caste and those who have no caste/tribe is having 0.448 times lesser risk than caste. Among Muslim, women belonging to Tribe is having 0.329 times lesser risk than Caste and those who don't belong to any caste/tribe is having 1.055 times more risk than Caste. Among Christians women belonging to Tribe and those who don't belong to any caste/tribe have 0.435, 0.591 times lesser risk than those belong to caste.

Husband/partner's education level (No education) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindus, women whose husband's education qualification is Primary, Secondary and Higher education have 0.165, 0.404, 0.658 times lesser risk than those uneducated. Among Muslim, women whose husband's education qualification is Primary, Secondary and Higher education have 0.188, 0.485, 0.71 times lesser risk than those uneducated. Among Christians, women whose husband's education qualification is Primary, Secondary and Higher education have 0.06, 0.24, 0.417 times lesser risk than those uneducated.

Husband/partner drinks alcohol (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindus, Muslim and Christian, women whose husband/partner drinks alcohol were 2.473, 7.325, 2.965 times more at risk than those who don't consume alcohol.

II) Determinants of Women's Empowerment

Education level (No education) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, women who have primary, secondary and higher education are having 0.177, 0.195, 0.404 times lesser risk than uneducated ones. Among Muslim, women who have primary, secondary and higher education are having 0.076, 0.378, 0.646

times lesser risk than uneducated ones. Among Christians, women who have primary, secondary and higher education are having 0.23, 0.278, 0.511 times lesser risk than uneducated ones.

Respondent's working status (Not working) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, working women are 1.613, 1.476, 1.786 times more at risk than those not working.

Wealth Index (Poor) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, rich and middle-class women are at 0.198, 0.122 times lesser risk than poor. Among Muslim, rich and middle-class women are at 0.422, 0.33 times lesser risk than poor. Among Christian, rich and middle-class women are at 0.305, 0.196 times lesser risk than poor.

Owns house/land (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, women who owns a house/land are at 1.115, 1.127, 1.422 times more risk than those who don't.

Owns a mobile phone (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, women who owns a mobile phone are at 0.244, 0.201, 0.232 times lesser risk than those who don't.

Takes part in decision making (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu and Muslim, women who take part in decision making are at 0.227, 0.434 times lesser risk than those who don't.

Freedom of movement (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, women who have freedom of movement are 1.167 times more at risk than those who don't. This determinant is insignificant for other two religions.

Beating justified by women (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, women who have justified beating by their husband are 2.147, 2.140, 2.552 times more at risk than those who don't.

Respondents earns more than her husband (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, women who earns more than their husband are at 0.083 times lesser risk than those who don't. Whereas in Muslim who earns more are 1.496 times more at risk than those who don't.

III) Ever faced childhood trauma related to domestic violence

Experienced physical violence from parents (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, women who experienced physical violence from parents are at 2.456, 3.429, 3.781 times more risk than those who don't.

Respondent's father ever beat her mother (No) and Domestic Violence: Among Hindu, Muslim and Christian, women who experienced physical violence from parents are at 2.713, 1.154, 1.171 times more risk than those who don't.

DISCUSSION

India is a land of great diversity, with a multitude of cultures and religions. Indian culture is one of the oldest and most complex cultures in the world. India is a land of many religions with significant populations. There are six major religious communities namely, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain. According to 2011 census Hindu (79.8%); Muslim (14.2%); Christian (2.3%); Sikh (1.7%); Buddhist (0.7%); Jain (0.4%).

This study tries to analyze the influence of various determinants on domestic violence across the religion with special focus on general aspects, women empowerment and childhood adversities. While some determinants are having similar influence across the religion, most of the determinants varied result on different religions.

Analysis of some determinants are having similar findings across the religion. These include "Type of place of residence, Wealth index, working status, owns a mobile phone, participate in decision making, Education level of respondent and husband, Justification of beating by women, owns house/land, Alcohol consumption by husband, Respondents father ever beat her mother, Experienced physical violence from parents."

• Domestic Violence across Religion

Hindus are more exposed to domestic violence than Muslims and Christians (Figure 1).

