

Socio-economic condition and emotional violence against working women living in Guwahati city of Assam

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Abstract

Women occupy a prominent position in the society. The study focuses to find out the level of emotional violence in relation to level of education, income and type of occupation of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam. For the present study, descriptive research and purposive sampling technique is used. The sample consists of 80 married working women with in the age group of 27-35 years of age living Guwahati city of Assam. The tools used in the study are Self- constructed Questionnaire for studying the Socio- Economic condition of working women and Emotional Violence Scale (Against Women) by Dr. S. K. Bawa and Mrs. Sumanpreet Kaur. The result of the study shows that the women suffer from emotional violence both in the family and workplace. In spite of having a high socio economic condition (considering the education, income and occupation) they undergo emotional violence in its various forms. Thus it provides spaces for further study to find out why women undergo emotional violence in spite of becoming independent? Is socio economic condition not one of the factors leading to women empowerment? If not, than how empowerment can be achieved?.

Keywords: socio-economic condition, emotional violence, working women and guwahati city

Introduction

“There is no tool for development more effective than empowerment of women.”

Kofi Anand.

The present decade brought with it the age of science and modernization which serves the basis of modern civilization, where women plays a bigger and proactive role in all spheres of life. Women have come out of the superficial barriers and restriction put on by the society and leaves behind their footprints on issues of national importance. In modern time, women are as equal to their counterpart with regard to the source of bread earner in the family. They have started working in different areas and become a productive member of the family. In contrary to this, the violence on women has not decreased but rather it had extended from family to the workplace. The educated women of the society are facing violence in its different forms at different time in both family and workplace. This has become a major concern, if empowerment of women is encouraged, then violation against women must be checked and stopped.

Meaning Of Socio Economic Condition

Socio economic condition is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is an umbrella term which covers a wide variety of interrelated social and economic factors. Socioeconomic condition is an economic and sociological combination of an individual's or family's life economic and social position in relation to others based on income, education and occupation. In the present study the socio economic variables taken into consideration are:-

- Education

- Occupation
- Income

Meaning of Emotional Violence

- Violence against women is a global phenomenon that crosses all cultures, religion, social, economic and geographical boundaries. In the declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1993, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender based violence that result in, or 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 private life.” (United Nation 1993). Violence against women is of various types as follow: Physical violence, Sexual violence, Emotional violence and Economical violence. Emotional violence is any verbal, emotional or psychological harm. Emotional violence has been defined as the rejection, ignoring, criticizing and isolation or terrorizing an individual, all of which have the effect of eroding his/her self-esteem. It wears away the victim's self –confidence, sense of self-worth, trust in their respective perception and self-concept. Emotional violence is depicted in many ways and from varied form. The main dimensions are given below:

- Violating Expectations
- Aggression
- Constant Chaos
- Denying
- Dominating
- Emotional Blackmailing
- Invalidation

- Minimizing
- Drastic mood change or sudden emotional outbursts
- Verbal Assault

Concept of working women

Working women are those women engage in part time or full time job. In the present study the working women are divided into three categories based on their occupation: Teachers, Advocate and Clerks.

Rationale of the study

The rationales of the study are based on the following grounds:-

Socio economic condition refers to the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is a general notion that '*individual with high socio economic status suffers less from violence*'. But does it really happen with regard to women? Do the women with higher level of education, income and occupation free from the evil effects of violence? This provides the need for the study considering the socio economic condition of working women.

Women have come out of all barriers and restriction laid on them by the society. In the modern time, women have started working in different field to become a productive member of the family and society. They have shown ways and paths leading to their progression and development. Higher education, occupation and income of women has played an effective role in making them empowered and enabling them to cross the lines of restrictions and superstitions. But, in contrary to this, in a democratic country like India, the violence against women has become a common phenomenon. It has not decreased but rather it had extended from family to the workplace. The educated women of the society are facing violence in its different forms at different time in both family and workplace. This has become a major concern, if empowerment of women is to be achieved then violation against women must be stopped. This enables the researcher with the need to conduct a study on violence against working women.

Violence in any form is dangerous. Emotional violence is a common form of violence taking place in every household and working environment. It cannot be vividly observed or seen but it continues like a normal behaviour pattern leading to devastating effect in the later periods. It is like a slow poison that affects the victims slowly and mentally causing greater harm. This provides the ground for taking up emotional violence against working women.

