

Factors associated with spousal violence against employed women: a study in North–Western region of Bangladesh.

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Abstract: The study used various statistical tools to measure the prevalence and associated factors of spousal violence against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh. The study was conducted in the two selected districts in the region viz., Dinajpur and Thakurgaon, where, 150 married employed women were selected using random sampling technique. The study found that about 42.0% women had non-abusive relationship with their husband and 58.0% women were victim of spousal violence. Among the violent women 48.0% women were moderately abused and 10.0% women were seriously abused. According to pattern of violence, about 41% women experienced physical violence, 68.0% experienced sexual violence and 63% experienced psychological violence. Mainly age of respondent, education level of respondent, occupation of respondent, respondent's monthly income, age of husband, education level of husband, husband's monthly income, total monthly family expenditure and land size of household were significantly associated with spousal violence.

Keywords: Spousal violence, physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, employed women

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I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the biological (sex) differences every society imposes certain rules, regulations, responsibilities, and rights of men and women. If we try to observe these behaviors and practices carefully, we will see that most of these rules and regulations are discriminatory. This discriminatory behavior creates difference between men and women, which eventually gives a lower status to women in terms of men socially, culturally, religiously, economically and legally.¹

Spousal violence is not a new phenomenon in a married woman's life. The term violence against women, domestic violence, domestic abuse, intimate partner violence and spousal violence is often used interchangeably.^{2, 3} Spousal violence is a vehicle employed by men to enhance their bargaining power. The husband uses violence to signal to his in-laws the degree of his satisfaction with his marriage and uses violence as a weapon of extortion. However, the extent to which women experience domestic violence remains largely hidden and undocumented. Nevertheless, as violence is commonly perpetrated by a woman's partner, often in her home, it is often considered as a 'private issue' and thus not a matter to discuss, research or action.⁴ The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as "any behavior within an intimate partnership that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship".⁵

Women's economic participation, one in three women has experienced sexual or physical violence in her lifetime.⁶ The report of October 29, 2009 in the Daily Hindu Newspaper of India cited that the professional life often subjects them to increased spousal violence in India and the study found that those women who became employed during the study period had an 80 percent higher chance of being abused by their husbands than women who remained unemployed. Globally, 35 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence and rates of intimate-partner VAW surpass 50 per cent in some countries.^{6,7} According to the World Health Organization's multi-country study on violence against women in intimate relationships, the lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence ranges between 15% and 71%, and past-year prevalence also shows a wide variation (4%–54%), with the lowest rates found for Japan and the highest for Ethiopia, Peru, and Bangladesh. The results of VAW Survey 2015 identified that, almost two thirds (72.6%) of ever-married women in Bangladesh have experienced some form of partner violence in their lifetime, and more than half (54.7%) have experienced it in the last 12 months.⁸

Recent studies by Bhattacharya et al. and Chin, which accounted for the endogeneity in the relationship between spousal violence and employment, depict that women's employment reduces the risk of spousal

violence in India.^{9, 10} Adverse health impacts of spousal violence in turn can affect women's employment, which has straightforward implications for individual well-being as well as the economic development of a country.^{11, 12}

Under these circumstances, the present study aims to empirically investigate whether and to what extent women's employment is associated with their experience of spousal violence. So, it has been decided to conduct the study with the following objectives: 1. to identify the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of married employed women families, 2. to assess the prevalence of spousal violence among employed women, 3. to discover the association between the prevalence of spousal violence and the selected socio-demographic and economic variables, 4. to isolate the various level of factors associated with spousal violence among employed women.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area: Due to limitation of time and resources, the inclusion of the country as a whole for investigation was not possible. The present study was conducted in the two selected districts in North-Western region of Bangladesh viz., Dinajpur and Thakurgaon.

Sampling and sample size: Cluster sampling was done because no sampling frame from which to draw a useful random sample was available. The study area covered several clusters according to the density of the employed women. Among them 6 (six) clusters were selected using simple random sampling procedure. From the selected clusters, respondents were selected randomly. The sample size for the study was calculated by assuming the prevalence of domestic violence 60% and allowable error of 10%. The calculated sample size was 130 and the adjusted sample size was 156 (allowing 20% non-response rate). Therefore, the targeted sample size was 160 for the study, but a total of 150 women responded.

