Domestic Violence during Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case for Indian Women

Suresh Kashinath Ghatge [1], Prof. (Dr.) Anuradha Parasar [2]

[1] Ph.D. Research Scholar, Liberal Arts, MIT WPU, Pune, Maharashtra, India

[2] Professor, School of Liberal Education, Galgotia University Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Email- [1] suresh.k.ghatge@gmail.com, [2] anuradhaparasar99@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

The covid-19 outbreak has raised the number of domestic violence cases worldwide. Social distancing, closures of essential community foundations, and several social restrictions have dramatically enhanced the risk of domestic violence. This study is focusing on the evaluation of pandemic-related registered reports on domestic violence in India. It has been seen that in India, women are the main victims of domestic violence which resulted in the mental health, and physical health of Indian women. Verbal and non-verbal aggression destroys women's self-worth and affects them emotionally due to "domestic violence". During the Covid-19n pandemic situation, lockdowns and domestic violence enhance sexual abuse and violence among women in India. As domestic violence affected Indian women physically, mentally, and emotionally, this incident even leads the Indian woman toward suicide.

In order to lead this study, the researcher has adopted a *"primary quantitative data collection tool"* to collect the raw data and information related to this topic. Depending on the survey process the researcher has completed it and evaluated the data through SPSS software. *51 respondents* participated in the survey process and the respondents have chosen from all over India to get different perspectives on domestic violence. The search has carried informative information to meet the research objectives and present a valuable research paper. Incidents of domestic violence are enhanced in the response to lockdown orders and staying at home which needs a proper solution to manage the situation.

Keywords: domestic violence, Indian women, mental health, physical health, society, restriction, covid-19.

INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Background of the study

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has impacted the economy as well as live styles of the people of India. Maximum people of India belong from middle class to lower class people. "Intimate partner violence", "sexual violence", "harassment", "human trafficking", "female genital mutilation", and "child marriage" are common domestic violence in India.

In India, based on the 2021 report it has been found that a total of above *43 thousand cases* have been registered regarding cruelty or domestic abuse by the husband or relatives in India (Statista.com, 2021). In addition, above *3 thousand cases* have been registered for rape, and *8 thousand cases* filed for kidnapping and abduction in 2021 (Statista.com, 2021). The rate of women violence is greater than men in India which shows that Indian women have less power. Male domination and power are one of the main reasons behind the development of filed cases of domestic violence. Thus, many domestic violence cases are remained unreported due to a lack of courage and scope. The rate of this has dramatically increased due to pandemic restrictions.
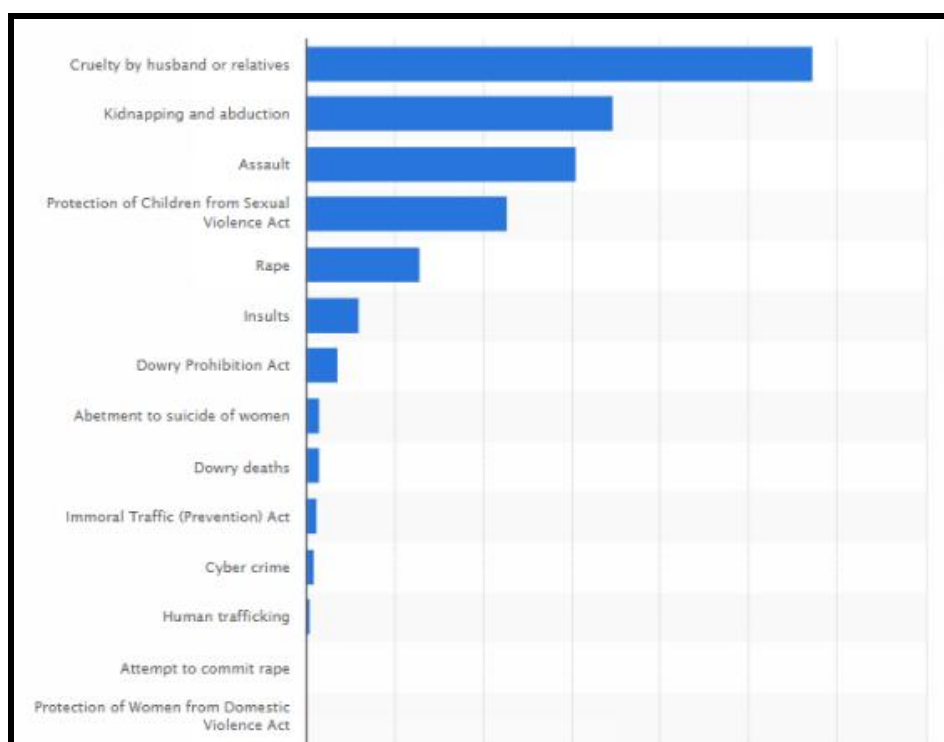
Figure 1.1.1: Reported crimes against women in 2021 in India

