

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HARYANA**Dr. Rajni Bala**Associate Professor (Dept. of Political Science), Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo
(Punjab)**Sunita Rani**Research Scholar (Dept. of Political Science), Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo
(Punjab)**ABSTRACT**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on domestic violence worldwide, including in Haryana, India. During the lockdown periods, reports suggest that incidents of domestic violence increased as families were confined to their homes, leading to heightened stress, financial pressures, and restricted access to support services.

The situation in Haryana mirrored this trend, with a notable rise in domestic violence cases reported to help lines and support organizations. A woman was particularly vulnerable, facing increased risk due to heightened tensions and reduced opportunities to seek help or escape abusive situations. Efforts were made to address this issue, such as increasing awareness campaigns, enhancing support services, and ensuring that help lines remained operational during the lockdowns. However, challenges persisted, including underreporting, lack of access to services in rural areas, and the need for comprehensive, long-term solutions to address the root causes of domestic violence.

KEYWORDS: Covid-19 pandemic, Lockdown, Social Isolation, Domestic Violence, NCRB data

INTRODUCTION

In the past, sudden-impact disasters were believed to cause not only widespread death, but also massive social disruption and outbreaks of epidemic disease and famine, leaving survivors entirely dependent on outside relief. Systematic observation of the effects of natural disasters on human health has led to different conclusions, both about the effects of disaster on health and about the most effective ways of providing humanitarian assistance.

Domestic violence is a violation of human rights and a serious public health concern with long-lasting consequences for victims and their families. It can lead to physical injuries, mental health issues, substance abuse, and even death. Children who witness domestic violence are also at risk of developing similar patterns of behavior or experiencing other adverse effects. Efforts to address domestic violence include providing safe shelter and support services for victims, holding perpetrators accountable through legal action, and raising awareness to prevent future incidents. Education and community involvement are key in challenging cultural norms that perpetuate violence and promoting healthy, respectful relationships. Domestic violence is a pervasive and complex issue that affects individuals and families worldwide. It refers to 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. This

abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological in nature, and it can happen to anyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, or socioeconomic status. During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of domestic violence have increased significantly as lockdowns and social distancing measures have trapped victims with their abusers, making it harder for them to seek help. Understanding the dynamics of domestic violence, its impact on individuals and communities, and the resources available for support are crucial steps in addressing this issue and providing assistance to those in need.

OBJECTIVE

- To assess the prevalence and nature of domestic violence in Haryana during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- To explore the impact of covid-19 on domestic violence cases.

MEANING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence refers to abusive behavior in a relationship where one partner seeks to dominate and control the other, often through physical, emotional, psychological, or financial means. It can occur between spouses, partners, or household members and can have serious and lasting effects on the victim.

Domestic violence can take various forms:

Physical abuse: This involves hitting, slapping, punching, or any form of physical harm.

Emotional abuse: This includes verbal threats, insults, intimidation, and other behaviors that harm a person's emotional well-being.

Sexual abuse: This involves any non-consensual sexual activity or behavior.

Financial abuse: This involves controlling a person's finances, restricting access to money, or preventing them from working.

Psychological abuse: This includes manipulation, gaslighting, and other behaviors that undermine a person's mental health and self-worth.

ABOUT COVID-19

The origins of COVID-19 can be traced back to a seafood market in Wuhan, China, where the first cases were reported. The virus quickly spread, leading to the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and later a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The rapid spread of the virus was facilitated by globalization and increased international travel, allowing it to reach virtually every corner of the globe within months.

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HARYANA

In Haryana, like in many other parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing issues related to domestic violence. Factors such as economic stress, isolation, and restricted movement made it difficult for victims to seek help or escape abusive situations.

Reports indicate that the number of domestic violence cases where increased during the lockdowns, highlighting the urgent need for support services and interventions. Women's help lines and support organizations faced challenges in reaching out to victims, especially in rural areas where access to services is limited.