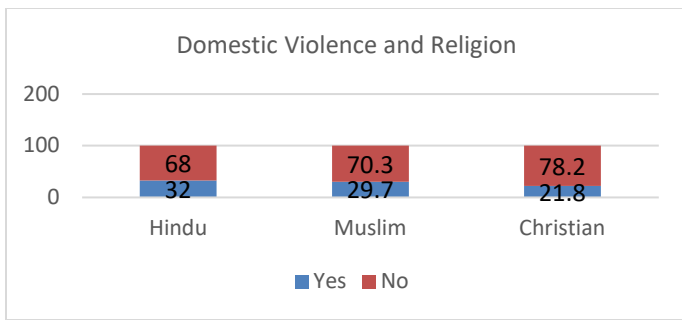


Figure 1: Proportion of Domestic Violence across Religion

• Education level – Wealth Index – Type of residence across Religion

Women belonging to rural regions are facing more domestic violence as compared to urban regions. Which may be because the urban population generally have more awareness about civil rights than rural area. People in rural area may not be identifying certain actions as domestic violence due to this lack of awareness.

The proportion of educated population in rural is less than urban population as depicted in Figure 2, and also from the study it is found that education level of both women and their husband is one of the significant determinant effecting domestic violence (higher the education level, lower the exposure to domestic violence) which jointly reinforce the above fact.

Also, it was found that High income group women are facing less domestic violence as compared to poor. This also reflects that wealth status influence the education of people and education in turn influence domestic violence and empowerment. (Figure 3)

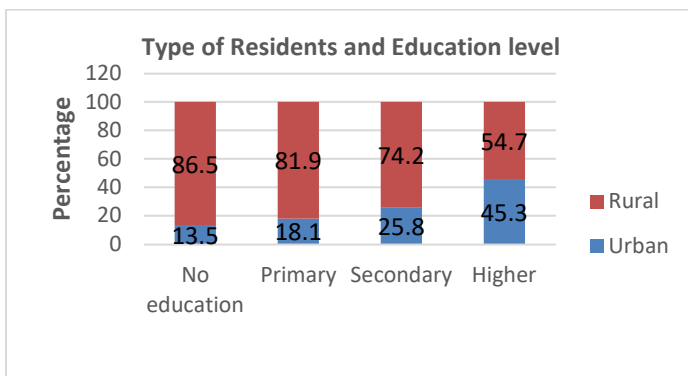


Figure 2: Percentage of women of different education level belonging to either of the residential area.

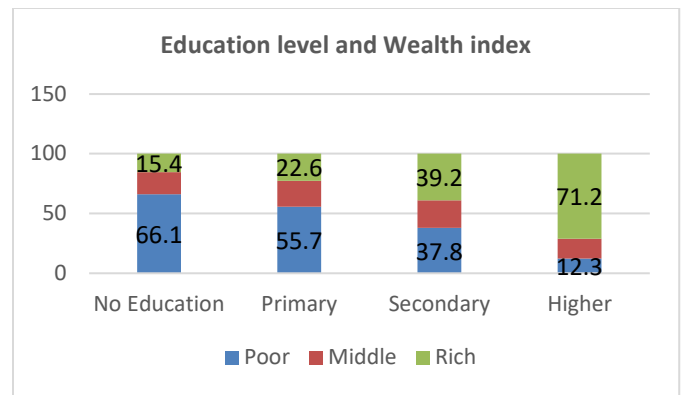


Figure 3: Percentage of Education Level and Wealth Index

• Influence of owning Mobile – House/Land across Religion

Needless to mention the importance of mobile phone in today's life. Possessing a mobile phone give a sense of freedom and empowerment. So, this determinant has great relevance in this study. It is found that women who own mobile phone are facing less domestic violence than those who don't own a mobile set. This is mainly because of the access to the social network through the mobile phone. From Figure 4 it is evident that proportion of Christian women owning a mobile set is more than others.

