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Shatabdi Dhara

Investigator, College of
Nursing, N.R.S. Medical
College, Health and Family
Welfare Department, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

Susmita Sengupta

Guide, Senior Lecturer, College
of Nursing, N.R.S. Medical
College, Health and Family
Welfare Department, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

Knowledge and experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence in selected adolescent's friendly clinic of community health centre, West Bengal

Shatabdi Dhara and Susmita Sengupta

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Abstract

Background: Adolescence is a transition period between childhood and maturity age. The physical, psychological, and social changes occur between the ages of 10-19 years. To prevent any traumatizing experience during this period they need proper guidance regarding sexual health at this stage which lay a foundation for adolescents in the future. According to the World Health Organization more than a third of women globally have experienced either physical or sexual violence or both from an intimate partner or non-partner in their lifetime.

Materials and Methods: This non-experimental descriptive research study was conducted among 100 adolescent girls at Mugkalyan Rural Hospital, Bagnan-II, Howrah, West Bengal from 4.12.23 to 6.01.24 were selected by purposive sampling technique, semi - structured questionnaire for demographic variables and structured questionnaire on knowledge and semi-structured interview schedule for assessing experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence among adolescent girls were used for data collection.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that 73% adolescents' knowledge were average and 90% adolescent girls had experienced domestic violence. There was no significant association found between knowledge with selected demographic variables. Only one socio demographic variable i.e. socio-economic condition was significantly associated with knowledge of adolescent girls at 0.05 level of significance.

Conclusion: In conclusion, physical violence was occurred more among them followed by psychological violence and sexual violence.

Keywords: Knowledge, experience, domestic violence, adolescent girls, adolescent's friendly clinic

Introduction

Domestic violence defined as "the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by current or former male intimate partners" by World Health Organization (WHO) ^[1, 2]. As children move to adolescence there is increased risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation. Tragic result is death due to violence are more than double in the first 10 years of life; more than one in three school students aged 13-15 experience bullying ^[3]. To prevent violence against children and women adolescence can take a stand for their prevention ^[4]. It is often hard to conduct research on violence against females, as they do not disclose information to anyone. There is a need to understand for everyone the context of violence and social constructs for elimination of domestic violence against females. Data on prevalence of domestic violence and its determinants in India was very poor, which needs urgent attention. Physical and sexual violence creates threat to adolescents' safety and wellbeing as it is pervasive among adolescents, not just in the short term but over their life course. A focus on early adolescence is particularly critical to stop destructive cycles of intergenerational violence, and to put young people on a path of lifelong health and wellbeing ^[5]. Considering all the above factors the researcher had a genuine interest and felt the need to assess the knowledge and experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence in Selected Adolescent's Friendly Clinic of Community Health Centre, West Bengal.

Corresponding Author:

Shatabdi Dhara

Investigator, College of
Nursing, N.R.S. Medical
College, Health and Family
Welfare Department, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

II. Material and Methods

This non-experimental descriptive research study was conducted to assess knowledge and experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence in Selected Adolescent's Friendly Clinic of Community Health Centre, West Bengal among 100 adolescent girls at Mugkalyan Rural Hospital, Bagnan-II, Howrah, West Bengal from 4.12.23 to 6.01.24.

- **Study Design:** Non-experimental, descriptive research design.
- **Study Location:** This study was conducted at Mugkalyan Rural Hospital, Bagnan-II, Howrah, West Bengal.
- **Study Duration:** From 4/12/23 to 6/1/24
- **Sample Size:** 100 adolescent girls
- **Sample size calculation:** In the present study, the sample constituted of 100 adolescent girls at Mugkalyan Rural Hospital, Bagnan-II, Howrah, West Bengal. Appropriate sample size for the present study was determined by using following; $n = Z^2pq/e^2$ (Z = confidence limit, p = prevalence rate, $q = 1-p$, e = allowable error = 5%)

Z= Confidence limit = (1.96), P= Prevalence Rate (94.94%) from previous study.

- $Q = 1-p$ ($100 - 94.94$) = 5.06
- $n = 1.96 \times 1.96 \times 94.94 \times 5.06 / 25$
- $n = 73.81$
- Final study - 74 adolescent girls (Round figure - 100)

Subjects and selection method: The study population was drawn by non-probability purposive sampling technique among 100 adolescent girls at Mugkalyan Rural Hospital, Bagnan-II, Howrah, West Bengal.

Inclusion criteria

Adolescent girls-

- Who are coming at Adolescent's Friendly clinic in Govt. Rural Hospital
- Give consent to participate in this study.

- Willing to participate in this study.
- Available during data collection.

Exclusion criteria

Adolescent girls who are sick.

Procedure methodology

For data collection first written informed consent was taken then appropriate sitting arrangement was set for participants. Tool-I composed of 7 items to collect information on background data of adolescent girls. The questionnaire included such as age, type of family, religion, education, socio - economic status, monthly family income, no of siblings.