Guwahati city was taken as the area of study. Since Guwahati city is the nerve centre of business, economic, social and education sectors, therefore, most of the working women prevail in this particular area. Apart from this, only a few studies on emotional violence against working women of Guwahati city have been conducted during the past years. Thus, Guwahati was taken as an area of investigation.

Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem is Socio- Economic Condition

and Emotional Violence against Working Women Living in Guwahati City of Assam.

Research Questions

The research questions of the study are:-

1. What is the level of emotional violence of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam?
2. What is the level of emotional violence in relation to the level of education status of working women in Guwahati city of Assam?
3. What is the level of emotional violence in relation to the types of occupation of working women in Guwahati city of Assam?
4. What is the level of emotional violence in relation to the income of working women in Guwahati city of Assam?

Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the level of emotional violence of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam.
2. To study the level of emotional violence in relation to the level of education status of working women in Guwahati city of Assam.
3. To study the level of emotional violence in relation to the types of occupation of working women in Guwahati city of Assam.
4. To study the level of emotional violence in relation to the income of working women in Guwahati city of Assam.

Area of the study

The area of the study is the Guwahati city. Guwahati city is situated on the southern bank of river Brahmaputra with its cardinal points as 26.10' North latitude and 92.49' East longitude. It is located towards the south-eastern side of Kamrup district surrounded by Nalbari district in north, Darrang and Morigaon districts in the east, Meghalaya state in the south and Goalpara and Barpeta district in the west. The Guwahati city occupies an area of 262 sq km.

Delimitation of the study

The study is delimited under the following way:-

- Firstly, the study is delimited only to the married women.
- Secondly, only working women belonging to the profession as Teacher, Advocate and Clerks (Government) were purposively selected for the study.
- Thirdly the study is delimited with regard to the women completing higher education courses that are graduation, post-graduation, M.Phil and PhD.
- Fourthly, the women selected were within the age group of 27-35 years of age.
- Fifthly, the study is delimited to the three parameters of socio economic condition that is- education, occupation and income.

Review of relted literature

Castro. R., Peek-Asa, C & Ruiz, A. (2003) ^[2] studied on Violence against Women in Mexico: A Study of Abuse Before

and During Pregnancy. The objective of the study was to identify the prevalence and type of violence experienced by pregnant women. The result reveals that the ways of victimization changed during pregnancy from the year prior to pregnancy and factors associated with violence during pregnancy. Pambe, M.W., Gnomou. B & Kabore, I. (2013) ^[5] studied on Relationship between Women's Socioeconomic Status and Empowerment in Burkina Faso: A Focus on participation in Decision-Making and Experience of Domestic Violence. The study sheds light in the importance of socio-cultural system for empowering women. The results shows the low level of decisions-making even among educated women and women working for cash, but also very low prevalence of domestic violence. Women experience of physical, emotional and sexual violence by their husbands/partners is weakly related to socio economic characteristics. Rada. C (2014) ^[7] studied on the violence against women by male partners and against children within the family: prevalence, associated factors, and intergenerational transmission in Romania, cross-sectional study. The study identified the following risk factors for violence in the family of protection; living in rural areas, a low level of education, being female, and coming from a family in which violent behaviour between parents and against children occurred. Thus in context of Romania, it is necessary to establish preventive measures to assist people living in rural areas, especially women. Ullah, M.R. & Parvin, S. (2015) ^[9] conducted a study on Socio-economic Status of Women Influences of Domestic Violence: A Sociological Analysis at Urban Area in Bangladesh. The study shows the lower position of women at different levels and also high rate of verbal and psychological violence of women in their married life. Dependency on men was still found to be high in the urban area and most women were found not engage in productive economic activities. Hossain, A. (2016) ^[3] studied on The Impact of Domestic Violence on Women: A Case

Results and Discussion

Objective 1: The level of emotional violence of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam.