Measurement of Spousal violence: In the study women were asked to 29 questions about their experience of spousal violence. There are different forms of abuse, and not every woman experiences all of them. Each possible answer has points assigned to it. Each question has four answers with scores (frequently=3, sometimes=2, rarely=1, never=0). To measure the prevalence of spousal violence, we simply add up the points directly next to each question and then compared with Abuse Index Score.

In case of forms of violence i.e. physical and sexual violence, women reporting that they experienced violence "sometimes" or "frequently" were categorized as having experienced physical or sexual violence and coded as 1, and other responses were categorized as no experienced of physical or sexual violence and coded as 0. And psychological violence also computed based on women's responses, if a woman responded "frequently" to any of the eight questions or responded "sometimes" in any two questions among eight questions, she was considered to face psychological violence from her husband and coded as 1 and other responses were categorized as no experience of psychological violence and coded as 0.

Statistical analysis: The huge bulk data of filled up questionnaires for this study were computerized in Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. Univariate analysis is done to know the frequency & percentage distribution and descriptive statistics of the selected study variables to realize the sample data. The Independent Samples t-test done to compare the means of two independent groups in order to determine whether there is statistical evidence. Point-biserial correlation is used to measure the strength and direction of the association that exists between one continuous variable and one dichotomous variable. And also Logistic regression is used to explain the relationship between one dependent binary variable and one or more metric independent variables.

III. RESULTS

3.1 Socio-demographic & economic characteristics of married employed women's families:

Regarding the age groups, 14.0%, 58.7%, 18.0%, and 9.3% of respondent's was in the age group of less than 30 years, 30-39 years, 40-49 years and 50 & above years respectively. The majority of women (60.7%) had university level education, while 28.0% had school level education and 11.3% had college level education. Occupation of respondent, about 25.3% of respondent's occupation was teaching, 37.3% was working in NGO/Private/Bank and 37.3% was working as Govt. officer & staff. Respondent's monthly income, 30.7% of respondent's monthly income was up to 6000 Tk., 34.0% in the range of 6001-12000 Tk. and 35.3% in the range of 12001 Tk. and above. About, 42.7% of respondents monthly family expenditure from own income was up to 5000 Tk., 31.3% was in the range of 5001-10000 Tk. and 26.0% was in the range of 10001 Tk. and above.

Table 1: Socio-demographic & economic characteristics of the selected employed women's families in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Variables	Categories	No.	%
Age of respondent (years)	Less than 30	21	14.0

	30-39	88	58.7
	40 -49	27	18.0
	50 & above	14	9.3
Education level of respondent	School	42	28.0
	College	17	11.3
	University	91	60.7
Occupation of respondent	Teacher	38	25.3
	Bank/NGO/Private	56	37.3
	Govt. officer & staff	56	37.3
Respondent's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	46	30.7
	6001-12000	51	34.0
	12001 and above	53	35.3
Respondent's Monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.)	Up to 5000	64	42.7
	5001-10000	47	31.3
	10001 and above	39	26.0
Respondent's age at the time of present marriage (years)	<18	50	33.3
	18-24	67	44.7
	25-29	25	16.4
	>30	8	5.3
Religion	Hindu & others	37	24.7
	Muslim	113	75.3
Family structure	Single family	114	76.0
	Combined family	36	24.0
Place of residence	Rural village	27	18.0
	Urban	123	82.0
Age of husband (years)	Less than 30	6	4.0
	30-39	53	35.6
	40-49	57	38.0
	50 & above	34	22.7
Education level of husband	School	41	27.3
	College	20	13.3
	University	89	59.3
Occupation of husband	Teacher	21	14.0
	Govt. officer & staff	16	10.7
	Bank/NGO/Private	46	30.7
	Business	67	44.7
Husband's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	36	24.0
	6001-12000	33	22.0
	12001-18000	28	18.7
	18001 & above	53	35.3
Husband's monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.)	Up to 5000	30	20.0
	5001-10000	65	43.3
	10001 & above	55	36.7
Total monthly family expenditure (Tk.)	2000-10000	31	20.7
	10001-20000	70	46.7
	20001 & above	49	32.7

The majority of the women were between 18-24 years old when they got married, 33.3% of women reported that they were younger than 18 when they got married. Marital duration up to 4 years was found in 10.0% of respondents, 5-9 years was found in 21.3% respondents and rest 10 & above years was in 68.7% respondents. At the point of religion, 75.3% of respondents were Muslim, and 24.7% were Hindu and others. About 76.0% of households had single family and 24.0% combined family. Majority of the women respondents were living in urban areas (82 percent).

