



Awareness of Domestic Violence among Educated Married Naga women of Nagaland

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Abstract

This study aimed to find out the Domestic Violence Awareness among the educated married Naga women of Nagaland in relation to educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children. The sample of the study consisted of 100 educated married Naga women selected through simple random sampling. The study used the tool, Domestic Violence Awareness Scale developed by Sneha Jain and Shilpa Rathore. Data collected was analysed using Mean, SD, t-test and ANOVA. The findings of the study found no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness among the Naga women on the basis of educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children.

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1. Introduction

The United Nations defined domestic abuse, also called “domestic violence” or “intimate partner violence,” as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Domestic violence may be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person- any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Anyone can become a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, gender, faith or class, religion, education levels, socioeconomic background, race, etc.

All around the world, women face domestic violence, India and Nagaland is no exception. The National Crime Records Bureau (2023) ^[1], reported a total of 4,48,211 crimes against women in 2023, which was an increase from 4,45,256 cases in 2022 and 4,28,278 in 2021. It reported that the majority of these cases under IPC were registered under ‘Cruelty by Husband or Relatives’ (1,33,676 cases, 29.8%), ‘Kidnapping and Abduction of Women’ (88,605 cases, 19.8%), followed by ‘Assault on Women with intent to outrage her modesty’ (83,891 cases, 18.71%) and ‘Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)’ (66,232 cases, 14.8%). In Nagaland, cases of cognisable ‘Crime against Women’ registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL) rose from 49 in 2022 to 56 in 2023, involving 57 victims representing a 12.5% rise over 2022 and the highest number of cases in last four years. The National Commission for Women, Nagaland, reported that Nagaland recorded the highest number of 350 cases of domestic violence against women in 2023, as per the available records in the last three to four years. Over the years, Nagaland has seen the rise of domestic violence; and many of these cases are underreported across the state, being considered a ‘taboo’ subject in the society. At times, victims of such cases hardly speak out or seek help which may be due to lack of awareness or societal pressures, feelings of shame, fear, and stigma associated with it. Domestic violence has serious repercussions not only on the victims but also their families, relatives, neighbours and the society in general. Ok-Hee Cho *et al.* (2015) ^[2] conducted a study in South Korea on “awareness and attitudes towards violence and abuse among emergency nurses,” of which there were 131 participants.

The study found that approximately 60.0% of participants experienced incidents of suspected abuse or violence, but the reporting rates were low; of all the participants, 70.2% knew that they must report the discovery of abuse or violent incidents, but 45.0% did not know that if they had the duty to report such incidents and they did not report so, then he/she had a legal responsibility. The study also found that the reasons for not reporting were that the incident was not severe and did not have sufficient evidence; some did not know where or how to report, or some stating lack of sufficient time to report abuse or violence, due to heavy workload or due to the incident being considered a personal or family matter. Ram *et al.* (2019) ^[3] conducted a study on “Domestic Violence and its determinants among 15–49-year-old women (120 participants) in a rural block in South India.” The study found that the prevalence of all forms of domestic violence among women was 77.5%, (physical violence was 65.8%, sexual abuse was 17.5%, and emotional abuse was 54.2%) and 40% women were classified as having been subjected to severe domestic violence. The study also revealed that three-fourth (73.1%) of the women felt that being subjected to domestic violence had affected their physical and mental health. Yazici *et al.* (2022) ^[5] conducted a descriptive and cross-sectional study on 353 individuals to know their awareness of and attitude towards Domestic Violence in Turkish Society. This study found the participants to have high domestic violence awareness and negative attitude towards domestic violence; and those living in big cities were found to have higher domestic violence awareness and negative attitude towards domestic violence as compared to those living in rural areas. The study also found women to have lower level of attitude towards domestic violence as compared to men; awareness of domestic violence in respondents whose family was extended were higher than those of respondents from the nuclear and broken families; awareness of domestic violence in other professionals (self-employed) were higher than those in students, healthcare workers, academicians, and teachers; domestic violence awareness was found higher among those with higher education level and those who were childless. Sufficient studies on awareness of domestic violence could not be found with regard to Nagaland, although there has been an increasing trend of domestic violence and its reports