Table 1: The level of emotional violence of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam

Sl. No	Range of Z scores	Grade	Level of Emotional Violence	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
1	+2.01 and above	A	Extremely High	5	6.25
2	+1.26 to +2.00	B	High	4	5
3	+0.51 to +1.25	C	Above Average	7	8.75
4	-0.50 to +0.50	D	Average/Moderate	34	42.50
5	-0.51 to -1.25	E	Below Average	30	37.50
6	-1.26 to -2.00	F	Low	-	-
7	-2.01 and below	G	Almost no Violence	-	-

The Table 1 shows the level of emotional violence of the working women living in Guwahati city. It shows that 6.25% working women faces extremely high level of emotional violence, 5 of them undergoes high level of emotional violence, 8.75% faces above average, 42.50% undergoes

Study of Rural Bangladesh. The study tried to make sense about the types, reasons and domestic violence against women in rural Bangladesh. It aims to find out the impact of violence in our society and cohere it with our social norms and values. It was found from the study that domestic violence takes many forms and occurs in all settings, within the households and in almost all cases. Qaisrani. A, Liaquat. S & Khokhar. E.N. (2016) ^[6] Socio-economic and Cultural Factors of Violence against Women in Pakistan. The main purpose of the study is to expose the major abusers who are directly or indirectly responsible for committing violence against women. It also aims to identify the pressure groups that may help to improve the situation. The outcome of the assessment shows that women face direct, cultural and structural violence.

Materials and Methods

Methodology of the Study

For the present study Descriptive research is used keeping in view the nature of the study.

Sample

The purposive sampling technique is used for the study. Since the sample comprises of working women living in Guwahati city and the list of working women is unavailable therefore, the researcher has used purposive sampling technique keeping in view the nature of the study. The sample consists of 80 married working women with in the age group of 27-35 years of age living Guwahati city of Assam.

Tools

The tools used in the study are Self- constructed Questionnaire for studying the Socio- Economic condition of working women and Emotional Violence Scale (Against Women) by Dr. S. K. Bawa and Mrs. Sumanpreet Kaur.

average and 37.50% women faces below average level of emotional violence both at workplace and family. The above Table also shows that there are no working women having low and almost no violence living in Guwahati city.

Objective 2: The level of emotional violence in relation to the level of education of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

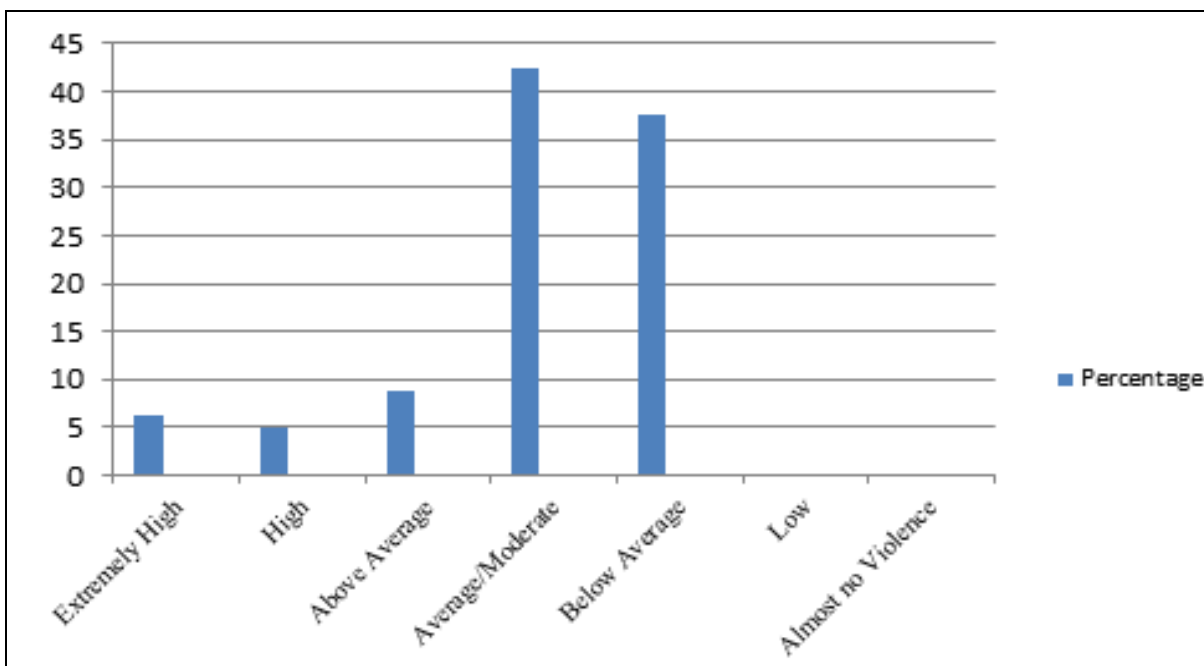


Fig 1: Level of emotional violence of working women living in Guwahati city of Assam