(Source: Statista.com, 2021)

1.2 Aim and objectives

This research paper aims to discuss the social condition during the Covid-19 pandemic situation and its impact on increasing domestic violence. The research objectives are:

- To identify the potential risk factors in domestic violence

- To evaluate the reasons behind increasing domestic violence against women during the covid-19 pandemic

- To understand the impact of domestic violence on women during the covid-19 pandemic in India

LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.1 Risk factors in domestic violence

Domestic abuse of "domestic violence" can be described as the design of behaviour in any relationship that is utilised to achieve or getting power over an intimate partner. India is a country where mainly women are the victims of domestic violence. Different research indicates that some risk factors are associated with domestic violence that can affect the family and individual as well. *Low education and family income* are the main risk factors that can increase domestic violence (Amir-ud-Din *et al.* 2021). Income of a large number of people in many families in rural and urban areas in India is not adequate to meet their daily needs. It is the main cause of violence that occurs in Indian families. Hence, family income is one of the crucial factors that can increase violence against women in society. *Lack of education* is another risk factor of increasing domestic violence in society.

Heavy alcohol and drug usage are also major risk factors in domestic violence. Excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs can be a significant contributor to spousal abuse. Additionally, *Early marriage* is also a factor in domestic violence. Girls who marry early are more likely to experience domestic violence than others. Child brides may experience sexual abuse from their partners and it occurs due to a lack of education. Sometimes male partners think they are superior in the relationship and they have to control the relationship. This patriarchal structure of Indian society sometimes leads to perform violence against women (Dutt, 2018). *Lack of nonviolent social problem skills* is also a factor that can increase domestic violence. Sometimes lack of patience and non-violent problem-solving skills leads men to abuse women in society.

2.2 Reasons behind increasing domestic violence against women during the covid-19 pandemic

Domestic violence is not a new issue in society but the Covid-19 pandemic has affected it badly. The number of complaints about domestic violence in India increased from 2960 to 5297 in the year 2020 when the country was under lockdown (Times of India, 2021). There are a few reasons that affect society and influence domestic violence during the pandemic. The income of individuals decreased due to the worldwide lockdown and the unemployment rate increased all over India which makes them depressed and leads them to perform violence against women. The pandemic forced everyone to stay at home and men who are working away from home come home for the countrywide lockdown. It increases domestic and relational problems and leads women to face domestic violence.

The epidemic and countrywide lockdown increased health and financial tensions among the men and it makes them depressed which is the major reason behind the increasing domestic violence in India. The pandemic forced people to stay at home, many peoples lost their source of income due to the lockdown and which affects their mental health (Bil, 2021).

Distressing mental health increased violence against women during the lockdown. Covid-19 increases the workload on healthcare and cleaning persons and this increased workload affects their mental and physical health. These health-related tensions among these professionals are also the major cause of increasing domestic violence in the country. Lockdown stopped everything in the country, police and other judicial bodies were not working efficiently at that time. This influences domestic violence among women in India.

2.3 Impact of domestic violence on women during the covid-19 pandemic in India

Pandemic and countrywide lockdown affect everything around the world. Women also suffered during the lockdown for occurring domestic violence at home. The violence affects the physical and mental health of the victim. It traumatised women that affected their mental health and increased depression among them. Verbal and non-verbal aggression erodes women's self-worth and affects them emotionally due to domestic violence. Lockdown and pandemic increase domestic violence among women and influence hopelessness and unworthiness among women and it is also the cause of emotional distress among women. Domestic violence against women increases homelessness among women. A large number of women leave their homes during the lockdown due to the violence. The lockdown and domestic violence increase poverty among women. Some women fail to pay for their healthcare and basic needs and it forces them to perform unlawful activities.