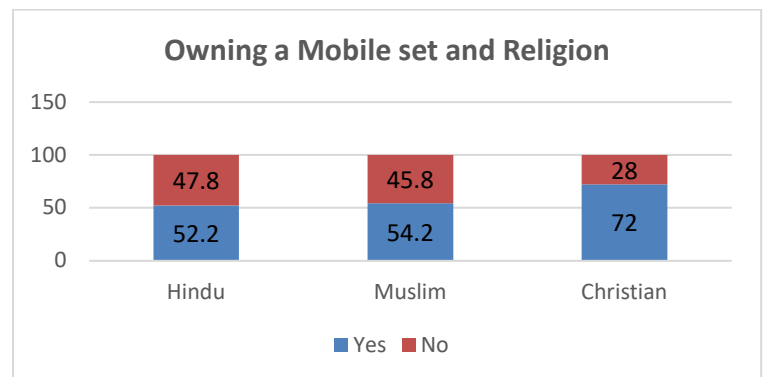


Figure 4: Percentage of women who owns a mobile phone across Religion

It is found that women who own house/land are facing more domestic violence as compared to those who don't. This aspect needs to be explored further.

• Participation in Decision Making across Religion

Women who participate in decision making are facing less domestic violence as compared to those who don't, this can be shown as a by-product of lack of domestic violence which

induce courage to take own decision. It is found that majority of the women across the religion participate in decision making, which is a positive sign. Proportion of respondent who doesn't takes part in decision making are more among Muslim than others. (Figure 5)

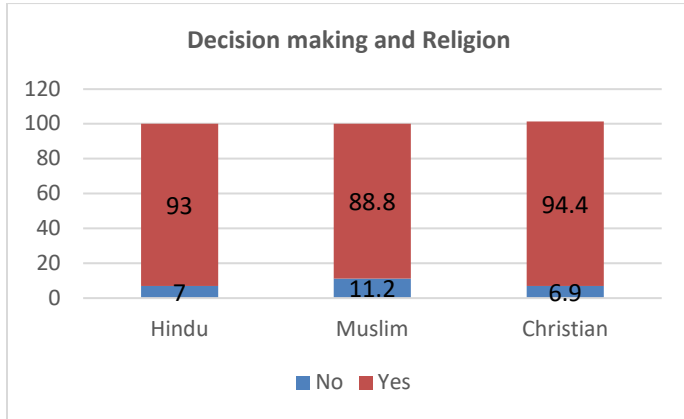


Figure 5: Participation in Decision making across Religion

• Justification of Beating across Religion

It appears strange but is a fact that a part of respondent justifies domestic violence. Majority of these respondents are victims of domestic violence. From Figure 6 it is evident that with the increase in the level of education the proportion of women justifying domestic violence is getting reduced. This shows the influence of education on awareness on domestic violence. As per the data (Figure7), justification of domestic violence was done most by Muslim respondents and least by Christian respondents.

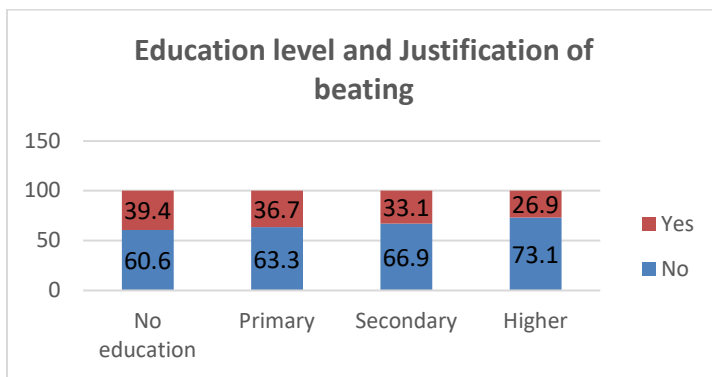


Figure 6: Percentage of women of different education level against justification of beating.

