

# Factors Affecting Physical Violence in Pregnancy

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To assess the factors affecting physical violence in pregnancy.

**Study Design:** Observational / descriptive / cross sectional study.

**Place and Duration of Study:** This study was carried out in the Obs. and Gynae Department of People University of Medical and Health Science, Nawabshah Sindh from July 2013 to June 2014.

**Materials and Methods:** All women who attended gynae OPD of Peoples university hospital Nawabshah, and had pregnancy ever, were included in the study. Predesigned questionnaire was made and after taking verbal informed consent. Women were interviewed separately. Questions were asked about their relationship with their husbands and family members and physical abuse during pregnancy etc.

**Results:** Total 190 women were enrolled in this study. Out of these, 161(84.7%) women had physical violence during pregnancy while 29 (15.3%) women had no abuse. Factors were significantly related with physical abuse during pregnancy. Women belonging to poor class were more involved in physical violence as compared to upper class (P= 0.000). Illiterate husbands were more involved in physical abuse than graduates, but results were not significant statistically (P= 0.12).

**Conclusion:** Poor socioeconomic condition, nuclear family structure and addicted husbands were more involved in physical violence during pregnancy.

**Key Words:** Factors, physical violence, pregnancy

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## INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is very common and important public health dispute against pregnant women worldwide.<sup>1,2</sup> As estimated indicated by WHO, 10-69% of pregnant ladies through their male partners are assaulted.<sup>3</sup> It is very difficult to protect the pregnancy from domestic violence.

Physical violence characterized as multiple different acts of physical assaults executed through male partner throughout the present pregnancy. On the other hand the general health effects are especially raised when such incidents happen throughout the pregnancy, and resulting inadequate health provided to the pregnant lady but rather additionally her unborn baby.<sup>4,5</sup> In a study it is mentioned that violence incidence through their male partners, I early pregnancy 23 to 25%, while it is raised at the 52% at the full term pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

In the developing countries literature showed that 45 to 29% totally women are facing to the domestic violence

during pregnancy.<sup>7,8</sup> There are many factors responsible for it like demographic,<sup>9</sup> socioeconomic status and cultural<sup>10,11</sup>. In developing countries important factors responsible for physical violence are education of husband and wife, household wealth, addiction, unplanned pregnancy and duration of marriage<sup>12</sup>. Physically abused women are more likely to develop psychological sequel like suicide, depression, addiction of the drugs and the stress syndromes of the post trauma.<sup>13</sup> In a past study of the Pakistan provided details regarding abusive behavior at home from the point of view of men, in this totally respondents admitted to constantly verbally misappropriating their wives and above the two third to continuously captivated in unconsensual sexual movement to their female partners.<sup>14</sup> This study was done to determine the factors association with physical violence during pregnancy in our setup.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This observational / descriptive / cross sectional study was done between Jan 2011 to Sep 2011 at Gynaecological Department of People University of medical and health science Nawabshah Sindh Pakistan. All women who attended gynae outpatient department and had pregnancy ever, were included in the study. Predesigned questionnaire was made and after taking verbal informed consent women were interviewed. Sample size was random and convenient. Women who were unmarried and had no pregnancy were excluded

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from the study. Every one of the interviews was directed at a place where nobody could hear the discussion. Confidentiality was ensured. Questions were asked about their relationship with their husbands and family members and physical abuse during pregnancy along with they were living in joint family and their socioeconomic status, education and employment status etc. Data was entered analyzed on SPSS version 16. P value kept < 0.05 as significant after applying the chi square test.

**RESULTS**

Total 190 women were enrolled in this study. Out of these, 161(84.7%) women had physical violence during pregnancy while 29 (15.3%) women had no abuse. 162(85.3%) women belonged to poor socioeconomic class while 17(8.9%) women belonged to middle socioeconomic class while 17(8.9%) women belonged to middle socioeconomic class (Table 1).