Lockdown and domestic violence increase sexual abuse and violence among women. Lockdown stops everything but sexual abuse and rape cases all over the country increase in a steady manner. The covid 19 pandemic and domestic violence influence the sexual abuse of women and even force them towards suicide. In the year 2021, the female suicide rate increased to 51.5% from 50.3% in India which signifies domestic violence during the lockdown influenced women to suicide (Times of India, 2022). Therefore, it can be stated that lockdown and domestic violence make women's situation worse in India. Domestic violence affects them physically, mentally and emotionally.

2.4 Theoretical Perspectives

System theory

Main focus of the family system theory is the family unit and it attempts to explain the behaviour of individuals within the concept of interpersonal relationships, the family system and the wider societal system. According to the family system theory family unit is a complex social structure in which members interact with each other and influence each other's behaviour (Larkin, 2019). Domestic violence in a family occurs due to the complexities of the relationship and this relationship is affected by different social parameters such as family income, education, and healthcare. The mental and emotional status also plays a significant role to maintain relationships in a family system. Heavy alcohol consumption and alcohol and drug addiction make a person unconscious about their belongings and even

their relationships. It affects social interaction in a relationship and leads to perform domestic violence. Family income is the major cause of the disturbance in the family system. Income is the main factor that helps to meet the daily needs and desires in a family.

Low-income families fail to meet their basic needs and make them depressed consequently it affects the interpersonal relations of family members which is the cause of domestic violence in society. The problem occurs mostly with young couples who are not enough aware of social factors that affect the relationship. Young couples are not capable enough to handle family and relationship issues and consequently influence domestic violence. Family is a complex structure where every member is connected with each other through emotions and responsibilities. For that reason often problems occur in relationships but non-violent problem-solving skills can save the family from domestic violence (Wojda, 2022). Due to a lack of non-violence problem-solving skills, the relationships in a family destroys and domestic violence takes place. Therefore, it can be stated that the failure of the family system and domestic violence are interrelated. Failure in relationships and family systems is the main cause of increasing domestic violence in society.
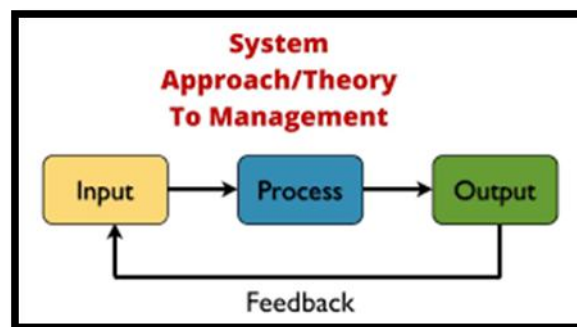

Figure 2.4.1: System theory

(Source: Influenced by Wojda, 2022)

2.5 Literature gap

Literature gap refers to the areas where the research study failed to focus due to insufficient data and other complications. This research is focusing on the different risk factors of domestic violence and the impact of this violence on women during the pandemic period. On the other hand, this research fails to focus on the factors that can mitigate this social issue. It gives opportunity for the future researchers to perform research on these factors.

METHODS:

This study desires to represent the actual condition of domestic violence on Indian women and in this context; the researcher has tried to use effective research tools to collect information and data. A *"positivism research philosophy"* has been used as it motivated the developer to adopt a detectable and quantifiable approach to make the research paper more

valuable. As stated by HR, & Aithal (2022), generalisable objective data and presenting reliability in the research process this philosophy is entirely effective. In addition to this, a "deductive research approach" has been adopted as it is useful in investigating the overview of the research topic and making sure to extract better result quality. Besides this, a "descriptive research design" has been selected in this study paper to serve a better structure depending on whether the developer could gather a dynamic range of quantitative evidence regarding the research topic.

Apart from this, a *"primary quantitative data collection tool"* has been adopted to collect all the pertinent data and information regarding domestic violence. As opposed to Clark & Vealé (2018), this tool is effective as it is able to collect first-hand data which could not be possible to imitate. In this particular research process, leading a survey process has been chosen to explore the large size of data. Due to conducting the survey process, the developer has selected *51 respondents* from different areas overall India who have knowledge regarding domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic situation to get contrasting opinions. A questionnaire of *"10 close-ended questions"* all related to the research objectives have been set by the developer to meet the requirements and prepare a valuable result. Every question has been provided with 5 options to make it easy to answer every statement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

