

A Study on Adolescents' Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a significant societal issue that impacts people of all ages and leads to severe psychological, emotional, and social repercussions. Teenagers' perceptions of domestic violence hold significance as these views affect their future actions and relationships. This study aimed to investigate gender differences in adolescent attitudes toward domestic violence in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. The aim of the research was to examine the domestic violence experienced by male and female students in the Mayurbhanj district. An empirical research method was adopted for the study. Sixty adolescent students, consisting of 30 males and 30 females, were chosen using simple random sampling. Data were gathered through the Domestic Violence Attitude Scale created by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The data gathered were examined using descriptive statistics like Mean and Standard Deviation, and inferential statistics with the t-test. Students are served as independent variable. The dependent variable is affected on domestic violence of the students. Supportive empirical finding was reviewed and research hypothesis were established on the basis of Literature reviewed.

The results revealed variations in how male and female adolescents view domestic violence. The results indicate that gender affects adolescents' perceptions and attitudes related to domestic violence. The research highlights the significance of awareness, education, and preventive measures geared toward promoting healthy attitudes and decreasing the tolerance of violence among youth. This study adds to the current body of literature on domestic violence by presenting evidence from adolescents in the Mayurbhanj district and suggests directions for future studies on the factors that impact attitudes toward domestic violence.

The study concluded that there is significance difference between the male and female students in domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Adolescents, Attitude toward Violence, Gender Differences, Family Environment, Social Norms, Psychological Well-being, Violence Acceptance, Healthy Relationships

Introduction

Domestic violence, commonly referred to as domestic abuse or family violence, encompasses acts of violence or various forms of abuse that occur in a home setting, such as within a marriage or cohabitation. Typically, it is carried out by one partner against the other in an intimate relationship. Numerous studies conducted globally have demonstrated that wife beating is a widespread issue. This phenomenon is present even in developed nations and occurs across various religions, castes, and social and economic backgrounds. India is similarly affected by this issue. Individuals aged 16 to 24 are at the highest risk of experiencing domestic violence compared to other age groups. Additionally, teenage dating violence is common, and adolescents may also witness domestic violence in their surroundings.

Domestic violence is more likely to occur in teens and young adults who are cut off from social networks including employment, family, and school. Parents make up a sizable chunk of this age group, and the stress they experience raises the possibility that their kids will witness violence. Worldwide, women make up the majority of victims of domestic abuse, and they are more likely to experience more severe forms of violence. Women may file for divorce or judicial separation under personal laws before a civil court on the basis of cruelty, and since 1983, the Indian Penal Code has made it illegal for husbands or their family to mistreat women.

Anybody can experience domestic abuse, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, friendship, social standing, age, marital status, religion, socioeconomic level, or problems with self-awareness and identity. All types of intimate partner violence can result in long-lasting psychological effects like anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, loss of trust, sleep disturbances, fear of intimacy, suicidal thoughts, and emotional distance, even though physical violence may cause obvious injuries that are frequently transient. Additionally, the chronic stress and repeated physical harm experienced by abuse victims may lead to serious physical health problems, including chronic pain, migraines, and gastrointestinal disorders.

Research Problem

A major social and public health concern that impacts people, families, and communities worldwide is domestic violence. It includes physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse, all of which can lead to severe mental and physical health problems. The increasing incidence of domestic violence among different sections of society has created significant challenges in the lives of victims, often resulting in anxiety, depression, stress, low self-esteem, and other psychological difficulties. In addition, domestic violence negatively affects social relationships, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life.

Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the influence of domestic violence through family experiences, media exposure, peer groups, and prevailing social norms. Their attitudes toward domestic violence may shape

their future beliefs, behaviors, and acceptance or rejection of violence in intimate relationships. Gender differences may also influence how male and female adolescents perceive and respond to domestic violence. Despite the growing concern regarding domestic violence, limited research has been conducted to understand adolescents' attitudes toward it and the factors influencing these attitudes, such as gender, family background, education, and social environment.

Therefore, the present study seeks to investigate the attitudes of adolescents toward domestic violence and to examine the influence of gender and other related factors on these attitudes.

Research Objective

The purpose of the present study is to investigate how adolescents in the Mayurbhanj region differ in their attitudes based on gender.