In case of husband’s age, 4.0%, 35.6%, 38.0% and 22.7% was in the age group less than 30 years, 30-39 years, 40-49 years and 50 & above years respectively. More than half of the husband’s (59.3%) education level was university, 27.3% school, and 13.3% college. Occupation of husband, 14.0% of husband’s occupation was teaching, 10.7% Govt. officer & staff, 30.7% Bank/NGO/Private and 44.7% business. Husband’s monthly income, 24.0% of husbands monthly income was up to 6000 Tk., 22.0% in the range of 6001-12000 Tk., 18.7% in the range of 12001-18000 Tk. and 35.3% in the range of 18001 Tk. and above. About, 20.0% of husbands monthly family expenditure from own income was up to 5000 Tk., 43.3% was in the range of 5001-10000 Tk. and 36.7% was in the range of 10001 Tk. and above. About 20.7% of household’s monthly expenditure was 2000-10000 Tk., 46.7% in the range of 10001-20000 Tk. and rest 32.7% in the range of 20001 Tk. & above (Table 1).

3.2 Prevalence of spousal violence

Prevalence of spousal violence is categorized as three dimensions such as non-abusive relationship, moderately abusive and seriously abusive. From Figure 1 it found that, 42.0% women had non-abusive relationship with their husband that means they maintained a normal relationship with their husbands and 58.0% women were victim of spousal violence. Within them 48.0% women were moderately abused and 10.0% seriously abused.

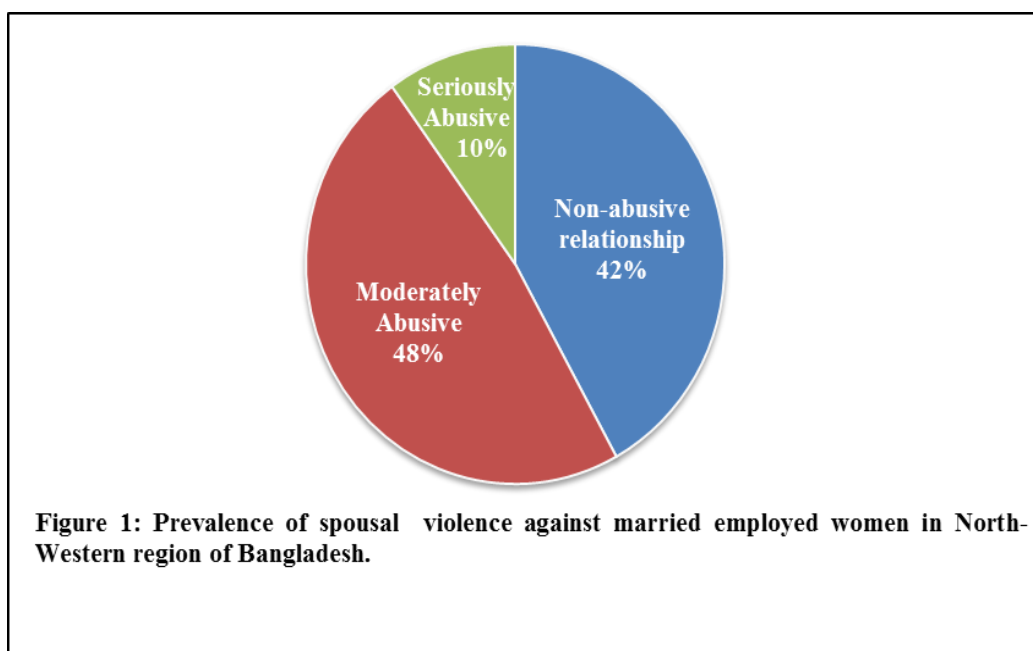


Table 2 represents the mean (weighted) and standard error of mean of different socio-demographic & economic characteristics according to prevalence of spousal violence categories for employed. The mean values of education level of respondent, respondent’s monthly income (Tk.), respondent’s age at the time of present marriage (years), marital duration (years), education level of husband, husband’s monthly income (Tk.), husband’s monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.), and total monthly family expenditure (Tk.) were significantly different between non-abusive and abusive categories.

Table 2: Mean values (weighted) of different socio-demographic & economic variables according to prevalence of spousal violence for employed women.