4.1 Results

Frequency analysis

		Age	Gender	The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India	Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic	Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women	Alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence	Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic	The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse	In rural areas domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown the legal rights	The rate of domestic violence have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic
N	Valid	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		1.45	.63	3.00	3.37	2.92	2.69	3.55	2.41	3.18	3.04
Median		1.00	1.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00
Mode		2	1	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4

Figure 4.1.1: Frequency analysis

(Source: SPSS)

In order to calculate and justified whether the data frequency is valid or not the "frequency analysis" table is useful. As stated by Umar &Gubareva (2020), the "frequency analysis" table is mainly depending on "mean" and "median" values. The "mean values" of the variables are *1.45, 0.63, 3.00, 3.37, 2.92, 2.69, 3.55, 2.41, 3.18,* and *3.04*. Contradictory, the "median values" of the variables are *1, 1, 3, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3, 4,* and *4*. The values specified that the frequency of the collected data are accurate and able to generate through SPSS software.

Bar chart evaluation
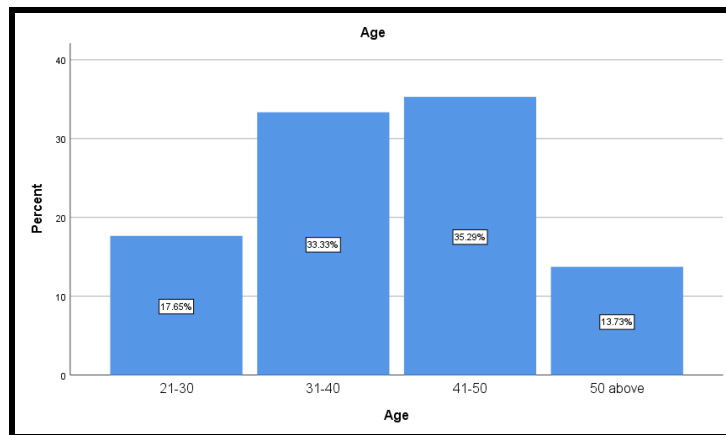
Figure 4.1.2: Age group

(Source: SPSS)

Four different "age groups" have been set in the survey to know about the group of people who are more acknowledged to domestic violence. In this regard, the "21-30 years old" group conveys *17.65%*, "31-40 years old" group conveys *33.33%*, "41-50 years old" group conveys *35.29%*, and the "up to 50 years old" group conveys remaining *13.73%* of the survey population.
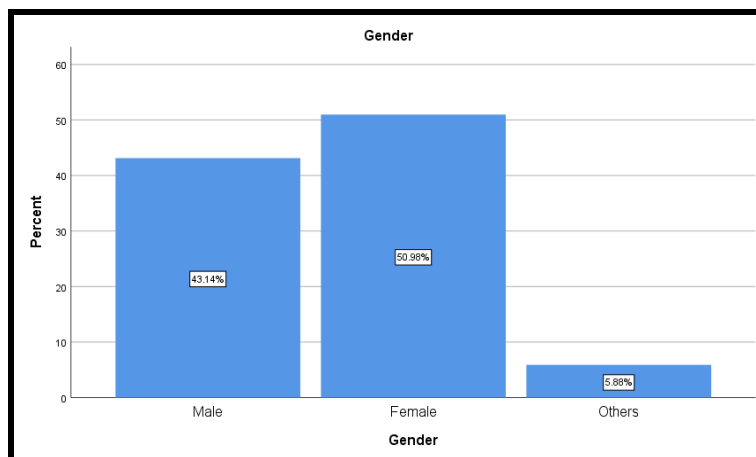
Figure 4.1.3: Gender group

(Source: SPSS)

