Research article

A methodological study on domestic violence among married women to develop screening tool in selected rural and urban areas, sri amritsar, Punjab

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Abstract

Background: Intimate partner violence against women is seen in all cultures. In the local language, available questionnaires are either too exhaustive or inadequate to assess domestic violence comprehensively
Objectives: The present study objective is to develop screening tool on domestic violence for married women, to establish the content validity of the tool and to establish the reliability of the tool.
Materials and methods: The present study was methodological psychometric evaluation conducted on 300 married women in selected rural and urban areas, Sri Amritsar. The sample was selected through Purposive sampling technique. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (0.61) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (p-value 0.00) validated a 36-item, a self-administered questionnaire. An Eigen value > 1 and a loading factor > 0.3 for each component were considered as indices for extracting domestic violence components.
Results: The instrument was completed by 300 women. According to factors of domestic violence there was 50.06% of married women were having Financial domestic violence, followed by 44.28% of Physical domestic violence followed by 44.17% were having Emotional domestic violence and 36.21% were having Sexual domestic violence. The Cronbach's alpha coefficients were 0.754 of the questionnaire. and S-CVI (Scale content validity index) for the domestic violence questionnaire was 1.0 and CVI (content validity index) for maximum items was between 0.8 – 0.9.
Conclusions: The used instrument for measuring domestic violence had desirable validity and reliability and can be used as a suitable instrument in health and social researchers in the local population

Key words: intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and married women

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1. Introduction

Violence is defined by the world health organization (WHO) as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, against a group or community that either result in or have a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation. [1] Violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedom of women. [2] The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."[3] According to the constitution of India domestic violence was recognized as a criminal offense in India in 1983. The offense chargeable under section 498-A of the

Indian Penal Code that relates to domestic violence is any act of cruelty by a husband (or his family) towards his wife. [4] Domestic violence covers a range of situations, which may include: physical, sexual or psychological abuse e.g. slapping, pushing, kicking, punching, stabbing, rape, verbal abuse, humiliation. [5] WHO defines domestic violence as 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 [6]. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person [7].

Most women who screened positive for domestic violence responded by remaining silent or verbal fighting back. None sought professional help. [8] Women who decided to remain silent feared that the abuse would escalate or that responding would not help them. [9] Women cited social stigma and concerns about the impact of the violence on children as reasons for not disclosing violent incidents to others or seeking professional help. [10] Women's lack of autonomy further reduced their ability to take steps against violence. [11]

Domestic violence is a burden on numerous sectors of the social system and quietly, yet drastically affects the development of a nation, batterers cost nations fortunes in terms of law enforcement, health care, lost labor and general progress in development.[12] These costs do not only affect the present generation; what begins as an assault by one person on another reverberates through the family and the community into the future and need screening at their door with the help of screening instrument. [13]

Aim of the study:

The aim of the study is to assess domestic violence among married women by developing a screening tool which will help women to seek attention from health care institutions being at-risk groups

Objectives:

- To assess domestic violence among married women in order to develop a Screening tool.
- To establish the content validity of the tool.
- To establish the reliability of the tool.

2. Methodology

Research methodology is a way of systematically solving the research problems. It deals with defining the problems, formulation of a hypothesis, the method adopted for data collection and statistical techniques used for analyzing the data with a logical reason behind it. The present study was conducted in Areas under Urban Health Center (Kot Ralia Ram, Bahadur Nagar, Guru Ram Das Nagar and Fat Wali Gali), (Shri Guru

Ram Das charitable hospital), Sri Amritsar. Urban Health Center covers a city of 1, 00,000 population with bed strength of 25/30, it was situated in the south direction of Sri Amritsar. Areas under Rural Health Centre (Verka) (Sohian Khurd), Sri Amritsar. Rural Health Center covers 120,000 populations with bed strength of 35. It located in the east direction of Sri Amritsar. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 300 samples in this study