Review of literature

A literature review is a key part of research process. It helps the researcher understand the background of the problem and pick the best way of the study it. It develops theoretical frameworks, and selectssuitable methodologies and instruments for conducting a research paper. Critiquing existing research helps identify significant gaps, prevents unnecessary duplication, and enhances the overall caliber of the study. Ultimately, a rigorous analysis of relevant literature establishes a robust foundation for interpreting findings and ensuring a fruitful investigation.

The psychological, social, and behavioral consequences of domestic abuse on youth have become a prominent area of inquiry. Attitudes regarding relationships and violence are often shaped during the sensitive developmental stage of adolescence. Current research suggests that the family environment, gender norms, peer influence, education, and media exposure collectively play a pivotal role in shaping adolescent beliefs toward domestic violence.

Recent studies suggest that the Normalization of "toxic" relationship behaviors in social media content can distort adolescent perceptions. Adolescent suffer emotional depression due to social media. Youth begins to lose interest in studies and lack of Concentration. And lack of sleep is also a major issue for adolescent. When young people see the things like the social media aggression or the digital stalking then they might mistake these actions for "sign of love" rather than early form of domestic violence.

According to R. W. CONNell (2005), males are more likely than females to accept domestic abuse due to patriarchal societal structures and conventional gender standards. While female adolescents typically exhibit greater empathy for victims and a stronger rejection of violence, male adolescents are frequently socialised to exhibit dominance and control.

Lacasse and Mendelson (2010) investigated teenage dating violence in Canada. Compared to their female counterparts, male offenders exhibited more conventional gender-role beliefs and more acceptance of violence in close relationships.

Davidson and Canivez (2012) examined how American teenagers felt about violence. Their results suggested that there are gender disparities in the acceptance of violent behaviors, as boys were more accepting of violence, including partner violence, than girls. Pinos et al. (2016) examined how 533 Ecuadorian teenagers felt about violence. According to the study, female adolescents rejected violence more than male adolescents did, whereas male adolescents justified domestic violence and held sexist ideas. One important predictor of opinions regarding domestic abuse was found to be gender. Further research indicates that teenagers' perceptions of domestic abuse are influenced by the media, peer groups, and cultural customs. While positive social and educational environments promote non-violent behaviour, violent media content and traditional cultural beliefs may perpetuate aggressive attitudes (UNICEF, 2017).

According to Closson et al. (2023), teenagers' views of violence were impacted by the persistence of traditional gender norms in families. Compared to earlier generations and male family members, teenage girls were often less tolerant of violence against women. The results emphasized the value of family-based treatments in fostering attitudes that are gender equal.

According to a research by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW, 2024), boys who supported traditional masculine norms were more inclined to defend violence against women. On the other hand, teenagers who held gender-equitable views shown less tolerance for violence.

According to Rothman and colleagues (2022) reviewed existing research on young people's attitudes toward domestic and family violence. Their review showed that while many adolescents identify domestic violence as harmful, some continue to hold victim-blaming beliefs and Misconceptions about abusive relationships. This indicates a continuing need for awareness and education on the issue.

According to a recent study by Weiwei Liu, Elizabeth A. Mumford, and Bruce G. Taylor (2023), teenagers who were more tolerant of partner violence were more likely to experience psychological, physical, and sexual abuse in the future. Supportive views toward violence raise the likelihood of violent behavior in relationships, according to the study.

Marta Sanmartin-Andújar and colleagues (2023) study on teenagers' perceptions of dating violence revealed that many teenagers do not identify some abusive behaviors as violence, particularly emotional and dominating behaviours. Significant gender disparities were also discovered in the study, with female adolescents being more adept at recognizing aggressive behaviors than male adolescents.

Another recent study by Natallia Sianko (2024) found that psychosocial factors such peer interactions, family support, and social awareness have an impact on adolescents inclination to report incidents of dating violence. Adolescents in supportive social situations were more likely to reject violence and seek help when they were exposed to abusive conditions.

In a similar vein, Fatma Ayhan (2024) discovered that teenagers who witnessed violence between parents had greater levels of rage and hostile attitudes. Adolescents' endorsement of aggressive behaviour and poor

emotional regulation were significantly correlated with parental violence exposure. Additionally, recent research indicates that adolescents' perceptions toward domestic abuse are still influenced by patriarchal ideas and societal standards.