All gender differences were given the opportunity to participate in the survey process. Gender was divided into three types of groups "male group" conveys *43.14%,* "female group" conveys *50.98%*, and "other gender group" conveys the remaining *5.88%* of the respondents. Women participated more in this survey as they are victims of domestic violence.
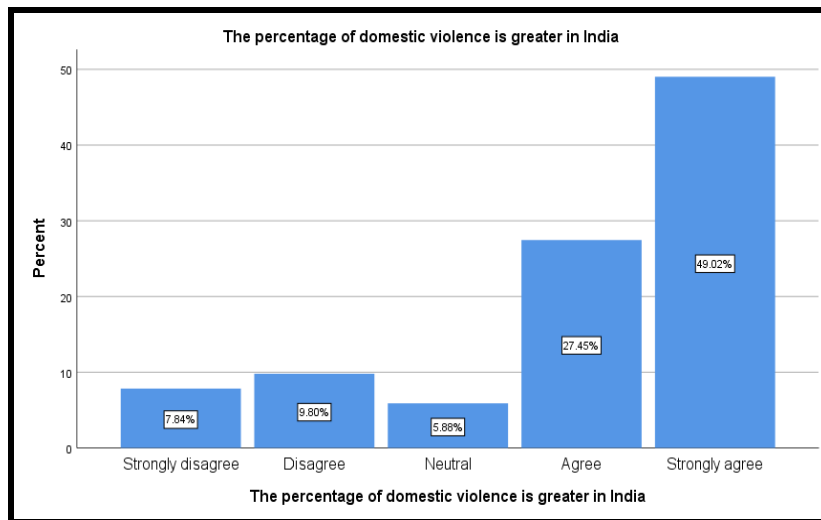
Figure 4.1.4: The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India

(Source: SPSS)

Based on this bar chart, *49.02%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *27.45%* of the population is "determined" that the percentage of domestic violence is greater in India. Thus, *5.88%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *9.80%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *7.84%* of the population is "denied".
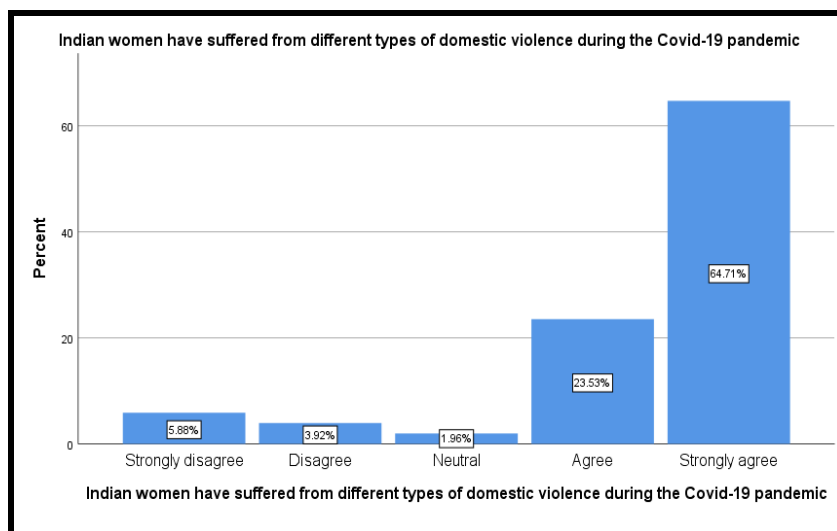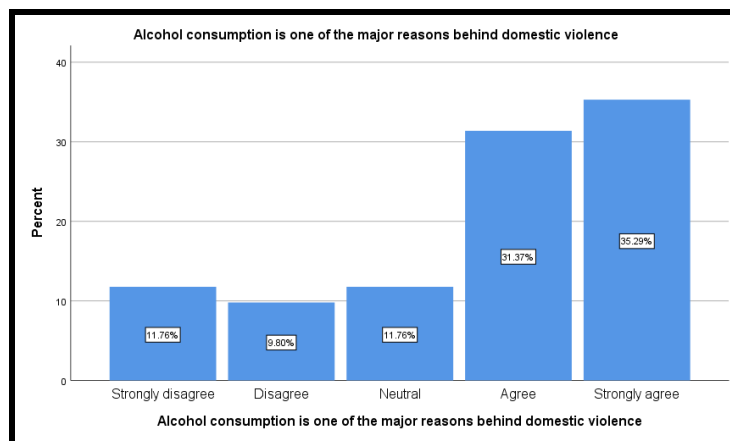
Figure 4.1.5: Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic

(Source: SPSS)