Variables	Prevalence of spousal violence		t-value
	Non-abusive relationship	Abusive relationship	
	Mean ± SE(Mean)	Mean ± SE(Mean)	
Age of respondent (years)	35.94 ± 1.00	37.08± 0.80	0.897 ^{NS} (0.371)
Education level of respondent (class passed)	14.55 ± 0.25	10.97 ± 0.48	5.838 ^{**} (0.000)
Respondent’s monthly income (Tk.)	14279.5 ± 1087.11	10234.62±715.46	3.241 ^{**}

			(0.001)
Respondent's monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.)	8118.60 ± 713.71	7751.70 ± 560.16	0.409 ^{NS} (0.683)
Respondent's age at the time of present marriage (years)	22.13 ± 0.7	18.98 ± 0.54	3.640** (0.000)
Age of husband (years)	42.18 ± 1.21	44.36 ± 0.93	1.448 ^{NS} (0.150)
Education level of husband (class passed)	14.58 ± 0.31	11.20 ± 0.48	5.317** (0.000)
Husband's monthly income (Tk.)	26132.07 ± 2909.96	13833.33 ± 1719.43	3.861** (0.000)
Husband's monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.)	13993.22 ± 1121.45	9642.26 ± 617.79	3.645** (0.000)
Total monthly family expenditure (Tk.)	21978.97 ± 1154.06	17538.27 ± 928.36	3.019** (0.003)

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05 and ^{NS}p = Not significant

The mean values of respondent's education level between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 14.6 and 10.9 classes passed respectively. That means, the women of non-abusive category were higher educated compared to the women of abusive category. The average monthly income of respondents was lower for the women of abusive category (Tk. 10234.6) than non-abusive category (Tk. 14279.5). The average respondent's age at the time of present marriage between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 22.1 years and 18.9 years respectively. That means the early married women had abusive relationship with their husband than the non-early married women.

The average values of husband's education level between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 14.6 and 11.2 respectively. That means higher educated husbands maintained non-abusive relationship with their wives compared to lower educated husbands. The average monthly income of husbands between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 26132 Tk. and 13833.3 Tk. respectively. The average family expenditure from husband's monthly income between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 13993.2 Tk. and 9642.3 Tk. respectively. That means husbands with higher monthly income and family expenditure maintained non-abusive relationship with their wives compared to husbands with lower monthly income and family expenditure. The average total monthly family expenditure between non-abusive relationship and abusive relationship were 21978.9 Tk. and 17538.2 Tk. respectively. So that, the families with lower total monthly family expenditure had more abusive relationship within husband.

Table 3 represents the socio-demographic & economic characteristics which are significantly associated with abusive relationship (prevalence of spousal violence) against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Table 3: The socio-demographic & economic variables which are significantly associated with abusive relationship against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Variables	Categories	Prevalence of spousal violence				Chi-square (p-value)
		Non-abusive relationship		Abusive relationship		
		No.	%	No.	%	
Age of respondent (years)	Less than 30	10	15.9	11	12.6	7.543* (0.054)
	30-39	41	65.1	47	54.0	
	40-49	5	7.9	22	25.3	
	50 & above	7	11.1	7	8.0	
Education level of respondents	School	6	9.5	36	41.4	22.915** (0.000)
	College	5	7.9	12	13.8	
	University	52	82.5	39	44.8	
Occupation of respondent	Teacher	24	38.1	14	16.1	12.321** (0.002)
	Bank/NGO/Private	24	38.1	32	36.8	
	Govt. officer & staff	15	23.8	41	47.1	
Respondent's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	12	19.0	34	39.1	8.327* (0.016)
	6001-12000	22	34.9	29	33.3	

	12001 & above	29	46.0	24	27.6	
Respondent's age at the time of present marriage (years)	< 18	12	19.0	38	43.7	11.857** (0.008)
	18-24	31	49.2	36	41.4	
	25-29	15	23.8	10	11.5	
	>30	5	7.9	3	3.4	
Religion	Hindu & Others	21	33.3	16	18.4	4.391* (0.036)
	Muslim	42	66.7	71	81.6	
Education level of respondents	School	6	9.5	35	40.2	22.343** (0.000)
	College	6	9.5	14	16.1	
	University	51	81.0	38	43.7	
Husband's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	7	11.1	29	33.3	18.532** (0.000)
	6001-12000	10	15.9	23	26.4	
	12001-18000	13	20.6	15	17.2	
	18001 & above	33	52.4	20	23.0	
Total monthly family expenditure (Tk.)	Up to 10000	7	11.1	24	27.6	6.586* (0.037)
	10001-20000	31	49.2	39	44.8	
	20001 & above	25	39.7	24	27.6	

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05 and ^{NS}p = Not significant

Table 4 presents the results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied risk factors for abusive relationship against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Table 4: results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied risk factors for abusive relationship against employed women.