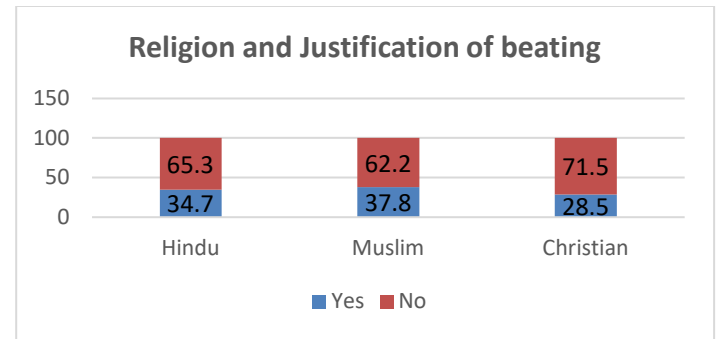


Figure 7: Percentage of women of different Religion who justifies of beating.

• Childhood adversities across Religion

Childhood adversities can have profound and lasting effects on a child's development, potentially leading to long term emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges. The bad experience in childhood would have deep impact on their future life. Adolescent witnessing domestic violence would either consider it as their fate by teach themselves to tolerate or make themselves strong enough to deal such situations. The former cases may lead to continuance of situation in their future life too while the later cases lead to women empowerment.

From the study it is found that women who have experienced physical violence from parents or whose father has ever beat her mother are facing more domestic violence as compared to those who haven't.

• Influence of other determinants across Religion

The determinants religious influence is reflected include "Respondents earn more than her husband, Freedom of movement, type of relationship to husband before marriage and ethnicity". Hindu women who earn more than their husbands are facing less domestic violence whereas Muslim women are facing more. Freedom of movement is an insignificant determinant in Muslim and Christian, where as in Hindu it is significant. Women who had a blood relationship with her husband is more likely to face domestic violence in Hindu and Christian whereas in Muslim it is less.

• Education level of wife and husband – Religion

It is found that education level of both wife and husband is a major factor influencing Domestic Violence across religion. As discussed earlier, with the increase in the education level the act of domestic violence is reduced. It is found that among Muslim,

higher proportion of women and husband/partner are uneducated as compared to other religion. (Figure 8 & Figure 9)

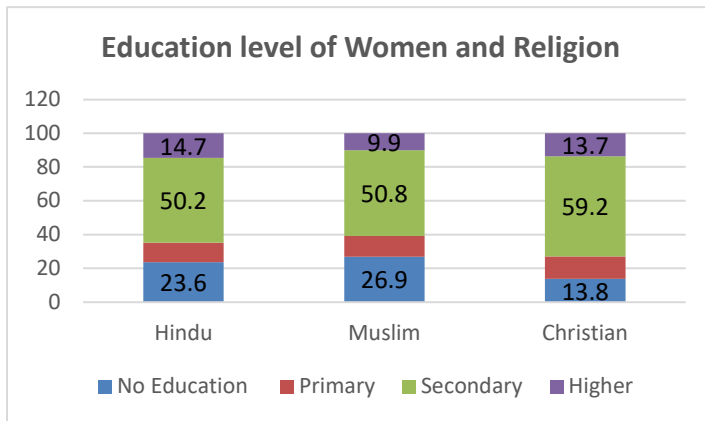


Figure 8: Education Level of Women and Religion

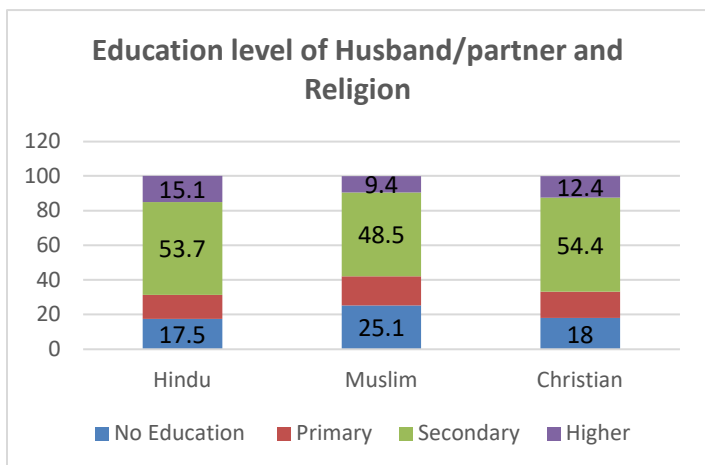


Figure 9: Education Level of Husband / Partner and Religion

CONCLUSION

In a country like India people are more religious. We can see influence of religion on all aspects of life. Mainly in marriage and in family life, right from match making its effect all decisions taken by an individual. People follow their religious instructions may be with slightly varied manners in all important events in their life. So, the study of religious influence on various social parameters are of great relevance.