Table 2: The level of emotional violence in relation to the level of education of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Sl. No	Range of Z scores	Grade	Level of Emotional Violence	No of Respondent	Level of Education					
					Graduate	Percentage (%)	Post Graduate	Percentage (%)	Above Post Graduate	Percentage (%)
1	+2.01 and above	A	Extremely High	5	2	8.33	3	6.38	-	-
2	+1.26 to +2.00	B	High	4	-	-	2	4.25	2	22.22
3	+0.51 to +1.25	C	Above Average	7	1	4.17	3	6.38	3	33.34
4	-0.50 to +0.50	D	Average/Moderate	34	11	45.83	21	44.69	2	22.22
5	-0.51 to -1.25	E	Below Average	30	10	41.67	18	38.30	2	22.22
6	-1.26 to -2.00	F	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-2.01 and below	G	Almost no Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total				80	24	100	47	100	9	100

The Table 2 reveals the level of emotional violence in relation to the educational of the working women living in Guwahati city of Assam. It shows that out of 5 working women having extremely high level of emotional violence, 2 graduate and 3 are post graduate. Among 4 women having high level of emotional violence, 2 are post graduate and 2 are above post graduate. In above average, there are 7 working women and out of which 1 is graduate, 3 are post graduate and rest 3 are above post graduate. Out of 34 working women having average level of emotional violence, 11 graduates, 21 are post graduate and 2 belong to above average category. Again in the below average level of emotional violence, there are 10 graduate, 18 are post graduate and 2 are above post graduate. The above Table also shows that among the graduates, 8.33%

have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 4.17% have above average, 45.83% have average and 41.67% have below average level of emotional violence. Among the post graduates, 6.38% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 4.25% have high, 6.38% have above average, 44.69% have average and 38.30% have below average level of emotional violence. Lastly among the above post graduate, 22.22% have high level of emotional violence, followed by 33.34% have above average, 22.22% have below average level of emotional violence. There are no working women having low and almost no violence level of emotional violence living in Guwahati city of Assam.