According to the result, ***64.71%*** of the population is "strongly determined" and ***23.53%*** of the population is "determined" that Indian women have suffered from several types of "domestic violence" during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, ***1.96%*** of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, ***3.92%*** of the population is "strongly denied" and ***5.88%*** of the population is "denied".
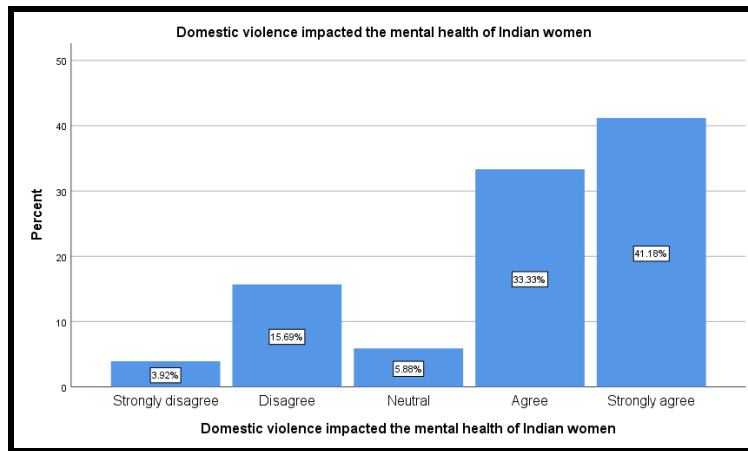
Figure 4.1.6: Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women

(Source: SPSS)

It becomes understood after getting this bar graph that ***41.18%*** of the population is "strongly determined" and ***33.33%*** of the population is "determined" that domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women. Thus, ***5.88%*** of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, ***15.69%*** of the population is "strongly denied" and ***3.92%*** of the population is "denied".

Figure 4.1.7: Alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence

(Source: SPSS)

According to the above bar chart, *35.29%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *31.37%* of the population is "determined" that alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence. Thus, *11.76%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *9.80%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *11.76%* of the population is "denied".


Figure 4.1.8: Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic

(Source: SPSS)

Following the above bar chart, *76.47%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *13.73%* of the population is "determined" with this declaration. Thus, *1.96%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *3.92%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *3.92%* of the population is "denied".
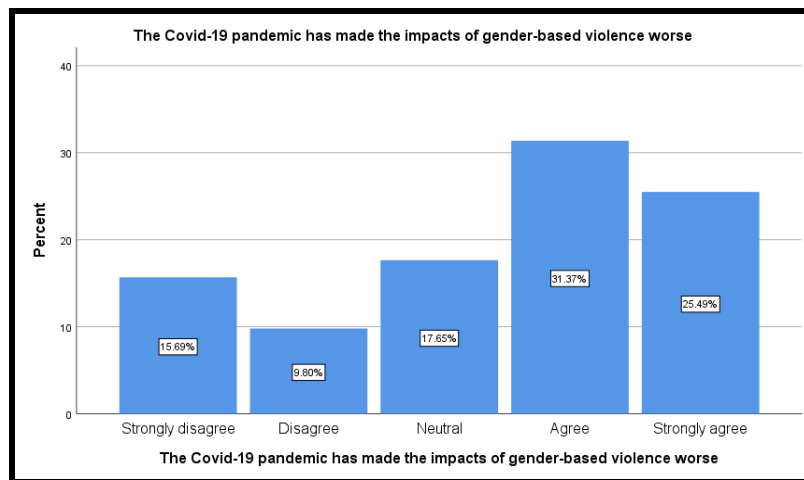
Figure 4.1.9: The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse

(Source: SPSS)

Based on the above graph, *25.49%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *31.37%* of the population is "determined" with this declaration. Thus, *17.65%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *9.80%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *15.69%* of the population is "denied".
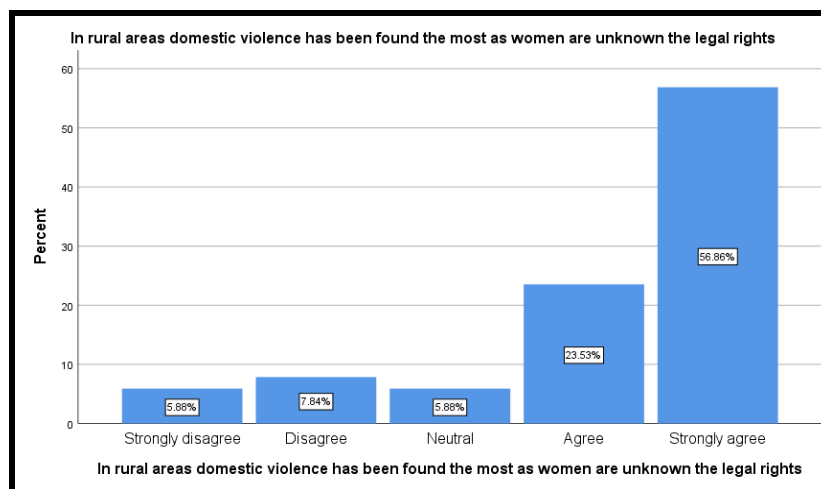
Figure 4.1.10: In rural areas, domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown legal rights