Tool-II Structured questionnaire on knowledge of adolescent girls on domestic violence in total 20 items were prepared. For each statement the chosen answer describes level of knowledge about each statement. There is no right or no wrong answer. Item response ranges from Strongly disagree =1, Disagree = 2, Uncertain = 3, Agree= 4, Strongly Agree = 5.

Tool-III Semi - Structured questionnaire to assess experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence in total 15 items were prepared. This tool was divided into three domain i.e. physical domain (items 1-8), psychological domain (items 9-12), sexual domain (items 13-15). For each statement chosen answer describe have she experienced domestic violence or not. There is no right or wrong answer.

Statistical analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. To assess the demographic characteristics frequency and percentage was used. Frequency, percentage, mean and mean percentage was used for assessment of knowledge and experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence. Chi-square was performed to test association between knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence with selected demographic variables.

III. Result

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of socio demographic characteristics of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence n= 100

Demographic variables	Frequency (%)
Age in years	
16-17 yrs	19
18-19 yrs	81
Family type	
Joint	45
Nuclear	55
Religion	
Hindu	24
Muslim	76
Educational qualification	
Secondary	36
H. S	60
Graduate	4
Monthly income of the family	
Rs.5000-Rs.10000	85
Rs.10001 - Rs.15000	12
Rs.15001 - Rs.20000	3
Socio economic status	
According to modified B.G. Prasad Scale for May 2022	
(Upper class) Rs.8480 and above	Nil
(Upper middle class) Rs.4240 - Rs.8479	4
(Middle class) Rs.2544 - Rs.4239	22

(Lower middle class) Rs.1272 - Rs.2543	63
(Lower class) <Rs.1272	11
Number of siblings	
None	15
One	32
More than one	53

Data presented in Table 1 shows that majority (81%) adolescent belonged to the age group 18-19 yrs. (81%) adolescent belonged to the age group 18-19 yrs. Majority (60%) adolescent's educational qualification was H.S. 85(85%) adolescent's monthly income of the family was

Rs.5000 - Rs.10000. Regarding socio-economic status, 61(61%) adolescents belonged to the lower middle class (Monthly per capita income - Rs.1272-Rs.2543). Majority (53%) participants had more than one sibling.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence n= 100

Level of knowledge	Frequency (%)
Good >(Mean+1SD) (76.84+5.73) = > 83	14 (14%)
Average (Mean ±SD) (76.84±5.73) = 71 - 83	73 (73%)
Poor <(Mean-1SD) (76.84- 5.73) = < 71	13 (13%)

Table 2 shows that knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence, 73(73%) adolescent girls knowledge was

average, 14(14%) adolescent girls had good knowledge and 13(13%) adolescent girls had poor knowledge.

Table 3: Area wise maximum possible score, mean, mean% score of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence n=100

Area wise knowledge	Maximum possible score	Mean	Mean%	Rank
Area - I: Meaning	20	16.60	83	1
Area- II: Cause	25	18.60	74.40	4
Area - III: Impact	30	22.49	74.97	3
Area - IV Prevention	25	19.15	76.60	2

Table 3 shows that regarding area wise knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence, Area - I (Meaning) was first (83%), followed by Area - IV

(prevention) (76.60), Area - III (Impact) (74.97%), Area - II (Causes) (74.40%).

Table 4: Assessment of experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence n=100

Experiences of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence	Characteristics	Frequency (%)
Have you ever experienced domestic violence?	Yes	90 (90%)
	No	10 (10%)

Table 4 shows that regarding experience of adolescent girls relating to domestic violence, 90 (90%) participants had

experienced domestic violence and 10 (10%) participants had no experience regarding this.

Table 5: Domain wise maximum possible score, mean, mean% score of experience of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence n₁ = 90

Domain wise domestic violence of adolescent girls.	Maximum possible score	Mean	Mean%	Rank
Physical violence	8	4.46	55.75	1
Psychological violence	4	2.12	53.00	2
Sexual violence	3	0.20	6.67	3

Table 5 shows that regarding domestic violence of adolescent girls, physical violence was ranked 1st among the

three-domain followed by psychological violence (53%) and sexual violence (6.67%).

Table 6: Chi-value showing association between knowledge of adolescent girls with selected socio demographic variables n=100

Variables	Knowledge score		Chi-square value	df	P-value
	≥Median	<Median			
Age in years					
16-17	7	12	1.387	1	0.2388
18-19	42	39			
Religion					
Hindu	9	15	1.671	1	0.1961
Muslim	40	36			
Educational status					
Up to Secondary	15	21	1.211	1	0.2712
Above Secondary	34	30			
Type of family					
Joint	21	24	0.178	1	0.6728

Nuclear	28	27			
Monthly family income					
≤Rs.10000	42	43	0.038	1	0.8445
>Rs.10000	7	8			
Socio-Economic condition					
Rs.2544 & Above	8	18	4.673	1	0.0306
≤Rs.2543	41	33			
No. of siblings					
None	5	10	1.733	1	0.1879
Other than none	44	41			

$\chi^2(df)$ 3.841, *Significant at $p < 0.05$

Table 6 shows that there was only statistically significant associations found between knowledge score with socio-economic status at 0.05 level of significance.