According to a thorough review by Rebecca Meiksin and colleagues (2024), relationship violence among teenagers is normalised in part due to established gender stereotypes and unequal power dynamics. Children and teenagers exposed to familial violence frequently develop positive attitudes toward the use of violence for dispute resolution, according to research by Murray A. Straus and colleagues (Straus, 1990). Experiences like this could make people more likely to tolerate domestic abuse as a typical part of family life.

According to Weir et al. (2025) explored adolescent domestic abuse and its consequences. Their findings suggested that domestic abuse can occur during adolescence and may result in emotional, behavioral, and social difficulties. The study also pointed out that exposure to abuse at a young age may increase the likelihood of experiencing unhealthy relationships later in life.

Makkan et al. (2026) investigated the attitudes of young adults and adolescents in South Africa regarding gender-based violence. The findings showed that approximately 45% of participants had permissive views regarding gender-based violence, and that these views were significantly influenced by both gender and relationship status. Major significant elements were found to be male authority and patriarchal ideas.

Research Gap

The physical, psychological, and societal impacts of domestic abuse have been the subject of several researches. Only a small number of studies, meanwhile, have examined how adolescents feel about domestic abuse and what influences these feelings. There are very few studies available in the context of Odisha, especially among teenagers in academic settings, despite the fact that research has been conducted in India and other nations. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, no noteworthy study in the Mayurbhanj area of Odisha has looked at gender variations in teenagers' attitudes regarding domestic violence. Therefore, by investigating teenagers' attitudes toward domestic violence and the gender disparities among them, the current study seeks to close this research gap.

Hypothesis

There is a significant gender difference in the attitudes of adolescents toward domestic violence in Mayurbhanj district.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted using the empirical research method. It involved the measurement, classification, interpretation, and evaluation of data. This method required a sample for the study and the use of appropriate research tools to collect and analyze the data.

Sample

A sample is a representative portion of the target population that has been chosen specifically for study. Using a simple random sample procedure, 60 teenage pupils from the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha were chosen for the current study. The sample was made up of thirty male and thirty female students in the 13–19 age

range. Gender disparities in views about domestic abuse were examined by selecting participants from various educational institutions.

Sources of data

The study is based on primary and secondary data collection technique. Primary data collection uses survey and on direct observation. Secondary data collection may be conducted by collecting information from electronically stored information. Primary data were collected from the population of Mayurbhanj by administering the questionnaire. The secondary data were collected from a source of document such as website, magazine, books, newspaper, thesis and others.

Variables under study

In this study male and female students were considered as independent variables and the domestic violence was considered as dependent variables. The following several standardized tools were used to measure both independent and dependent variables.

Research tools and instrument

In this study, the following two questionnaires were used:

1. Personal information sheet

The first was a Personal Information Sheet. The Personal information is a recorded about an identifiable individual. It includes the participant's name (optional), age, sex, class, type of institution, name of college etc. This questionnaire was developed by the researcher for the purpose of collecting the demographic data.

2. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe(UNECE) domestic violence scale.

The second questionnaire was the Attitudes of Adolescents Towards Domestic Violence Questionnaire, developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as part of its work on measuring attitudes toward domestic violence, including intimate partner violence (IPV), in 2011. The questionnaire consists of 14 statements, based upon the 6- point rating scale which are 1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3= agree somewhat, 4=disagree somewhat, 5=disagree, 6= strongly disagree. The minimum score 1 to a maximum score of 6. A higher score on this scale indicates a high level of domestic violence affected.

Scoring of the domestic violence scale

The domestic violence scale was six point scale based on the domestic violence scale item. All items were positively worded. One score awarded for (1) strongly agree (2) agree (3) somewhat agree (4) somewhat disagree (5) disagree (6) strongly disagree. The responded scores were calculated by the mean score to the items of the domestic violence scale associated with each scale.

Data Collection

In this research the researcher had created an online survey questionnaire form of the domestic violence through the help of Docs.google.com and sent the questionnaire link to the selected sample, then the researcher asked their permission for data collection. Each subject was told to go through the items in Attitude of adolescence towards domestic violence, the researcher said the subject to clarify his/her doubts about the questionnaire if he/she had any problem in understanding. Then the researcher told the subject depending on the extent which best describes you select your response according to that the researcher asked them to evaluate themselves before selecting an option of each question and to fill in the options with the most appropriate answer. In this research the researcher had taken total sixty people, thirty females and thirty males to interpret gender difference. There are 14 statements in Domestic violence questionnaire.