(Source: SPSS)

Depending on the above graph bar, *56.86%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *23.53%* of the population is "determined" with this declaration. Thus, *5.88%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *7.84%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *5.88%* of the population is "denied".
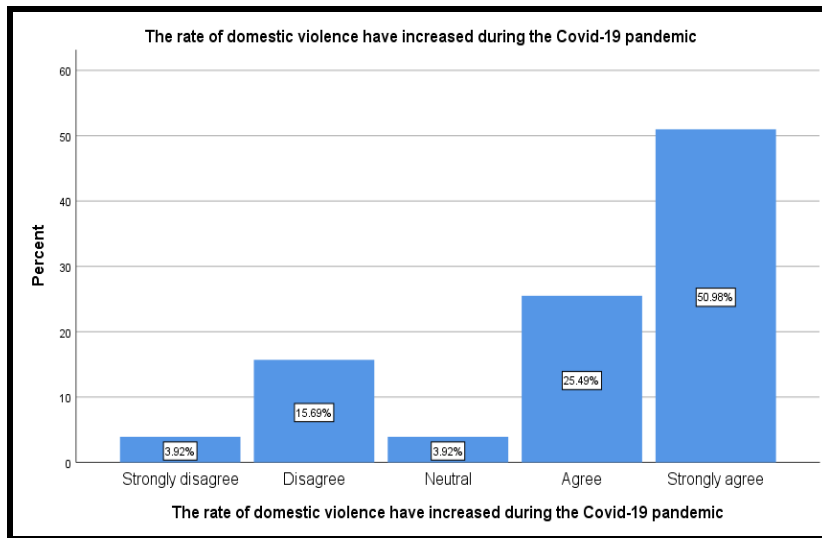
Figure 4.1.11: The rate of domestic violence has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic

(Source: SPSS)

According to the above graph bar, *50.98%* of the population is "strongly determined" and *25.49%* of the population is "determined" that the rate of "domestic violence" has increased during the "Covid-19 pandemic". Thus, *3.92%* of the population did not interest to answer it. Contradictory, *15.69%* of the population is "strongly denied" and *3.92%* of the population is "denied".

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India	51	0	4	3.00	1.296
Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic	51	0	4	3.37	1.113
Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women	51	0	4	2.92	1.214
Alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence	51	0	4	2.69	1.364
Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic	51	0	4	3.55	1.006
The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse	51	0	4	2.41	1.388
In rural areas domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown the legal rights	51	0	4	3.18	1.212
The rate of domestic violence have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic	51	0	4	3.04	1.248
Valid N (listwise)	51				

Figure 4.1.12: Descriptive statistics

(Source: SPSS)

Summarise the data and brief description of the relationship between research variables, the "descriptive statistics" is a valuable table. As opposed to Sheard (2018), it conveys several columns such as "minimum", "maximum", "mean", and "standard deviation". Among all the columns, "standard deviation" is the main column that highlights the interconnection of the research variables. The "standard deviation" values are *1.296, 1.113, 1.214, 1.364, 1.006, 1.388, 1.212,* and *1.248*. All the utilities have shown that there is a positive connection among the research variables.

Correlation analysis

Figure 4.1.13: Correlation analysis

(Source: SPSS)

Measuring the linear connection among contrasting research variables, the "correlation analysis" table is one of the most valuable elements. In the words of Malejka et al. (2021), this table primarily depends on the "P-value" and tells the value is acceptable in the case of 1 which is greater than 0 (1>0). There are maximum numerical numbers higher than 0, but a few numerical data on this above "correlation analysis" table remain less than 1. This does not show there is a weak connection between research variables.

Regression Analysis

Figure 4.1.14: ANOVA analysis

(Source: SPSS)

The "ANOVA analysis" table is entirely dependent on "significant value" as it shows whether the are correct or not. According to the rule, if the "significant value" becomes <0.001, the data can be accepted (Uysal et al. 2019). In the above table, the "significant value" has become 0 which is less than 0.001 (0<0.001). These values are showing that all the data collected from the survey are valid.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
					Change Statistics				
1	.977[a]	.954	.947	.314	.954	128.392	7	43	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), The rate of domestic violence have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic, The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse , Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic , Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women, In rural areas domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown the legal rights, The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India

Figure 4.1.15: Model summary analysis

(Source: SPSS)

The "model summary analysis" table is indicating of having positive relationship among research variables. Depending on the "R-square" and "R-value" which become *0.954* and *0.977* respectively the data measuring is done. It tells a positive relationship between research variables.