Variables	Categories	P-value	OR (95% CI)
Occupation of Respondent	Teacher (RC)		1.00
	Officer & staff (Govt./Bank / NGO/Private)	0.046	2.454(1.018 - 5.918)*
Religion	Hindu & others (RC)		1.00
	Muslim	0.026	2.904(1.136 - 7.422)*
Education level of Husband	School	0.000	6.359(2.237 - 18.078)**
	College	0.017	3.187(1.319 - 7.698)*
	University (RC)		1.00
Occupation of Husband	Officer & staff (Govt./Bank /NGO/Private)	0.025	4.055(1.332 - 12.345)*
	Teacher	0.020	2.203(0.985 - 4.931)*
	Business (RC)		1.00

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05

Results showed that, odd for abusive category showed 2.5 times higher for the women who employed as officer & staff (Govt./Bank/NGO/Private) with respect to teacher. Odd for abusive category existed 2.9 times higher for Muslim with respect to Hindu & others religion. Odds for abusive category were 6.4 and 3.2 times higher for the women whose husband's education level were school and college level respectively with respect to university level. Odds for abusive category were 4.1 and 2.2 times higher for the women whose husband's occupation were officer-staff (Govt./Bank/NGO/Private) and teacher respectively with respect to businessmen.

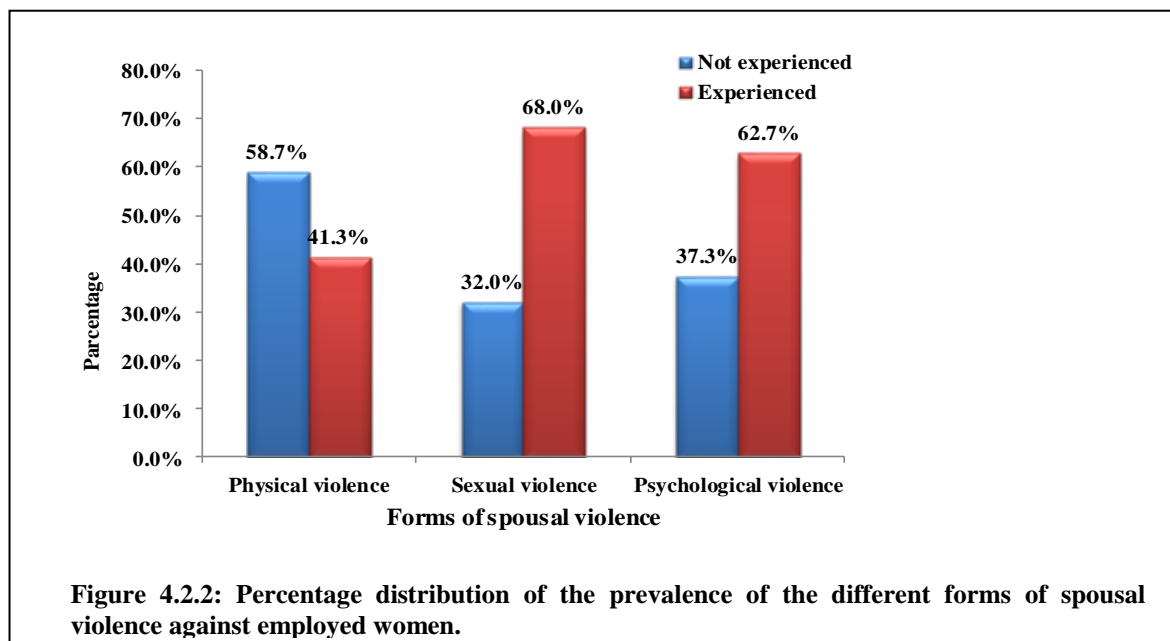


Fig. 2 showed the percentage distribution of the different forms of spousal violence against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh. It found that, about 41% women experienced physical violence, 68.0% experienced sexual violence and 63% experienced psychological violence from their husbands.

Table 5 represents the point-biserial correlation coefficients of different socio-demographic & economic variables with different forms of spousal violence against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Table 5: Point-biserial correlation coefficients of different socio-demographic and economic variables with different forms of spousal violence.