Description of tools

• Part-A: - Socio-Demographic variables.
• Part-B: - Domestic Violence Screening Tool (Intimate Partner Violence)
Part-A: - Socio-Demographic Variables.
It Includes items for obtaining personal information's of Married Women i.e. Present age, Age at marriage , Duration of marriage , Educational status of married women , Occupational status of married women , Husband 's Educational status , Husband 's Occupational status , Husband Uses of alcohol /Substance abuser , Monthly Family income(Rs) ,Type of family , Number of Children , Residence , Gender of Children
Part –B: - Domestic Violence Screening Tool (Intimate Partner Violence)
It was developed to identify the factors influencing the domestic Violence. It is 4 factors (Physical, Sexual, Emotional and Financial) and 36 -item scale which measures the level of domestic violence in married women life is appraised as violence during the past and present month. There are 36 negative questions for which the subjects were required to choose from a scale of 5 alternatives never, rarely, sometimes, often, more often relating to their level of domestic violence on a 0-4 scale.

Description of tool development:

Phase 1 - Preliminary preparation that further includes three steps:
Step -1 Literature was reviewed related to domestic violence.
Step - 2 Related content was analyzed after reviewing the literature.
Step - 3 Related items were selected from the content and divided into Domains that are
Physical, emotional, sexual and financial and the first draft of the tool of 60 items were prepared.
Phase 2 - Assessment of content validity that was ensured by Total of 25 experts was consulted to find the content validity of the socio-demographic questionnaire and domestic violence questionnaire from related field like nursing (17), psychiatric department (4), psychiatric social workers (3), department of community medicine (1) using Delphi technique in three rounds. The experts were requested to validate content revision, item order

revision, item wording. The suggestion was given by an expert.

Phase 3 - Modification phase Experts opinion were taken consideration changes were made to the tool and modification were done according to experts and item analysis and 20 items are deleted in preliminary testing. A modified interview schedule was prepared to assess domestic violence among married women in order to develop a screening tool and divided into categories in mild, moderate and severe. Guidelines to use the interview schedule were also developed. It was divided into five parts Part – A – it comprises of socio-demographic profile of married women and Part – B DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING TOOL (Intimate partner violence).

Phase 4 – Tool feasibility (Pilot study) - In order to establish feasibility of tool 30 sample was taken for pre-testing (preliminary) of the tool was conducted in the urban area of kitty 1-7 in which 15 sample was taken and rural area of village Mudhal was selected for the pre-testing of the tool in which 15 sample was taken . Language of the questions was clear and it took 15 min to complete one interview schedule and 20 items are deleted as per expert review and item analysis and results shows Cronbach alpha value of scale is 7.78 where 2nd try out of the tool (pilot study) in which 30 sample was taken and carried out in urban area of Gurnanak pura in which 15 sample was taken and rural area of village Fatehgarh shukar Chak in which 15 sample was taken and data was collected and 4 items were deleted by item analysis and by expert review and value of Cronbach alpha is 9.00 . The tool was found to be feasible.

Phase 5 – Try out phase (Final Study)

Total of 36 questions was implemented on 300 married women in which urban area was Kot Ralia Ram, Bahadur Nagar, Guru Ram Das Nagar and Fat Wali Gali in which 150 samples was taken and rural area of village Sohian Khurd in which 150 was selected. Ethical issues were taken into consideration in all phases as married women have given their consent and they have explained about study objectives and they were free to participate and withdraw from the project at any time.