in the state. Therefore, this study was undertaken to find out the awareness of domestic violence among the educated married Naga women as it is faced by all women irrespective of their backgrounds. Understanding the prevalence of domestic violence in the state and its awareness will enable the stakeholders of the society to understand the status and the crux of the problem in Nagaland, and thereby to adopt strategies for the improvement of the lives of women in the society.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To study the level of Domestic Violence Awareness of Educated married Naga women in Nagaland
2. To study the Domestic Violence Awareness level of Educated married Naga women in Nagaland based on educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children

3. Hypotheses of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness level of Educated Naga women in Nagaland based on educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children

4. Methodology of the Study

1. **Research Design:** Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study.
2. **Population and Sample:** The population consisted of all the educated married Naga women of Nagaland. The sample consisted of 100 Naga women selected through simple random sampling.
3. **Tools and techniques:** The tool employed to collect the data was Domestic Violence Awareness Scale developed by Sneha Jain and Shilpa Rathore. Data obtained was analysed using appropriate statistical technique such as Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation, t-test and ANOVA.
4. **Delimitation of the study:** This study was confined to educated and married Naga women of Nagaland only.

5. Results and Interpretations

Objective 1: To study the level of Domestic Violence Awareness among Educated married Naga women

Table 1: Domestic Violence Awareness level of educated married Naga women

Sl. No.	Frequency	%	Score Range	Categories	Overall Mean
1	0	0	144-165	Very well aware	123.14
2	58%	58%	122-143	Well aware	
3	42%	42%	99-121	Average Aware	
4	0	0	77-98	Less Aware	
5	0	0	55-76	Least Aware	
Total	100%	100%			

Table 1 shows the Domestic Violence Awareness level of educated married Naga women of Nagaland. It can be observed that out of 100 respondents, 58 respondents i.e. majority scored in the “well aware” range, and 42% scored in the “average aware” level. Based on the mean in table 1, we may infer that educated married Naga women in Nagaland have domestic violence awareness score of 123.14, which is within the range of 122-143. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Domestic Violence Awareness of educated Naga

women are at the “well aware” level. However, none of the respondents scored in the “very well aware” as well as “less aware” or “least aware” level.

Objective 2: To study the Domestic Violence Awareness of Educated married Naga women based on educational qualification, age, length of marriage, number of children and age at marriage

The overall distribution of the sample consisted of 100 educated married Naga women of Nagaland. The analyzed data is presented with respect to the following variables:

educational qualification, age, length of marriage, number of children and age at marriage.

Table 2: Descriptive statistic for overall sample

Variable		No. of women	Mean	SD
Educational Qualification	PG	66	123.21	7.38
	UG	34	123	7.47
Age	25-30 years	10	122.6	53.38
	31-35 years	33	123.82	54.53
	36-40 years	46	122.26	56.55
	40 above years	11	125.27	51.81
	Less than 5 years	48	122.77	48.69
Length of marriage	Less than 15 years	42	123.14	59.05
	Less than 25 years	10	124.90	71.66
Number of children	0	24	125.50	38.61
	1	28	123.71	60.36
	2	28	123.04	57.89
	3 & more	20	119.65	48.66
Age at marriage	18-25 years	11	123	48.4
	26-30 years	48	122.54	60.21
	31-35 years	41	123.88	50.96

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of educated married Naga women in

Nagaland based on educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children

Table 3: Results of t-test on Domestic Violence Awareness among Naga women with respect to educational qualification

Variables		N	Mean	S.D.	df	t value	S/NS
Educational Qualification	PG	66	123.21	7.38	98	0.1354	NS*
	UG	34	123	7.47			

*At 0.05 level of significance

Table 3 shows the calculated t value (0.1354), for the significance of the difference between the means of post graduate and graduate Naga women on Domestic Violence Awareness is less than table value (1.96) for df=198 at 0.05

level of significance respectively. Thus, the null hypotheses, “there is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women on the basis of educational qualification” is accepted.