Variables	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Psychological violence
	r_{pb}	r_{pb}	r_{pb}
Age of respondent (years)	0.410** (0.000)	-0.304** (0.000)	-
Respondent's monthly income (Tk.)	-	-	-0.314** (0.000)
Respondent's age at the time of present marriage (years)	-0.246** (0.003)	-0.025 ^{NS} (0.763)	-0.343** (0.000)
Age of husband (years)	0.360** (0.000)	-0.007 ^{NS} (0.935)	0.206* (0.014)
Husband's monthly income (Tk.)	-	-	-0.378** (0.000)
Total monthly family expenditure (Tk.)	-0.254** (0.002)	-0.156 ^{NS} (0.061)	-0.285** (0.001)

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05, and ^{NS}p = Not significant

Results demonstrated that, age of respondent positively correlated with physical violence and negatively correlated with sexual violence. Respondent's monthly income negatively correlated with psychological violence. Respondent's age at the time of present marriage negatively correlated with physical violence and psychological violence. Again age of husband positively correlated with physical violence and psychological violence. Husband's monthly income negatively correlated with psychological violence. And also total monthly family expenditure negatively correlated with physical violence and psychological violence.

Table 6 represents the association between different socio-demographic & economic characteristics and different forms of spousal violence against married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

We found that physical violence significantly associated with age of respondent, education level of respondent, occupation of respondent, respondent's monthly income, respondent's age at the time of present marriage, religion, age of husband, education level of husband, husband's monthly income, and total monthly

family expenditure. Sexual violence significantly associated with age of respondents, occupation of respondent, respondent's monthly income, family structure, and age of husband. And psychological violence significantly associated with education level of respondent, occupation of respondent, respondent's monthly income, respondent's age at the time of present marriage, age of husband, education level of husband, husband's monthly income, and total monthly family expenditure.

Table 6: The socio-demographic & economic variables which are significantly associated with different forms of spousal violence against employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Variable	Categories	Forms of violence					
		Physical Violence		Sexual Violence		Psychological Violence	
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Age of respondent (years)	Less than 30	17.0	9.7	12.5	14.7	10.7	16.0
	30-39	65.9	48.4	43.8	65.7	69.6	52.1
	40-49	10.2	29.0	18.8	17.6	14.3	20.2
	50 & above	6.8	12.9	25.0	2.0	5.4	11.7
	Chi square	11.903**		21.376**		4.723 ^{NS}	
Education level of Respondent	School	13.6	48.4	18.8	32.4	10.7	38.3
	College	10.2	12.9	8.3	12.7	5.4	14.9
	University	76.1	38.7	72.9	54.9	83.9	46.8
	Chi square	24.316**		4.466 ^{NS}		20.323**	
Occupation of respondent	Teacher	35.2	11.3	20.8	27.5	33.9	20.2
	Bank/NGO/Private	30.7	46.8	52.1	30.4	41.1	35.1
	Govt. officer & staff	34.1	41.9	27.1	42.2	25.0	44.7
	Chi square	11.349**		6.664*		6.581*	
Respondent's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	21.6	43.5	18.8	36.3	17.9	38.3
	6001-12000	39.8	25.8	29.2	36.3	32.1	35.1
	12001 & above	38.6	30.6	52.1	27.5	50.0	26.6
	Chi square	8.463*		9.359**		10.312**	
Respondent's age at the time of present marriage (years)	<18	23.9	46.8	29.2	35.3	17.9	42.6
	18-24	48.9	38.7	45.8	44.1	42.9	45.7
	25-29	20.5	11.3	18.8	15.7	33.9	6.4
	>30	6.8	3.2	6.3	4.9	5.4	5.3
	Chi square	9.280*		0.684 ^{NS}		22.463**	
Religion	Hindu & others	35.2	9.7	16.7	28.4	30.4	21.3
	Muslim	64.8	90.3	83.3	71.6	69.6	78.7
	Chi square	12.778**		2.431 ^{NS}		1.557 ^{NS}	
Family structure	Single family	76.1	75.8	62.5	82.4	75.0	76.6
	Combined family	23.9	24.2	37.5	17.6	25.0	23.4
	Chi square	0.002 ^{NS}		7.053**		0.049 ^{NS}	
Age of husband (years)	Less than 30	5.7	1.6	8.3	2.0	3.6	4.3
	30-39	35.2	35.5	29.2	38.2	46.4	28.7
	40-49	46.6	25.8	25.0	44.1	39.3	37.2
	50 & above	12.5	37.1	37.5	15.7	10.7	29.8
	Chi square	15.350**		14.065**		8.825*	
Education level of husband	School	14.8	45.2	16.7	32.4	8.9	38.3
	College	11.4	16.1	14.6	12.7	7.1	17.0