3. Results

Table No 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of married women

N=300

S.N.	Variables	Frequency	(%)
1	Present age (in years)		
	A. < 30	27	9.0
	B. 30 – 40	230	76.0
	C. ≥ 40	43	5.0
2	Age at marriage (in years)		
	A. 18 – 29	273	91.0
	B. 29 – 40	24	8.0
	C. ≥40	3	1.0

S.N.	Variables	Frequency	(%)
3	Duration of marriage (in years)		
	A. <5	43	14.3
	B. 5 – 10	213	71.0
	C. 10 – 15	44	14.7
4	Educational status of married women		
	A. Illiterate	27	9.0
	B. Literate	273	91.0
5	Occupational status of married women		
	A. Housewife	50	16.7
	B. Employed	250	83.3
6	Husband 's educational status		
	A. Unemployed	24	9.0
	B. Employed	276	91.0
7	Husband 's occupational status		
	A.illiterate	24	9.0
	B. Literate	276	91.0
8	Husband uses alcohol / substances		
	A. No	21	7.0
	B. Yes	279	93.0
9	Monthly family income (rs)		
	A.<10000	16	53
	B. 10000 – 20000	264	88.0
	C. 20000 – 30000	11	3.7
	D. ≥30000	9	3.0
10	Type of family		
	A. Nuclear	216	72.7
	B. Joint	82	27.3
11	Number of children		
	A. Nil	18	6.0
	B. 1 – 2	236	78.7
	C. ≥2	46	15.3
12	Residence		
	A. Urban	150	50
	B. Rural	150	50
13	Gender of children		
	A. Boy/'s only	54	18.0
	B. Girl/'s only	48	16.0
	C. Boy and girl (at least one each)	180	60.0
	D. No children	18	6.0

Table 1 depicted socio-demographic profile of the patients. Around 76.7% were between 30 - 40 years of age, 91% were having age at marriage between 18-29, 71% were having duration of marriage between 5-10 year, 91% married women were literate, 83.3% married women were housewife, 92% husbands of married women were literate, 92% husbands of married were employed, 93% husbands of married women were substance abuser or alcoholic, 88% of married women

were having monthly family income between 10000-20000, 72.7% of married women were having nuclear family, 78.7% married women were having 1-2 children, 50% women were having residence were having urban area and subsequently in rural area and 60% married women were having boy and girl child (at least 1 each).

Table No 2(a): Frequency and percentage of level of domestic violence among married women

N=300

Level of Violence	Frequency	Percentage
No	0	0.0
Mild	11	3.7
Moderate	289	96.3
Severe	0	0.0

Table: - 2(a) depicts that majority of the married women suffering from moderate domestic violence (96.3%) and mild domestic violence 3.7 %.Therefore, it is concluded that married women have moderate domestic violence.

Table No 2(b): Factor wise mean percentage distribution of domestic violence among married women

N=300

Violence Score	Violence Item Score	Range	Mean	S.D	Mean %age
Physical	0 -36	6-23	15.90	4.11	44.28
Emotional	0 -36	9 -22	15 .94	2.74	44 .17
Sexual	0 -36	6 -18	13 .04	3.06	36 .21
Financial	0 - 36	11 -25	18.02	3.90	50.06
Total	144	43 -79	62.90	7.08	43.68

Table:- 2(b) depicts that 50.06% of married women were having financial domestic violence, followed by 44.28% with Physical domestic violence followed by 44.17% were having Emotional domestic violence and 36.21% were having Sexual domestic violence. Therefore, it was concluded that majority of married women suffering from financial domestic violence.

Table No 3: Validity of domestic violence screening tool

Scale	Scale Content Validity Index
Socio-demographic questionnaire	1.0
Domestic violence questionnaire	1.0

Table: 3 in the domestic violence questionnaire, the ratings by all experts were also 3 and 4. S-CVI (Scale content validity index) for this questionnaire is 1.0. The mean score of the rating is 3.86. All items in domestic violence questionnaire were taken for further study. There were 36 items in the original tool.

Table No 4 (a): Component wise reliability of the domestic violence screening tool

Method	Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Financial	Total
Cronbach 's Alpha	.764	.646	.630	.780	.754

Table:- 4(a) depicts that .754 is the reliability of the tool of 36 items, where .780 is the reliability of Financial factor .764 reliability of physical factor, .646 reliability of Emotional factor and .630 reliability of sexual factor.

