

# Effect of Proximate Education and Role of Alcohol Consumption on Spousal Violence with Context to India

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### Abstract:

Violence against women, particularly Spousal violence and sexual violence, is a major public health issue and a violation of women's human rights. 7 out of 10 women have experienced physical or verbal abuse by a partner. 6 out of 10 people said there was more sexual harassment in public places(UN Women 2021). While gender-based violence can affect anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are more susceptible than others. The research focuses on studying the relationship between the Literacy of men and Spousal violence, reviewing the impact of consumption of alcohol in men on Spousal violence, assessing the relevance of women's household decision-making on intimate partner violence, suggesting probable measures to solve the problem of Spousal violence. The study focuses on secondary quantitative data populated from India for the period 2019-21. The reports by the National Family Health Survey(NFHS) are being used to extract data. The model of multiple linear regression is used for the year to study and assess the relationship between independent and dependent variables. It helps to determine the impact of different independent variables on dependent variables. The data on Spousal violence is analyzed as a dependent variable. The Literacy of men, Alcohol consumption of men, and Women's Household decision-making are the independent variables.

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence; Women's Household Decision Making; Alcohol Consumption; Men Literacy; Multiple Linear Regression

# INTRODUCTION

"It doesn't matter how rich or poor a person is, what gender or social class, or how much fame or education she possesses. Verbal, mental, and physical abuse can happen to anyone. It doesn't matter what a woman's ethnicity is because the only distinguishing color of abuse is black-and-blue." — La Toya Jackson

"Violence against women" is defined as "any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" in the declaration on the elimination of violence against women.



UN (2020) stated that domestic abuse also called "spousal violence" or "intimate partner violence", can be defined as a stereotyped behavior in any relationship that is used to acquire or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is defined as coercive, threatening, or harmful physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological behavior toward another person. This includes any actions that terrify, intimidate, manipulate, inflict harm, humiliate, or assign guilt to another person. It can occur within a variety of situations including couples who are married, living together, or dating. People from various socioeconomic origins and educational levels are impacted by domestic abuse.WHO (2021) concluded that 33% of women have been subjected to domestic abuse/intimate partner violence. Almost one in four adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 who have been in a relationship (24%) had been the victim of abuse either physically or sexually by an intimate partner. In the context of India, NALSA (2020) released state-wise data regarding the pendency of disposal of cases under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. According to the data, since the Act's announcement, 1,193,359 cases of domestic abuse have been reported nationwide.

SN	YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
1	2018	579
2	2019	553
3	2020	446
4	2021	507

Table 1: Year-wise Number of Cases Registered under The Protection of Women from Domestic
Violence Act 2005 in India

Source: NCRB (2020)

Target 5 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and the rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner violence are two measures of progress toward this goal (UN 2015). Self-reported domestic violence in any form is reported to be 31.2% of ever-married women in India (NFHS-5 2019-21).

Are women an object who must be controlled and guarded? Don't they have a right over their life? They need to be vigilant all the time, right? Such laws limit the growth and status of women in society. In India, there were 4,28,278 cases of crimes against women reported in total in 2021, a 15.3% rise over the previous year. The majority of cases of crime against women were classified as "Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives" (31.8%), "Assault on Woman with Intent to Outrage her Modesty" (20.8%), "Kidnapping and Abduction of Women" (17.6%), and "Rape" (7.4%). (NCRB 2021)The NCRB report compiles crime data from every state in the nation. It takes into account the number of cases reported by the population of



women in lakhs for measuring the crime rate under Section 498A of the IPC. In contrast, the recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) (2019-2020) is an impartial, trustworthy, and nationally representative data source that also gathers self-reported responses for spousal abuse.

The NFHS-5 clearly highlights the brutal reality of domestic abuse in India (see Fig 1): Karnataka had the highest rate of spousal violence among women (44%), followed by Bihar (40%), Manipur (39.6%), Telangana (36.9%), Assam (32%), and Andhra Pradesh (30%). The least violent states in the study include Lakshadweep (1.3%), Nagaland (6.4%), Goa (8.3%), and Himachal Pradesh (8.3%).



#### Source: NFHS-5

When we compare these estimates to the percentage of women who have reported incidences of domestic abuse under Section 498A of the IPC, we find that domestic violence occurrences are routinely underreported in 14 out of the 20 states, or 70% of them. In contrast to what the NFHS-5 numbers indicate, reporting under Section 498A is as low as 0 in Lakshadweep and Nagaland. In Bihar, Karnataka, and Manipur, where domestic violence is prevalent at a rate of at least 40% but reporting is at or below 8%, the most under-reporting appears to be taking place. Domestic violence case filings are more common than self-reported incidents in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Tripura, and West Bengal(Fig 2)



# Figure 2:State-wise cruelty by husband or relatives as per NCRB



### Source: NCRB(2020)

It is interesting to observe that despite knowing that domestic abuse is morally and legally wrong, both men and women still choose to reject this information. This might be the case as a result of the normalization of domestic violence by societal norms.