	University	73.9	38.7	68.8	54.9	83.9	44.7
	Chi square	20.484**		4.076 ^{NS}		22.754**	
Husband's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	15.9	35.5	20.8	25.5	10.7	31.9
	6001-12000	18.2	27.4	20.8	22.5	12.5	27.7
	12001-18000	23.9	11.3	10.4	22.5	23.2	16.0
	18001 & above	42.0	25.8	47.9	29.4	53.6	24.5
	Chi square	13.013**		6.076 ^{NS}		19.641**	
Total monthly family expenditure (Tk.)	Up to 10000	13.6	30.6	14.6	23.5	8.9	27.7
	10001-20000	45.5	48.4	47.9	46.1	48.2	45.7
	20001 & above	40.9	21.0	37.5	30.4	42.9	26.6
	Chi square	9.586**		1.792 ^{NS}		8.844**	

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05, and ^{NS}p = Not significant

Table 7 indicates the results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied factors for physical violence against married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Results reveal that, odds for experiencing physical violence were 5.3 & 3.2 times higher for the women who were in the age groups 30-39 years and 40 & above years respectively with respect to less than 30 years. Odds for experiencing physical violence were 6.2 and 3.0 times higher for the women whose education level was school and college respectively with respect to university. Odd for experiencing physical violence existed 3.2 times higher for the women who employed as officer & staff (Govt./Bank/NGO/Private) with respect to teacher. And odds for experiencing physical violence existed 2.8 times higher for Muslim women with respect to Hindu & others religion.

Table 7: Results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied factors for physical violence against married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Variables	Categories	P-Value	OR(95% CI)
Age of respondent (years)	Less than 30 (RC)		1.00
	30-39	0.003	5.301(1.536 - 18.29)**
	40 and above	0.050	3.161(1.095 - 9.128)*
Education level of respondent	School	0.000	6.172(1.733 - 21.98)**
	College	0.052	3.042(1.134 - 8.149)*
	University (RC)		1.00
Occupation of respondent	Teacher (RC)		1.00
	Officer & staff (Govt. /Bank/NGO/Private)	0.033	3.178(1.099 - 9.192)*
Religion	Hindu & others (RC)		1.00
	Muslim	0.001	2.79(1.172 - 6.654)**

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05

Table 8 indicates the results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied variables for sexual violence among married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Results explain that, odds for experiencing sexual violence were 2.4 and 4.3 times higher for the women who were in the age groups less than 30 years and 30-39 years respectively with respect to 40 and above years. Odds for experiencing sexual violence were 3.3 and 2.1 times higher for the women whose monthly income were up to 6000 Tk. and 6001-12000 Tk. respectively with respect to 12001 Tk. & above. Odds for experiencing sexual violence were 4.4 and 2.1 times higher for the women whose monthly family expenditure from own income were up to 5000 Tk. and 5001-10000 Tk. respectively with respect to 10001 Tk. & above. Odd for experiencing sexual violence existed 4.2 times higher in single family with respect to combined family. And odds for experiencing sexual violence existed 4.3 times higher for the women whose husband's education level was school with respect to university.

Table 8: Results of binary logistic regression analysis of significant studied variables for sexual violence against married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh.

Variables	Categories	P-value	OR (95% CI)
Age of respondent (years)	Less than 30	0.005	2.396(1.039 - 5.523)*
	30-39	0.000	4.25(1.349 - 13.42)**
	40 and above (RC)		1.00
Respondent's monthly income (Tk.)	Up to 6000	0.003	3.330(1.245 - 8.908)**
	6001-12000	0.021	2.067(0.620 - 6.885)*
	12001 & above (RC)		1.00
Respondent's monthly family expenditure from own income (Tk.)	Up to 5000	0.000	4.419(1.421 - 13.75)**
	5001-10000	0.020	2.145(0.714 - 6.440)*
	10001 & above (RC)		1.00
Family structure	Single family	0.004	4.236(1.575 - 11.39)**
	Combined family(RC)		1.00
Education level of husband	School	0.038	4.300(1.083 - 17.08)*
	College	0.666	1.343(0.352 - 5.113)
	University(RC)		1.00

Note: Level of significance: **p<0.01, *p<0.05

IV. DISCUSSIONS

We found that 58% employed women were victim of spousal violence, where 48% women were moderately abused and 10% women were seriously abused. The prevalence of spousal violence in our study was lower than that found in the survey conducted by BBS (VAW survey 2015), where 72.6% of ever married women experienced violence by their husband in their lifetime.⁸ This might be due to the fact that women's employment reduces the risk of spousal violence.