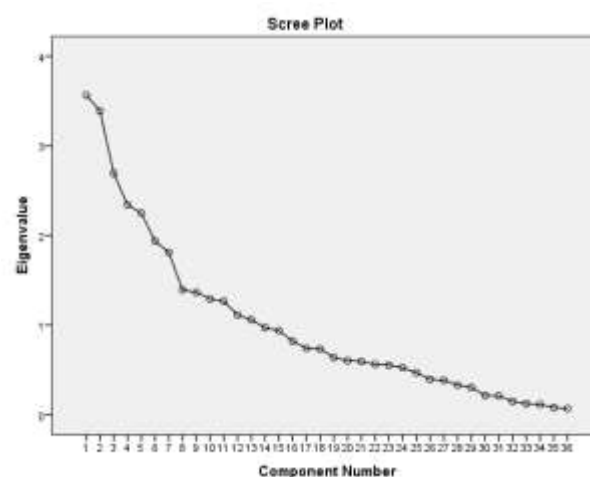Table No 4 (b): Assessment of suitability of domestic violence screening tool for undertaking factor analysis

Test	Value
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO)*	0.61
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (p-value)**	0.00

*KMO value must be >0.60
**Barlett's test of supercity must be <0.05

Table: 4(b) depicts that 36-item, self-administered questionnaire was validated by Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (0.61) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (p-value 0.00) and in which KMO value significant at p-value of >.60 and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity value significant at p-value < 0.05. Therefore, it concluded that that tool has significant results of factor analysis.

Screen plot of domestic violence screening tool showing amount of variance accounted for each factor

Screen plot

Screen plot of 36 items of the tool was drawn and it showed the point of inflection at the eighth component. Though there is not clear cut break in the bending of screen plot, but by keenly looking at the plot it looks logical to retain only eight components which are explaining more of total variances than the remaining components. This plot confirms our previous

observation derived from the total variance explained that eight component best describes principal component solution

4. Discussion

The present study result suggests that majority of the married women suffering from moderate domestic violence (96.3%) and mild domestic violence 3.7%. in which 50.06% of married women were having Financial domestic violence, followed by 44.28% of Physical domestic violence followed by 44.17% were having Emotional domestic violence and 36.21% were having Sexual domestic violence. The study findings focused on consistency with the previous study [15]. Which reported that 90.5% reported moderate form of abuse by their male partner in which 49% were having Financial domestic violence, followed by 45 % were having violence Emotional domestic violence followed by 42% were having Physical domestic and 39 % were having Sexual domestic. In present study, S-CVI (Scale content validity index) for the domestic violence questionnaire is 1.0 and CVI (content validity index) for maximum items is between 0.8 – 0.9. The study findings focused on consistency with the previous study, [8] reported that the content validity index (CVI) and content validity ratio (CVR) were used to measure content validity In this study, the CVI for each of the items was reported higher than 0.80 and average of the CVI for all items (S-CVI/Ave) was attained at 0.91. The present study Cronbach's α findings are .754 is the reliability of the tool of 36 items, where .780 is the reliability of Financial factor 0.764 reliability of physical factor, .646 reliability of Emotional factor and .630 reliability of sexual factor. The study findings focused on consistency with the previous study,[8] reported that Cronbach's α were .81 for the domestic violence tool where as for physical factor .87, psychological factor .89, and sexual violence .80, when compared with the present and [14], reported that Cronbach's α was 0.92.

Implications

The findings of this study will be used in different areas of nursing like the area of service, education, administration, and research. Especially by health personnel vigilant while using this tool for screening vulnerable women in order to prevent women mental health problems and early identification while working in community setting

Limitation

- The main limitation of the study is that studies was confined to married females and have not included unmarried or cohabiting females who may be abused by their boyfriends or partners.

Recommendation

It is suggested to interested researchers to:
- Conduct studies on domestic violence among a different vulnerable section of society.
- Carry out a comparative study of urban and rural married women.
- Carry out a survey research to assess domestic violence among women.
- However, further research is needed to establish stronger psychometric properties for this alternative form of domestic violence screening tool.

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