**Table No.1: Demographic Data N=190**

Demographic Variables	Frequency	%age
Socioeconomic Status		
Poor	162	85.3
Middle	17	8.9
High	11	5.8
Husband Education		
Illiterate	77	40.5
Primary	51	26.8
Secondary	42	22.1
Graduate	20	10.5
Employment Status		
Employ	102	53.7
Not working	88	46.3
Family System		
Nuclear	110	57.9
Joint	80	42.1
Length of Marriage		
<5 year	50	26.3
5-10 year	48	25.3
>10 year	92	48.4
Addiction		
Addicted	67	35.3
Non addicted	123	64.7
Violence In Pregnancy		
Occurred	161	84.7
Not occurred	29	15.3

Table 2 shows factors statistically significant association with physical abuse during pregnancy. Women belonging to poor class was had more physical violence as compared to upper class (P= 0.000).

Husbands who were addicted were more involved in doing physical abuse as compared to those who were not addicted (P= 0.000).

Results of table 3 shows that illiterate husbands were more involved in physical abuse than graduates, but results were not significant statistically (P= 0.12).

**Table No.2: Factors having association with physical violence during pregnancy**

Variable	Violence during pregnancy		Chi-square Value	P value
	Yes (N =161)	No (N =29)		
Socioeconomic status			16.674	0.000
low	144	18		
middle	9	8		
upper	8	3		
Addiction			13.722	0.000
Addicted	113	10		
not addicted	48	19		
Family structure			15.998	0.000
nuclear	103	7		
joint	58	22		
Pregnancy			3.837	0.037
wanted	97	23		
unwanted	64	6		
Duration of marriage:			14.74	0.001
<5 years	34	16		
5-10 years	44	4		
>10 years	83	9		

**Table No.3: Factors having no association with physical violence n=195**

Variable	Violence in pregnancy		Chi-square Value	P value
	Yes (N = 161)	No (N =29)		
Husband education:			5.798	0.12
Illiterate	65	12		
Primary	41	10		
Secondary	40	2		
graduate	15	5		
Employment status:			0.053	0.488
employee	87	15		
not employee	74	14		

**DISCUSSION**

Violence against ladies has moved over late decades and observed as the private or the issue of the family and it is supposed as the health is related to genuine results for wellbeing of victims.<sup>15</sup> When violence happens amid pregnancy, its belongings go past the

mother, and also influencing the child.<sup>16</sup> This series has been carried out evaluate the factors and physical violence association in the women with pregnancy. Results of our findings showed that low socioeconomic status is strongly linked to the domestic physical violence in the women with pregnancy with significant difference between low socioeconomic and upper socioeconomic status (P=0.000).

Low financial status is connected with violence, it would in this manner infer increase pay of the women and control the resources of the economy can significantly decrease the violence. In a study stated that South African women those were financially enabled through credit augmentation and overseeing advances reported decreased risk of violence.<sup>17</sup>

Similarly Nasir K et al<sup>7</sup> mentioned that socioeconomic status is highly linked to physical violence in pregnant women, their results are showed the same findings as compare to our study.

In this study it is found that the employment activity was not significantly linked to the physical violence during the period of pregnancy (P= 0.488). Similar findings were noted in the series of N Hammoury et al<sup>18</sup>. In the results of this series marriage duration was highly linked with physical violence, as well as the extra violence has been found in those women having marriage duration more than 10 years (P=0.001). In the study of Nasir K et al<sup>7</sup> also reported that marriage is highly linked with physical violence.

Results of our study showed strong association of addiction of husbands and physical violence (P=0.000). Similar findings were found in the study of Bacchus L et al<sup>19</sup>.

In our study, pregnancy did not protect the respondents from physical abuse. Same is seen in other studies<sup>20</sup>. Low education level in husbands is linked to raised violence's risks, but results are not statistically significant (P=0.12), on other hand Bacchus L et al<sup>19</sup> also demonstrated that low education level in husbands is linked with increased risk of physical violence.

## CONCLUSION

Poor socioeconomic condition, nuclear family structure and addicted husbands were more involved in physical violence during pregnancy.

**Conflict of Interest:** The study has no conflict of interest to declare by any author.

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