		District Wise Crimes against Women 2019		District Wise Crimes against Women 2020		
S.N	District	Cruelty by	Protection of	Cruelty by	Protection	Addit

o.		husband or his relatives (sec 498 A IPC)	women from domestic Violence Act	husband or his relatives (sec 498 A IPC)	of women from domestic Violence Act	ion of crime s wrt 2019
1	Ambala	256	0	258	0	2
2	Bhiwani	278	0	178	0	-100
3	Faridabad	548	0	401	0	-147
4	Fatehabad	90	1	64	0	-26
5	GRP	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gurugram	319	1	291	0	-28
7	Hissar	196	0	191	0	-5
8	Jhajjar	211	0	177	0	-34
9	Jind	156	0	138	0	-18
10	Kaithal	118	0	173	0	55
11	Karnal	259	0	252	0	-7
12	Kurukshetra	296	0	285	0	-11
13	Mahendergarh	70	0	46	0	-24
14	Nuh	166	0	54	0	-112
15	Palwal	194	0	106	0	-88
16	Panchkula	104	0	95	0	-9
17	Panipat	306	0	261	0	-45
18	Rewari	198	0	204	0	6
19	Rohtak	288	0	245	0	-43
20	Sirsa	158	0	153	0	-5
21	Sonipat	299	0	241	0	-58
22	Yamunanagar	238	0	243	0	5
23	Irrigation & Power	0	0	0	0	0
24	Charkhi Dadri	39	0	22	0	-17
25	Hansi	80	0	41	0	-39
	Total	4867	2	4119	0	-748

Source: Calculated from NCRB (Relevant Years)

According to the report of NCRB, in 2019, cases of section 498A of IPC were reported in Haryana, 548 cases in Faridabad district, lowest in Charkhi Dadri 39 cases. In 2020, the maximum 401 cases came in Faridabad and the lowest 22 cases were in Charkhi Dadri. If we compare both the years, then in 2020, the increase of cases during covid-19 was in four districts, Ambala, Kaithal, Yamunanagar and Rewari. The maximum increase was of 55

cases in Kaithal district and the lowest increase was of 2 cases in Ambala.

Here are some points on the effects of COVID-19 on domestic violence:

Increased Stress and Tension: Lockdowns and economic hardships caused by the pandemic have led to increased stress and tension within households, contributing to a rise in domestic violence incidents.

Isolation: Stay-at-home orders and social distancing measures have isolated victims from their support networks, making it harder for them to seek help.

Limited Access to Services: Restrictions on movement have limited victims' access to domestic violence shelters, counseling, and legal services.

Financial Strain: Economic uncertainties and job losses have heightened financial stress, which can escalate conflicts and violence in households.

Escalation of Existing Abuse: Existing abusive relationships may have escalated during the pandemic due to heightened stress and confinement.

Barriers to Reporting: Victims may face barriers in reporting abuse, such as fear of retaliation, limited access to phones or internet, or concerns about COVID-19 exposure in shelters.

Strain on Support Services: Domestic violence shelters and services have faced increased demand and strain on resources during the pandemic.

Challenges in Legal Proceedings: Legal proceedings related to domestic violence may have been delayed or disrupted due to court closures or reduced operations.

Health Impacts: Victims of domestic violence may have faced barriers in accessing healthcare services due to the pandemic, leading to unaddressed health issues.

Digital Abuse: Increased reliance on digital communication during the pandemic has also led to an increase in digital forms of abuse, such as cyber stalking or harassment.

Impact on Marginalized Communities: Marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals and migrants, may face additional challenges in accessing support services and resources.

Intersection with Substance Abuse: Increased substance abuse during the pandemic may have exacerbated domestic violence issues in some households.

Long-Term Effects: The effects of the pandemic on domestic violence, including increased trauma and mental health issues, may have long-term consequences for individuals and communities.

To address this, the government and NGOs in Haryana implemented various measures, including:

Help lines and Online Support: Help lines continued to operate, and online platforms were utilized to provide support and counseling to victims.

Awareness Campaigns: Awareness campaigns were conducted to educate the public about domestic violence and the available support services.

Shelter and Support Services: Shelter homes and support services were made available for victims who needed a safe place to stay.

Legal Aid: Legal aid and assistance were provided to victims to help them navigate the legal system and seek justice.

Community Support: Community networks and local organizations played a crucial role in

identifying and supporting victims of domestic violence.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the prevalence and nature of domestic violence in Haryana. The crisis revealed critical gaps in the support system and emphasized the need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate domestic violence, both during emergencies and in normal circumstances. COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst, bringing the issue of domestic violence in Haryana into sharp focus. It emphasized the need for a multi-faceted approach involving economic support, legal reform, community engagement, and sustained public awareness to effectively address and reduce domestic violence. Building a resilient support system is essential to protect vulnerable populations during crises and beyond.

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