But in this study, we explore the association between religion and determinants of domestic violence and women empowerment. Results reveal that most of the determinants of women empowerment have similar effect across the religion.

- The influence of parameters such as education level of women and their husband, wealth index, working status, childhood trauma, alcohol consumption by husband, type of

residence and ethnicity, in this study confirms the trend reflected in the NFHS-5 fact sheet on these parameters.

- The result of analyzing influence of owning mobile, house/land in this study is in confirmation with the trend of influence of other parameters as reflected in NFHS-5 fact sheet.
- The study indicates that specific factors contribute to a reduction in domestic violence include educational level, wealth index, participation decision making and owning a mobile phone.

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Table -1 Logistic table and Chai-Square table of religion (Hindu)

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95%C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Religion		68	32	—	—	—	—	—		0.00
Type of place of residence	Urban(ref)	72.4	27.6	—	—	—	—	—	130.036	0.000*
	Rural	66.7	33.3	—	—	—	—	—		
Highest educational level	No Education(ref)	60.1	39.9	—	—	—	—	—	1071.72	0.000*
	Primary	64.1	35.9	.194	.003*	.823	.726	.934		
	Secondary	70.9	29.1	.217	.000*	.805	.720	.901		
	Higher	82.4	17.6	.518	.000*	.596	.482	.736		
Owns a mobile telephone	No(ref)	64.6	35.4	—	—	—	—	—	206.055	0.000*
	Yes	70.7	29.3	.280	.000*	.756	.727	.785		
Owns a bank account	No	68.1	31.9	—	—	—	—	—	0.011	0.929
	Yes	68	32	—	—	—	—	—		
Husband/partner's education level	No Education(ref)	57.8	42.2	—	—	—	—	—	1024.47	0.000*
	Primary	62.1	37.9	.026	.700	0.835	.900	1.170		
	Secondary	69.7	30.3	.013	.828	0.596	.899	1.142		
	Higher	80	20	.315	.003*	.342	.594	.897		
Respondent earns more than her husband	No(ref)	63.2	36.8	—	—	—	—	—	3.988	0.046*
	Yes	61.1	38.9	.087	.046*	.917	.841	.998		
Takes part in Decision Making	No(ref)	55.3	44.7	—	—	—	—	—	16.653	0.000*
	Yes	62	38	.257	.002*	.773	.657	.910		
Freedom of movement	No(ref)	71.2	28.8	—	—	—	—	—	8.517	0.004*
	Yes	67.9	32.1	.154	.004*	1.167	1.052	1.295		
Owns a house/land	No(ref)	70.5	29.5	—	—	—	—	—	129.36	0.000*
	Yes	65.6	34.4	.109	.011*	1.115	1.025	1.212		
Beating Justified by women	No(ref)	75.1	24.9	—	—	—	—	—	1965.09	0.000*
	Yes	55.6	44.4	.764	.000*	2.147	1.966	2.344		
Experienced physical violence from parents	No(ref)	69.7	30.3	—	—	—	—	—	1112.48	0.000*
	Yes	37.9	62.1	.898	.000*	2.456	2.071	2.912		
Experienced physical violence from in-laws	No(ref)	68.2	31.8	—	—	—	—	—	124.24	0.000*
	Yes	25.5	74.5	1.874	.000*	6.513	2.946	14.399		
Husband/partner drinks alcohol	No	75.3	24.7	—	—	—	—	—	2849.18	0.000*
	Yes	50.5	49.5	.905	.000*	2.456	2.071	2.912		
Ethnicity	Caste(ref)	68	32	—	—	—	—	—	93.195	0.000*
	Tribe	65.3	34.7	.118	.000*	1.126	1.054	1.202		
	No caste/tribe	79.4	20.6	.595	.000*	.552	.482	.631		
Wealth Index	Poor(ref)	62	38	—	—	—	—	—	903.346	0.000*

