

The Prevalence and Associated Factors of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms on Battered Wives during Covid-19 Pandemic in Madhya Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

Post-traumatic stress disorder is one of the most typically diagnosed mental health illnesses among battered women. Battering is a dominant chronic global public health problem because the victims are constantly re-traumatized due to flashbacks, and nightmares which frequently result in being over-aroused, easily startled, and quick to anger. Covid -19 pandemic increased the battering worldwide due to the lockdown and stay-at-home policy. Current study has attempted to explore the prevalence and associated factors of posttraumatic stress symptoms among battered wives amid the COVID- 19 pandemic. A cross-sectional comparative design was used in the present study. Data was collected from battered women who live with their husbands from four districts of Madhya Pradesh, India. Among the 300 a total number of 277 women participated in the study between the age range of 20 to 49. The study has used the respondents' demographic data and the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptom Scale-Interview version DSM-5 by Edna and Sandy to find the prevalence of PTSD among battered women. The study has found the prevalence of posttraumatic stress symptoms from moderate to very severe was 265 or 95.66% of the participants. The women between 20-29 age reveal a prevalence of 94.02%. About 95.28% of battered women aged between 30-39 years experienced PTSD symptoms. PTSD was high in women aged 40-49 years with a prevalence of 97.11%. during COVID -19. This study also found that psychological, sexual, and physically abused women are at risk of PTSD with a prevalence of 84.90%. This present study contributes to the existing literature by highlighting the prevalence of posttraumatic stress symptoms among battered women amid the pandemic, which will serve as the foundation for a psychological intervention program.

Keywords: Battered Wives; COVID-19 Pandemic; Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms; violence