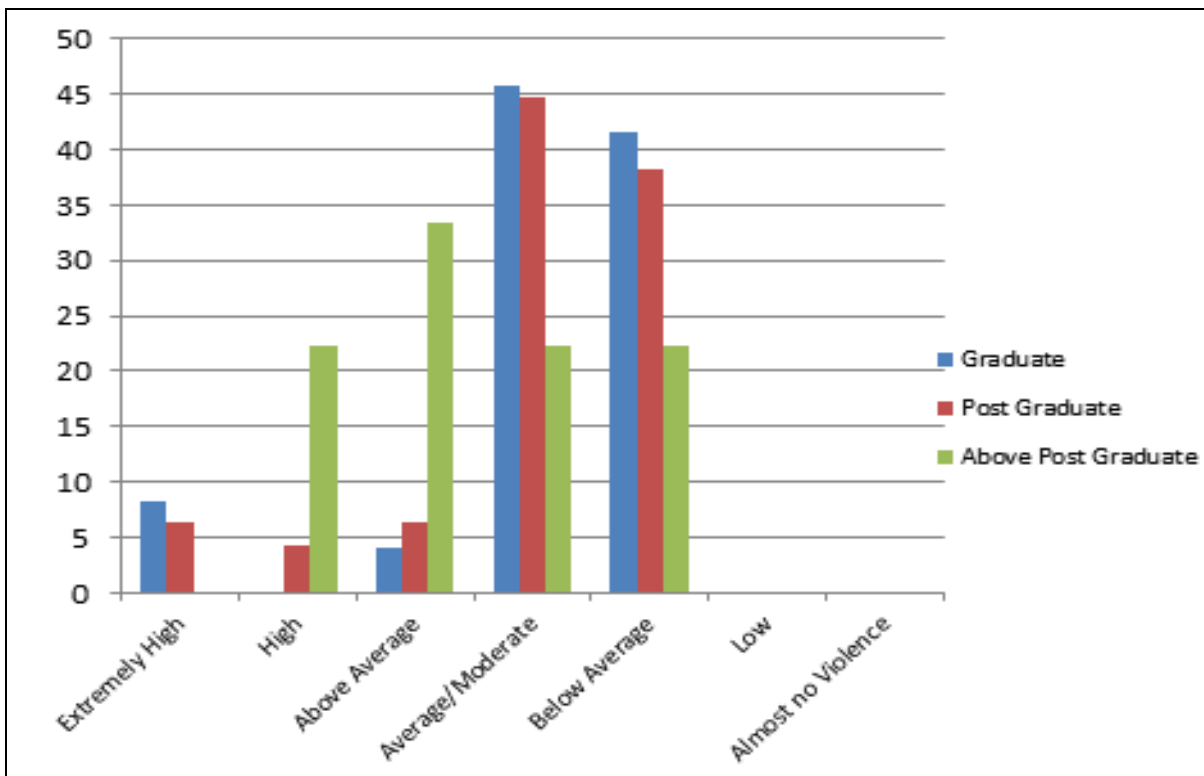


Fig 2: The level of emotional violence in relation to the level of education of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Objective 3: The level of emotional violence in relation to the type occupation of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Table 3: The level of emotional violence in relation to the type of occupation of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Sl. No	Range of Z scores	Grade	Level of Emotional Violence	No of Respondent	Types of Occupations					
					Teacher	Percentage (%)	Advocate	Percentage (%)	Clerk	Percentage (%)
1	+2.01 and above	A	Extremely High	5	2	4.25	3	16.67	-	-
2	+1.26 to +2.00	B	High	4	-	-	4	22.22	-	-
3	+0.51 to +1.25	C	Above Average	7	4	8.51	-	-	3	20
4	-0.50 to +0.50	D	Average/Moderate	34	20	42.55	5	27.78	9	60
5	-0.51 to -1.25	E	Below Average	30	21	44.69	6	33.33	3	20
6	-1.26 to -2.00	F	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-2.01 and below	G	Almost no Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total				80	47	100	18	100	15	100

The Table 3 reveals the level of emotional violence in relation to the occupation of the working women living in Guwahati city of Assam. It shows that out of 5 working women having extremely high level of emotional violence, 2 teacher and 3 are advocate by profession. Among 4 women having high level of emotional violence, 4 are advocate. In above average, there are 7 working women and out of which 4 are teacher and 3 are clerks. Out of 34 working women having average level of emotional violence, 20 teachers, 5 are advocate and 9 are clerks belong to above average category. Again in the below average level of emotional violence, there are 21 are teachers, 6 are advocate and 3 are clerks. The above Table also shows

that among the teachers, 4.25% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 8.51% have above average, 42.55% have average and 44.69% have below average level of emotional violence. Among the advocates, 16.67% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 22.22% have high, 27.76% have average and 33.33% have below average level of emotional violence. Lastly among the clerks, 20% have above average, 60% have average and 20% have below average level of emotional violence. There are no working women having low and almost no violence level of emotional violence living in Guwahati city of Assam.