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95%C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
	Middle	67.3	32.7	-.130	.024*	.878	.785	.983		
	Rich	76.4	23.6	-.220	.000*	.802	.709	.908		
Respondent's father ever beat her mother	No(ref)	74.8	25.2	—	—	—	—	—	3766.18	0.000*
	Yes	41.8	58.2	.998	.000*	2.713	2.471	2.979		
Current marital status	Married	68.6	31.4	—	—	—	—	—	341.711	0.000*
	Widowed	66.4	33.6	—	—	—	—	—		
	Divorced	34.3	65.7	—	—	—	—	—		
Caste	Schedule Caste(ref)	63.8	36.2	-.178	—	—	—	—	446.733	0.000*
	Schedule Tribe	64.8	35.2	-.025	.005*	.837	.739	.947		
	OBC	67	33	-.144	.638	.975	.879	1.083		
	None	77	23	—	.064	.866	.744	1.008		
Type of relationship to husband before marriage	Blood relative	59.8	40.2	—	—	—	—	—	3.497	0.064
	Non-blood relative	62.8	37.2	—	—	—	—	—		
Respondents working status	Not working(ref)	72	28	—	—	—	—	—	582.4	0.000*
	Working	61.5	38.5	.478	.000*	1.613	1.551	1.677		
State	North(ref)	79.2	20.8	.109	—	—	—	—	1002.12	0.000*
	Center	63.4	36.6	—	.001*	1.282	1.108	1.483		
	East	67.9	32.1	.249	.842	1.018	.852	1.218		
	North East	70.3	29.7	.018	.010*	1.232	1.051	1.445		
	West	79.4	20.6	.209	.680	1.044	.852	1.279		
	South	60.6	39.4	.043	.803	1.020	.873	1.192		

Table-2 Logistic table and Chai-Square table of religion (Muslim)

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95%C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Religion		70.3	29.7	—	—	—	—	—		0.000*
Type of place of residence	Urban(ref)	72.8	27.2	—	—	—	—	—	11.067	0.001*
	Rural	69.1	30.9	.502	.012*	1.652	1.116	2.446		
Highest educational level	No Education(ref)	64.9	35.1	—	—	—	—	—	128.571	0.000*
	Primary	65.7	34.3	.009	.904	1.009	.873	1.166		
	Secondary	74.8	25.2	-.475	.000*	.622	.556	.696		
	Higher	83.9	16.1	1.038	.000*	.354	.273	.459		