Table 4: Result of the F-test for the significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women with respect to age.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	S/NS
Between Groups	103.6795	3	34.55984	0.627367	NS*
Within Groups	5288.36	96	55.08709		
Total	5392.04	99			

*At 0.05 level of significance

From table 4, it can be observed that the calculated value of F (0.6273) for df=3 and 96 is less than the critical F value (2.70) and is therefore statistically not significant at 0.05 level

of significance. Thus, the null hypotheses, “there is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women on the basis of age” is accepted.

Table 5: Result of the F-test for the significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women with respect to length of marriage.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	S/NS
Between Groups	37.51798	2	18.75899	0.3398	NS*
Within Groups	5354.522	97	55.20126		
Total	5392.04	99			

*At 0.05 level of significance

From table 5, it can be observed that the calculated value of F (0.3398) for df=2 and 97 is less than the critical F value (3.09) and is therefore statistically not significant at 0.05 level

of significance. Thus, the null hypotheses, “there is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women on the basis of length of marriage” is accepted.

Table 6: Result of the F-test for the significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women with respect to number of children.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	S/NS
Between Groups	386.8114	3	128.9371	2.4730	NS*
Within Groups	5005.229	96	52.1378		
Total	5392.04	99			

*At 0.05 level of significance

From table 6, it can be observed that the calculated value of F (2.4730) for df=3 and 96 is less than the critical F value (2.70) and is therefore statistically not significant at 0.05 level

of significance. Thus, the null hypotheses, “there is no significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women on the basis of number of children” is accepted.

Table 7: Result of the F-test for the significant difference in the Domestic Violence Awareness of Naga women with respect to age at marriage.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	S/NS
Between Groups	39.73309	2	19.86654	0.36004	NS*
Within Groups	5352.307	97	55.17842		
Total	5392.04	99			

*At 0.05 level of significance

From table 7, it can be observed that the calculated value of F (0.36004) for df=2 and 97 is less than the critical F value (3.09) and is therefore statistically not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, we cannot reject the null hypothesis that, there is significant difference among the means of different groups on the basis of their age at marriage on Domestic Violence Awareness. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted at this degree of confidence.

6. Discussion

The study found majority of the educated married Naga women i.e. 58% had “well aware” level of domestic violence awareness. However, none of them were found to have “very well aware” level. This may be because all the women are educated and they may have certain knowledge about domestic violence. However, they may not be very well aware about the legal and psychological interventions that could be taken when faced with such incidents. The study found no significant difference in the domestic violence awareness score of Naga women on the basis of their educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children. One reason could be due to the fact that all the respondents had university education, and thus, they may have more knowledge about domestic violence and therefore, may be more likely to seek help and assistance from others.

7. Conclusion

The study found average level of domestic violence awareness among the educated married Naga women; and no significant difference was found in the domestic violence awareness score of Naga women on the basis of their educational level, age at marriage, length of married years and number of children. Some of the implications of the study are:

1. Appropriate sensitization and awareness programme on domestic violence must be organized in the society so that people will realise the strategies they need to undertake during such incidents.
2. NGOs, civil societies, medical practitioners, media, police, educators and educational institutions should play a proactive role of imparting systemic education on the physical, social, emotional, psychological, and legal

interventions to all sections of the society from time to time to create widespread awareness among the people.

3. Legal actions should be strictly implemented and stringent punishments must be meted to the perpetrators to curb domestic violence in the society.
4. Education on human rights and gender equality, women empowerment need to be emphasized.
5. Study on gender and gender issues need to be incorporated in the school curriculum.

Further studies maybe conducted from the qualitative aspects incorporating the types of domestic violence faced by women, the strategies they adopt during such incidents and measures to better the condition of women in the society with regard to domestic violence. Further, studies incorporating both literates and illiterates, male and female, rural and urban may be undertaken too.

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