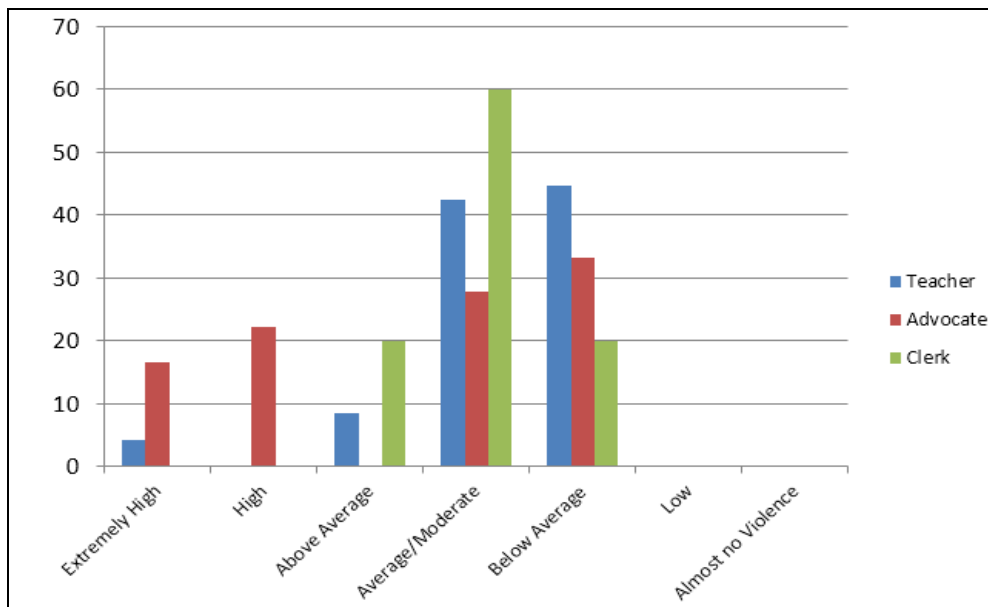


Fig 3: The level of emotional violence in relation to the type of occupation of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Objective 4: The level of emotional violence in relation to the income of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Table 4: The level of emotional violence in relation to the income of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

Sl. No	Range of Z scores	Grade	Level of Emotional Violence	No of Respondent	Income					
					10,000-20,000	Percentage (%)	20,001-30,000	Percentage (%)	30,000 and above	Percentage (%)
1	+2.01 and above	A	Extremely High	5	1	2.50	1	4	3	2
2	+1.26 to +2.00	B	High	4	-	-	2	8	2	13.33
3	+0.51 to +1.25	C	Above Average	7	5	12.50	2	8	-	-
4	-0.50 to +0.50	D	Average/Moderate	34	19	47.50	11	44	4	26.67
5	-0.51 to -1.25	E	Below Average	30	15	37.50	9	36	6	40
6	-1.26 to -2.00	F	Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-2.01 and below	G	Almost no Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total				80	40	100	25	100	15	100

The Table 4 reveals the level of emotional violence in relation to the income of the working women living in Guwahati city of Assam. It shows that out of 5 working women having extremely high level of emotional violence, 1 have 10,000-20,000 income, 1 20,001-30,000 and 3 have 30,001 and above. Among 4 women having high level of emotional violence, 2 earn 20,001-30,000 and 2 earn 30,000 and above. In above average, there are 7 working women and out of which 5 have 10,000-20,000 and 2 have 20,001-30,000. Out of 34 working women having average level of emotional violence, 19 earn 10,000-20,000, 11 earn 20,001-30,000 and 4 earn 30,001 and above belong to above average category. Again in the below average level of emotional violence, there are 15 have 10,000-20,000, 9 earn 20,001-30,000 and 6 earn 30,000 and above. The above Table also shows that among the working women earning 10,000-20,000, 2.50% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 12.50% have above average, 47.50% have average and 37.50% have below average level of emotional violence. Among the working women earning 20,001-30,000, 4% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 8% have high, 8% have above average, 44% have average and 36% have below average level of emotional violence. Lastly

among the working women earning 30,000 and above, 2% have extremely high, 13.33% have high, 26.67% have average and 40% have below average level of emotional violence.

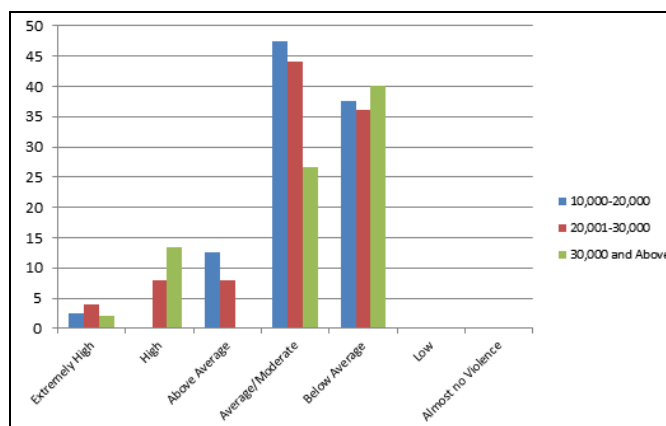


Fig 4: The level of emotional violence in relation to the income of working women in Guwahati city of Assam

The present study on Socio- Economic Condition and Emotional Violence against Working Women Living in