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95%C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Owns a mobile telephone	No(ref)	67.5	32.5	—	—	—	—	—	19.533	0.000*
	Yes	72.3	27.7	-.225	.000*	.799	.723	.883		
Owns a bank account	No	69.3	30.7	—	—	—	—	—	1.103	0.304
	Yes	70.6	29.4	—	—	—	—	—		
Husband/partner's education level	No Education(ref)	62.6	37.4	—	—	—	—	—	154.379	0.000*
	Primary	64.1	35.9	-.062	.406	.940	.812	1.088		
	Secondary	74.3	25.7	-.546	.000*	.579	.515	.652		
	Higher	82.3	17.7	-1.021	.000*	.360	.290	.447		
Respondent earns more than her husband	No(ref)	56.6	43.4	—	—	—	—	—	6.415	0.014*
	Yes	66.1	33.9	.403	.012*	1.496	1.094	2.045		
Takes part in Decision Making	No(ref)	52.4	47.6	—	—	—	—	—	8.922	0.004*
	Yes	65.9	34.1	-.569	.030*	.566	.338	.948		
Freedom of movement	No(ref)	68.9	31.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.304	0.568
	Yes	70.4	29.6	—	—	—	—	—		
Owns a house/land	No(ref)	71.6	28.4	—	—	—	—	—	5.684	0.000*
	Yes	69.1	30.9	.120	.017*	1.127	1.022	1.244		
Beating Justified by women	No(ref)	77	23	—	—	—	—	—	255.197	0.000*
	Yes	59.8	40.2	.761	.000*	2.140	1.510	3.031		
Experienced physical violence from parents	No(ref)	72.4	27.6	—	—	—	—	—	254.39	0.000*
	Yes	32.9	67.1	1.232	.001*	3.429	1.710	6.877		
Experienced physical violence from in-laws	No(ref)	70.6	29.4	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	0.022*
	Yes	47.8	52.2	.961	.022*	2.615	1.152	5.936		
Husband/partner drinks alcohol	No	73.5	26.5	—	—	—	—	—	409.779	0.000*
	Yes	34.8	65.2	—	—	—	—	—		
Ethnicity	Caste(ref)	70.4	29.6	—	—	—	—	—	6.881	0.032*
	Tribe	78	22	-.399	.019*	.671	.481	.936		
	No caste/tribe	69.3	30.7	.054	.359	1.055	.941	1.184		
Wealth Index	Poor(ref)	64.4	35.6	—	—	—	—	—	100.099	0.000*
	Middle	73	27	-.400	.000*	.670	.586	.766		
	Rich	75.8	24.2	-.549	.000*	.578	.516	.646		
Respondent's father ever beat her mother	No(ref)	76.8	23.2	—	—	—	—	—	712.92	0.000*
	Yes	38.2	61.8	1.154	.000*	3.171	2.122	4.737		
Current marital status	Married	70.9	29.1	—	—	—	—	—	97.716	0.000*
	Widowed	73.3	26.7	—	—	—	—	—		
	Divorced	27.1	72.9	—	—	—	—	—		

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95% C.I. for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Caste	Schedule Caste(ref)	60.6	39.4	—	—	—	—	—	47.369	0.000*
	Schedule Tribe	82.6	17.4	-1.131	.000*	.323	.220	.473		
	OBC	68.5	31.5	-.349	.011*	.705	.539	.923		
	None	72.9	27.1	-.561	.000*	.571	.433	.751		
Type of relationship to husband before marriage	Blood relative	65.3	34.7	—	—	—	—	—	0.019	0.935
	Non-blood relative	64.8	35.2	—	—	—	—	—		
Respondents working status	Not working(ref)	72	28	—	—	—	—	—	41.402	0.000*
	Working	63.6	36.4	.390	.000*	1.476	1.311	1.663		
State	North(ref)	81.3	18.7	—	—	—	—	—	190.005	0.000*
	Center	63.1	36.9	1.068	.000*	2.910	1.779	4.757		
	East	70	30	.873	.005*	2.394	1.310	4.376		
	North East	64.6	35.4	.928	.003*	2.529	1.374	4.655		
	West	80.4	19.6	.204	.687	1.226	.455	3.305		
	South	71.9	28.1	.760	.006*	2.139	1.243	3.678		

Table-3 Logistic table and Chi-Square table of religion (Christian)

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95% C.I. for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Religion		78.2	21.8	—	—	—	—	—		0.000*
Type of place of residence	Urban(ref)	80.3	19.7	—	—	—	—	—	3.246	0.072
	Rural	77.7	22.3	—	—	—	—	—		
Highest educational level	No Education(ref)	71	29	—	—	—	—	—	36.646	0.000*
	Primary	78.1	21.9	-.261	.027*	.770	.611	.971		
	Secondary	79.7	20.3	-.326	.001*	.722	.596	.874		
	Higher	83.5	16.5	-.715	.000*	.489	.360	.665		
Owns a mobile telephone	No(ref)	72.8	27.2	—	—	—	—	—	29.706	0.000*
	Yes	80.3	19.7	-.264	.002*	.768	.651	.906		
Owns a bank account	No	76.9	23.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.175	0.290
	Yes	78.6	21.4	—	—	—	—	—		
Husband/partner's education level	No Education(ref)	72.9	27.1	—	—	—	—	—	34.232	0.000*
	Primary	74.3	25.7	-.061	.630	.940	.733	1.207		
	Secondary	79.6	20.4	-.274	.007*	.760	.624	.926		
	Higher	84.2	15.8	-.540	.000*	.583	.434	.782		