Statistical techniques used

In our empirical investigation the researcher has applied descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to analysis the data for drawing inductions inferences from our research data. The data analysis includes both descriptive (mean, SD) and inferential (independent t-test) statistics.

Data Analysis Tools

The data was analyzed by the use of SPSS 20 version.

Result

Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were employed for analyzing the data and for testing the hypothesis. The independent variable is student and dependent is domestic violence.

Analysis and interpretation

Table 1

Descriptive characteristic of the respondent (Mean, SD & percentage)

Variable	Number of respondents	Mean	SD	Percentage
Male	30	33.56	13.22	50%
Female	30	35.03	11.49	50%

Source- Primary Data

The Table 1 Describes the descriptive statistics for the sample under study. These data were collected from the people in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. There were 60 numbers of respondent (N=60), 30 were male and 30 females. The mean value of the male sample of domestic violence is 33.56 and SD of 13.22. Here the mean value of female respondent under domestic violence 35.03 and SD value 11.49. The percentage of subject was 50% for both male and female student.

The bar graph shows figure of the exhibits the difference between mean of the male and female students with regards to domestic violence. The OX axis representing the variable and OY axis represent the mean.

Table 2

't' ratio relating to male and female people.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	SED	DF	't'ratio
Male	30	33.56	13.22	7.36	58	13
Female	30	35.03	11.49			

Note. * $p > 0.05$

From the table No-2 it is clearly observed about the standard deviation of the data obtained from male and female students. The mean of the both groups were 33.56 and 35.03. SD for both these groups were 13.22 and 11.49. The SED is 7.36 and df of the groups were 58 respectively. The 't'- ratio for this group is 13 and the 0.05 level of significant is 2.00.

Hypothesis testing

Here obtained value of 't' is 13 and the tabulated at the .05 level of significant is 2.00. The obtained value is greater than the tabulated so the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It can be concluded that there is significance difference between the male and female students in domestic violence.

Discussion

The main objective of the present study was to find out the significance difference of domestic violence between male and female students of Mayurbhanj district. The influence of independent variable was studied by the descriptive procedure. The data were collected through the purposive sampling method by administration of standardize questionnaire of domestic violence. The data was treated by descriptive and inferential statistics to test research hypothesis to established conclusion whether it was accepted or not. The hypothesis states that; there will be a significant difference between domestic violence between male and female. The 't' table-2 suggest is not significantly different for people with different genders such as male and female, where mean $M_1 = 33.56$ and $M_2 = 35.03$, $p = P > 0.05 = 2.00$, $DF = 58$. Respectively. It can be concluded that score was no different in case of male and female in the Mayurbhanj district. Here there exists no significant difference between Male and female regarding the domestic violence. Both male and female is suffering equally addicted to domestic violence.

Conclusion

All the observation was done with proper guidance and decorated or descriptive procedure. Some drastic situation and unhealthy environment do not support teaches. On this research the study indicates the domestic violence among the two genders of the Mayurbhanj district. Now the present study represents the affected

level between the male and female in the district. On the variable domestic violence there was no significant difference between male and female in Mayurbhanj district. Both male and female are found equally affected to the domestic violence.

Implications

- ✓ The study emphasizes the necessity of raising teenagers' awareness of domestic abuse.
- ✓ Educational establishments ought to set up initiatives that support wholesome, peaceful relationships.
- ✓ Adolescents who receive counseling and guidance services might cultivate healthy views on gender equality and dispute resolution.
- ✓ The study adds to the scant body of research on teenagers' perceptions of domestic abuse in Odisha.

Limitations

- ✓ The study was limited to a small sample size of 60 adolescent students.
 - ✓ The study was confined to the Mayurbhanj district, so the results were not as broadly applicable.
 - ✓ Other aspects were not investigated; only gender was taken into account as an independent variable.
 - ✓ Self-reported responses, which could be biased, were used in the study.
- It was not possible to examine how attitudes changed over time because of the cross-sectional approach.

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