Guwahati City of Assam, reveals that highest percentage of working women that is, 42.50% undergoes average level of emotional violence which is followed by 37.50% women faces below average level of emotional violence both at workplace and family. In a democratic nation, 6.25% of working women faces extremely high level of emotional violence in family and workplace living in Guwahati city. It was found from the study that among the graduates, 8.33% have extremely high, followed by 4.17% have above average, 45.83% have average and 41.67% have below average level of emotional violence. The study shows that among the post graduates, 6.38% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 4.25% have high, 6.38% have above average, 44.69% have average and 38.30% have below average level of emotional violence. It was found that among the above post graduate, 22.22% have high level of emotional violence, followed by 33.34% have above average, 22.22% have average and 22.22% have below average level of emotional violence. This proves that higher education alone is unable to check the level of emotional violence among the working women. This is same with study of Pambe, M.W., Gnoumou. B & Kabore, I. (2013) ^[5] on Relationship between Women's Socioeconomic Status and Empowerment in Burkina Faso: A Focus on participation in Decision-Making and Experience of Domestic Violence. The study sheds light in the importance of socio-cultural system for empowering women. The results show the low level of decisions-making even among educated women. The present study reveals that among the teachers, 4.25% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 8.51% have above average, 42.55% have average and 44.69% have below average level of emotional violence. Among the advocates, 16.67% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 22.22% have high, 27.76% have average and 33.33% have below average level of emotional violence. Again, among the clerks, 20% have above average, 60% have average and 20% have below average level of emotional violence. Although these women are educated as well as productive but we cannot claim that they are empowered and developed. Here the real role of education comes in light that is apart from making them productive must also enrich and strengthen them to stand and voice out against any discrimination and injustice upon them both in family and workplace. It was found from the study that among the working women earning 10,000-20,000, 2.50% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 12.50% have above average, 47.50% have average and 37.50% have below average level of emotional violence. Among the working women earning 20,001-30,000, 4% have extremely high level of emotional violence, followed by 8% have high, 8% have above average, 44% have average and 36% have below average level of emotional violence. It was found that among the working women earning 30,000 and above, 2% have extremely high, 13.33% have high, 26.67% have average and 40% have below average level of emotional violence. It is pathetic to find that the women after being a bread earner suffer from emotional violence at different levels like the study conducted by Ullah, M.R. & Parvin, S. (2015) ^[9] on Socio-economic Status of Women Influences of Domestic Violence: A Sociological Analysis at Urban Area in Bangladesh. The study shows the lower position of women at

different levels and also high rate of verbal and psychological violence of women in their married life. Dependency on men was still found to be high in the urban area. It was interesting to find that there were no working women completing higher education, having low and almost no violence level of emotional violence living in Guwahati city of Assam. Like the Pambe, M.W., Gnoumou. B & Kabore, I. (2013) ^[5] studied on Relationship between Women's Socioeconomic Status and Empowerment in Burkina Faso: A Focus on participation in Decision-Making and Experience of Domestic Violence. The study proves women experience of physical, emotional and sexual violence by their husbands/partners is weakly related to socio economic characteristics. The present study throws light on the fact that the women after achieving higher level of education, occupation and high income are also in the queue of victimising from the evil effects of violence in their family and workplace.

The education system should not only provide knowledge but also strengthen them to speak and fight against the evils and discrimination in the society. Here the role of curriculum and co-curricular activities are focused in developing the students from primary to higher stages of learning. Higher education which starts after secondary education and continues should play the active role in removing violence of any forms and providing measures to fight against it in order to empower women and do justice of being a democratic nation. This can be done by different means like separate department of violence against women, special compulsory paper on violence at graduate and post graduate level of higher education, conducting programmes nationwide in form of seminars, symposiums, conferences etc. Creating awareness among the women about all the forms of violence and knowledge about their rights and privileges is important for their empowerment. Formation of grievance cell and women cell at different workplace is very essential to check the growth of violence against women at workplace. Emotional violence refers to rejection, ignoring and criticizing, all of which have the effect on eroding his/her self-esteem. Sometime in a family environment, these types of behaviour are considered to be normal from some individual at different times and situation. Therefore proper knowledge about this form of violence is very important rather than considering it as regular behaviour pattern.

Conclusion

The paper reveals the existence of emotional violence among the working women of Guwahati city. In spite of having a high socio economic condition (considering the education, income and occupation) they undergo emotional violence at various levels. Therefore, we can conclude that empowerment of women cannot be achieved mere by educating, earning or working as a productive member, but by strengthening them to act against the evils of the society. If the women are unable to stop violence against them than we cannot claim that they are empowered by mere education and productivity. Thus it provides spaces for further study to find out why women undergo emotional violence in spite of becoming independent? Is socio economic condition not one of the factors leading to women empowerment? If not, than how empowerment can be achieved?

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