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95% C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
Respondent earns more than her husband	No(ref)	72.6	27.4	–	–	–	–	–	0.042	0.868
	Yes	73.3	26.7	–	–	–	–	–		
Takes part in Decision Making	No(ref)	73	27	–	–	–	–	–	0.031	1.000
	Yes	74	26	–	–	–	–	–		
Freedom of movement	No(ref)	83.5	16.5	–	–	–	–	–	1.91	0.207
	Yes	78.1	21.9	–	–	–	–	–		
Owns a house/land	No(ref)	81.7	18.3	–	–	–	–	–	22.26	0.000*
	Yes	75.8	24.2	.352	.000*	1.422	1.228	1.647		
Beating Justified by women	No(ref)	83.4	16.6	–	–	–	–	–	165.488	0.000*
	Yes	66.4	33.6	.937	.000*	2.552	2.207	2.951		
Experienced physical violence from parents	No(ref)	79.3	20.7	–	–	–	–	–	73.974	0.000*
	Yes	50.3	49.7	1.330	.000*	3.781	2.737	5.225		
Experienced physical violence from in-laws	No(ref)	78.4	21.6	–	–	–	–	–	10.207	0.007*
	Yes	28.6	71.4	2.204	.008*	9.064	1.756	46.790		
Husband/partner drinks alcohol	No	86.1	13.9	–	–	–	–	–	260.67 ²	0.000*
	Yes	65.9	34.1	1.087	.000*	2.965	2.548	3.451		
Ethnicity	Caste(ref)	70.4	29.6	–	–	–	–	–	44.532	0.000*
	Tribe	80	20	-.571	.000*	.565	.477	.669		
	No caste/tribe	85.7	14.3	-.893	.000*	.409	.249	.673		
Wealth Index	Poor(ref)	76.1	23.9	–	–	–	–	–	17.674	0.000*
	Middle	79.8	20.2	-.219	.020*	.804	.668	.832		
	Rich	82	18	-.363	.000*	.695	.581			
Respondent's father ever beat her mother	No(ref)	82.7	17.3	–	–	–	–	–	313.068	0.000*
	Yes	50.8	49.2	1.171	.000*	3.224	2.704	3.843		
Current marital status	Married	79.1	20.9	–	–	–	–	–	64.653	0.000*
	Widowed	81.3	18.7	–	–	–	–	–		
	Divorced	53.7	46.3	–	–	–	–	–		
Caste	Schedule Caste(ref)	63.1	36.9	–	–	–	–	–	48.564	0.000*
	Schedule Tribe	79.3	20.7	-.593	.000*	.553	.411	.742		
	OBC	71.5	28.5	-.129	.512	.879	.597	1.293		
	None	84	16	-.765	.002*	.465	.289	.750		
Type of relationship to husband before marriage	Blood relative	60.7	39.3	–	–	–	–	–	6.121	0.017*
	Non-blood relative	73.3	26.7	–	–	–	–	–		
Respondents working status	Not working(ref)	82.9	17.1	–	–	–	–	–	64.157	0.000*
	Working	73.1	26.9	.580	.000*	1.786	1.548	2.060		
State	North(ref)	88.9	11.1	–	–	–	–	–		0.000*
	Center	87.8	12.2	.105	.892	1.111	.243	5.089		
	East	71.6	28.4	1.155	.066	3.174	.927	10.864		

		Experienced any kind of domestic violence		Logistic Table			95% C.I.for EXP(B)		Chi-Square	P-value
		"No"	"Yes"	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper		
	North East	79.6	20.4	.718	.242	2.051	.616	6.829	17.275	
	West	86.2	13.8	.247	.762	1.280	.259	6.329		
	South	75.7	24.3	.945	.127	2.573	.763	8.677		