In present study, the socio-demographic and economic characteristics significantly associated with the spousal violence against employed women. The woman's age was identified as a statistically significant risk factor for physical and sexual violence in the bivariate and multivariate analyses. It seen that younger age as a risk factor for violence as observed elsewhere, where physical violence increased and sexual violence decreased with the increase of age of respondent.¹³ Again a greater percentage of early married women experienced more physical and psychological violence than others category. This may be due to their incognizant about conjugality. In case of husband's age it found significantly associated with physical and sexual violence, where husbands of middle aged committed more violence compared to others category.

The association between spousal violence and religion was found significant. Muslim women were more likely to be a victim of spousal violence compared to others religion. Again respondents living in nuclear or single family were more exposed to sexual violence than those living in joint or combined family.¹⁴

We found that, the women of non-abusive category were higher educated compared to the women of abusive category and also education level of respondents as well as husbands significantly associated with physical and psychological violence. It found that higher level of education, for respondents as well as husbands, protects against spousal violence. In various studies it seen that the occurrence of violence appeared negatively related with level of education of the women as well as men.^{15, 16, 17}

Prevalence of spousal violence as well as all possible forms of violence was found significantly associated with occupation of respondents. The women who worked in NGO/Private/Bank or as a Govt. officer/staff were about three times higher risk experiencing spousal violence as well as physical violence compared to the women of teacher category. Multivariate analysis showed that, businessman husband was found safer regarding spousal violence against employed women as compared to the husband of service & teaching profession. Again respondent's monthly income was significantly lower for the women of abusive category compared to the women of non-abusive category. Women who had low monthly income experienced more sexual violence and as increasing the income, violence decreased. It also found that odds for experiencing sexual violence were 4.4 and 2.1 times higher for the women whose monthly family expenditure from own income were up to 5000 Tk. and 5001-10000 Tk. respectively with respect to 10001 Tk. & above. It also found that, husbands with higher monthly income maintained non-abusive relationship with their wives. The families with low total monthly family expenditure had abusive relationship within husband and wife. Therefore, socioeconomic characteristics are also statistically significant for occurrence of spousal violence as well as all possible forms of violence, which is in line with findings from other studies. So that within those families that are most vulnerable in terms of low education and low socioeconomic status, violence occurs more commonly.^{13, 17, 18, 19}

V. CONCLUSION

The study was set out to establish the factors influencing spousal violence against married employed women in North-Western region of Bangladesh. The indicators of socio-demographic and economic factors considered in the study were statistically significant for spousal violence. Socio-demographic factors were identified as contributing to the occurrence of different forms of spousal violence, with those having the least resources being most affected. Our study found that the youngest women were more likely than older women to report all possible forms of spousal violence. Also the oldest husbands were more likely than younger husbands to commit all forms of spousal violence. It also found that, a greater percentage of early married and Muslim women were experienced more spousal violence compared to others. Physical violence and psychological violence increased with the increase of marital duration.

The key indicators of socioeconomic differences considered in the study were strongly significant in their association with spousal violence. The results demonstrated a significant decrease in spousal violence against women with increasing the level of education among husband and wife. Classification of occupation showed that women who employed as a teacher experienced less spousal violence than any other jobs. Businessman husbands were found safer regarding spousal violence against women as compared to husbands of service & teaching profession. It found that as increasing the income of husbands and wives, spousal violence decreases. It also found that the families with low monthly expenditure and having no farming land were mostly happening violence within husband & wife.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the aforesaid results and discussions, the following recommendations can be suggested as a way out to prevent spousal violence as well as to ensure congenial environment of women's family:

- Before taking job and marital decisions higher education should be completed by the women. In this regard parents should encourage their daughter to complete higher education and well employed and also to marry them at proper age.
- Family expenses should be maintained from both wives and husbands with mutual understanding. As a result there will be no dissimilarity in their mind about their family expenditure, which can reduce spousal violence and lead a happy family.
- One of the ways can be to raise awareness among community members/family members that violence against women (VAW) is an extreme violation of women's human rights, is a criminal offense under the law, and also has bad consequences on the immediate family, employment and future generations.
- Educational and religious institutes are an ideal place where awareness of violence in relationships can be built and healthy ways of forming intimate relationships can be taught to challenge violence against women.

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