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	-.216	.186		-1.160	.252
	The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India	.184	.193	.175	.954	.345
	Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic	.642	.158	.524	4.075	.000
	Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women	.507	.158	.451	3.202	.003
	Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic	-.388	.153	-.286	-2.529	.015
	The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse	.317	.112	.323	2.830	.007
	In rural areas domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown the legal rights	-.267	.175	-.237	-1.522	.135
	The rate of domestic violence have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic	.053	.210	.049	.253	.801

a. Dependent Variable: Alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence

Figure 4.1.16: Coefficient table

(Source: SPSS)

The *"coefficient table"* is mainly depending on the "significant value" and its individual row highlights each response of the research variables (Martinez-Tossas et al. 2018). Basically, it describes the size and direction of the relationship and according to this table the research variables have become valid and authenticate.

Reliability and validity test

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.985	8

Figure 4.1.17: Reliability test

(Source: SPSS)

The "reliability test" is the most vital table that represents the authenticity of the entire research process. if the "Cronbach's Alpha" value becomes larger than "*0.70 (value > 0.70)*", the reliability test has become valid (Noble,Scheinost, & Constable, 2019). In this table, the "Cronbach's Alpha" value becomes *0.985* which is also greater than *0.70 (0.985 > 0.70)* and tells the data is reliable and valid.

4.2 Discussion

Following the entire above analysis it can be stated that the maximum people of in India have determined that the percentage of domestic violence is greater in India. Thus, alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence is rapidly increasing day by day in India. Domestic violence impacted the "mental health" of Indian women as the rate of "domestic violence" has increased during the "Covid-19 pandemic". Through the survey process, the participants also agreed that Indian women have suffered from different types of "domestic violence" during the "Covid-19 pandemic". In the majority of the cases, it also has been found that Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, it has become knowledgeable that in rural areas, domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown legal rights. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has prepared the effects of "gender-based violence" worse with the increasing scarcity.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the entire above analysis, it can be concluded that under the pressure of several restrictions, experiencing worklessness, and lacking money, most Indian women have experienced the cruel impact of "domestic violence" during the pandemic. Lockdowns

stopped everything and resulted in increasing poverty among Indians which influenced domestic violence activities. The Covid-19 pandemic situation has rapidly increased the number of cases of domestic violence. It has affected both the mental and physical health of women and sometimes it leads to suicide.

5.2 Recommendations

Following the entire loopholes in increasing the "domestic violence" rate in India, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic situation, some recommendations can be made to reduce the impact. In India, rural areas cases of domestic violence can be seen as larger than in urban areas. It needs to develop knowledge regarding legal laws against domestic violence among women so that they can fight against it. The government can push for stronger laws to implement it required situation. In addition to this, the government also needs to increase the long-term funding process in "women's rights organisations" to provide them support.

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APPENDIX:

Questionnaire

Section 1: Demographic Block

1. Age

    a) 21-30

    b) 31-40

    c) 41-50

    d) Up to 50

2. Gender

    a) Male

    b) Female

    c) Others

Section 2: Statements

(Please rate your opinion against the attached statements based on the scale suggested below-

4 = strongly agree, 3 = agree, 2 = neutral, 1 = disagree, 0 = strongly disagree)

Statements	0	1	2	3	4
3. The percentage of domestic violence is greater in India	4	5	3	14	25
4. Indian women have suffered from different types of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic	3	2	1	12	33
5. Domestic violence impacted the mental health of Indian women	2	8	3	17	21
6. Alcohol consumption is one of the major reasons behind domestic violence.	6	5	6	16	18

Statements	0	1	2	3	4
7. Indian women are victims of domestic violence due to being unable to fulfil the expenses during the Covid-19 pandemic.	2	2	1	7	39
8. The Covid-19 pandemic has made the impacts of gender-based violence worse	8	5	9	16	13
9. In rural areas domestic violence has been found the most as women are unknown the legal rights.	3	4	3	12	29
10. The rate of domestic violence have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic	2	8	2	14	25