IV. Discussion

Discussion related to the socio-demographic characteristics of participants

Present study supported by a cross-sectional study conducted by Maduakolam IO *et al.* (2023) to assess the knowledge and experience of sexual violence amongst female adolescents in public schools in Enugu State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subjects were 325 adolescents aged 10-19 years, were purposively recruited in this. Findings showed that greater proportions of the participants were aged between 13 and 15 years (46.8%), followed by those aged 10-12 years (30.2%). Almost all the participants (98.5%) were Christians with only 1.5% represented as Muslims ^[6].

Another study by Anusha U.K *et al* (2015) was conducted aimed to assess the knowledge regarding sexual abuse among adolescent girls in selected High schools at Mysuru. A descriptive study was conducted among 100 adolescent girls. Results found that majority of 47% adolescent girls were belonged to 15 yrs aged group, 90% were belonged to nuclear family, 100% were Hindu, 74% had 2 children at house, 71% participants family income was 10001 ^[7].

Discussion related to the knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence

Present study findings supported by a study done in Enugu State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic by Maduakolam IO *et al.* (2023) to assess the knowledge and experience of sexual violence amongst female adolescents in public schools. Subjects were 325 adolescents aged 10-19 years. They were purposively recruited in this cross-sectional study. Findings showed a high (90.8%) knowledge level of sexual violence among adolescents. Female adolescents showed a good knowledge level about sexual violence, which might explain the low prevalence of sexual violence in the sample population ^[6].

Another quantitative cross-sectional survey among AGYW (n = 403) between 15-24 years old study was conducted by Mtaita C *et al* (2021) to evaluate knowledge of gender-based violence among AGYW, and to explore their perceptions of and experiences with GBV health service quality. This was an explanatory mixed methods design study. Results found that (77.9%) had moderate to good knowledge about gender-based violence ^[8].

A similar descriptive study was conducted by Sophia E, Susan M, Sujith (2020) to assess knowledge and protection from violence among adolescence. The study was among 50 adolescents and they are selected by simple random

technique. Structured administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Results revealed that majority of adolescents 78% had moderately knowledge, 12% had adequate knowledge and 10% had inadequate knowledge regarding domestic violence ^[9].

Discussion related to the adolescent girls experience regarding domestic violence

Study results were supported by a cross-sectional study conducted by Maduakolam IO *et al.* (2023) to assess the knowledge and experience of sexual violence amongst female adolescents in public schools in Enugu State, Nigeria, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subjects were 325 adolescents aged 10-19 years, were purposively recruited in this. Findings showed that the majority (40.4%) by their uncles and (28.6%) by cousins. It also found that among 9.8% of the participants who had forced to have sex, about two-thirds (65.6%) have been raped 2 to 5 times ^[6].

A similar study was conducted in Maharashtra, India by Steinert JI *et al* (2023) to assess Violence against Adolescent Girls during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Girls were eligible for participation if they were aged 13 to 18 years, Results found 3049 adolescent girls were recruited into the study, 251 (8.2%) of who had been married as children. Two thousand and three (65.7%) girls reported exposure to at least one form of family violence in the preceding year and 405 (71.7%) partnered girls reported incidents of IPV ^[10].

Another study among 1687 AGYW aged 10-14 years (n = 606) and 15-22 years (n = 1081), conducted by Orindi BO *et al* (2020) was done to assess experiences of violence among adolescent girls and young women. Subjects were selected random sampling method. Results revealed that among 606 girls aged 10-14 years; about 54% and 7% ever experienced psychological and sexual violence. 33% experienced psychological violence, 16% experienced physical violence and 5% experienced sexual violence in past 6 months ^[11].

Discussion related to the association between knowledge of adolescent girls with selected demographic variables

The study findings were partially supported by Giri R, Samson P (2017) was done by to identify awareness and experience of violence among secondary level students of selected schools of urban and rural area of Kathmandu and Sindhupalchok. A descriptive comparative cross-sectional study was done and purposive sampling technique was used to select 189 students. Results found that residence was found significantly associated with all form of violence (Physical [P=0.001, psychological [p=0.001] and sexual [P=0.001]) at $P < 0.05$. There was significant association between sexual violence and gender (P=0.001) at $P < 0.05$ ^[12].

Another study by Anusha U.K *et al* (2015) was conducted aimed to assess the knowledge regarding sexual abuse among adolescent girls in selected High schools at Mysuru. A descriptive study was conducted among 100 adolescent girls. Results found that there is a significant association between level of knowledge regarding sexual abuse and variable like source of information on sexual abuse among adolescent girls ^[7].

V. Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that 73% adolescent girls' knowledge were average knowledge regarding domestic violence. In this study 90% adolescent girls had experienced domestic violence. Physical violence was occurred more among them followed by psychological violence and sexual violence.

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