### Literacy of Men and Spousal Violence

Subramanian's (2008) goal was to investigate the impact of women's education and the proximate educational environment on intimate partner violence (IPV). They looked at a sample of 83627 married women from the 19981999 Indian National Family Health Survey who were between the ages of 15 and 49. They estimated the relative impact of women's and their husbands' educational levels, spousal educational differences, and community-level literacy on women's risk of recent and lifetime IPV using multilevel multiple logistic regression modeling. In adjusted models, the odds of recent IPV among women with no education were 5.61 times higher (95% confidence interval [CI]=3.53, 8.92) than those of college-educated women, and the odds among wives of uneducated men were 1.84 times higher (95% CI=1.4) women with higher levels of education. Women who reported recent IPV were more likely to have higher educational levels than their spouses (odds ratio [OR]=1.18; 95% CI=1.05, 1.33). The outcomes for lifetime IPV were identical. After adjusting for individual characteristics, the likelihood of IPV decreased as community male and female literacy levels increased.

Hogberg(2010) carried out a study within the Butajira Rural Health Programme (a Health and Demographic Surveillance Site), which encompasses rural and semi-urban settings in southcentral Ethiopia. It examines violence against women in a low-income environment in connection to residency and literacy. The WHO Women's Health and Life Events MultiCountry Survey includes this community-based cross-sectional study. 1,994 randomly chosen married ladies were included in it. Physical abuse, domicile, the woman's and her spouse's literacy levels, and women's views toward violence and gender roles were all assessed using a standard WHO questionnaire. Odds ratios and prevalence are presented in analyses with 95% confidence intervals based on bivariate and multivariate logistic regression models.

### Alcohol Consumption of Men and Spousal Violence

Hove (2010) set out to find out how college students' alcohol use and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) were impacted by the self-determination theory. They were interested in evaluating the potential impact of individual self-determination disparities (i.e., autonomous and controlled orientations), problem drinking, male IPV perpetrators against women, and the extent to which these factors may affect the relationship between self-determination and the commission of IPV. As a part of the study,313 incoming heterosexual, male freshman drinkers between the ages of 18 and 21 conducted self-report assessments of autonomous and controlled orientations, alcohol use, and IPV perpetration as part of a larger social norm intervention effort. The analysis examined the effects of autonomous and regulated orientations on alcohol use and associated IPV. With values of 2 (11, N = 313) = 32.19, p = NS, root mean square error of approximation of.079, normed fit index of.95, nonnormal fit index of.93, and comparative fit index of.96, the proposed model matched the data reasonably well. Both autonomous and controlled orientations had significant direct and indirect effects on the committing of crimes while drinking.

Abbey (2011) highlights disagreement over how much alcohol helps perpetrate sexual assault. In a survey, male participants were asked to recall times when they had displayed sexual aggression. With the



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exception of the alcohol setting, men who commit sexual assault while intoxicated claim to have characteristics, dispositions, and experiences in common with other offenders. When compared to other substances, alcohol has a greater impact on sexual behavior, and individuals who commit sexual assault while intoxicated tend to consume more alcohol overall. Overall, the research shows that drinking interacts with personality and environmental factors to enhance the probability of perpetration among men who are already susceptible to sexual violence. There are no simple answers to the questions about the role of alcohol in sexual assault, but research suggests that intoxication may be a more important determinant.

Graham (2012) investigates whether consuming alcohol at the time of the incident is associated with the level of physical partner violence and whether this association is consistent across national boundaries for both men and women. National or significant regional general population surveys were conducted in 13 countries as part of the GENACIS collaboration. Incidents involving one or both spouses had much greater severity ratings than those in which neither partner had consumed alcohol. Countries or gender differences had little impact on the relationship. We conclude that alcohol use may contribute to the amplification of violence when it occurs and that this trend holds true across a variety of cultural situations.

Smith (2012) examined the relationship between IPV victimization and perpetration and disorders using alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and medications. Alcohol and marijuana polysubstance use and alcohol and cocaine polysubstance use were both investigated. Data from wave two of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions were analyzed (2004–2005). In order to account for significant factors and the complex survey methodology, correlations between substance use disorders and IPV were evaluated using logistic regression models.

Abbey (2014) offers a thorough assessment of empirical studies that look at the relationship between alcohol consumption and men's sexual aggression in order to highlight major findings, knowledge gaps, and future research, practices, and policy approaches. Between 1993 and August 2013, they discovered 25 cross-sectional studies, 6 prospective studies, and 12 alcohol administration trials with male college students and young adult (currently living) populations. Numerous cross-sectional studies have demonstrated a positive correlation between male sexual assault and alcohol usage, both proximal and distal. Numerous cross-sectional studies have found a strong correlation between alcohol use (proximal and distal), sexual assault, and those behaviors.

Wagman(2016) examined that in India, husbands' drinking habits have been connected to family distress and intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. Joint Families are very typical and have stereotypical behavior due to which IPV and nonviolent family dynamics frequently coexist, spousal abuse (such as sleep deprivation, restrictions on due their social life, no proper nutritious food, and no medical care). Some parents start drinking at the time of their child's birth especially if a girl is born but still in some parts of India, women are considered to be a burden on their family and feel cursed if they are born in their house. As a man's consumption increased, so did his likelihood of contracting IPV. Women who lived with an alcoholic husband were more likely to report postpartum IPV compared to non-drinkers.

# Women's Household Decision-Making and Spousal Violence

Seidu (2018) aims to investigate the relationship between women's decision-making abilities and IPV among SubSaharan African women. The study also examined how IPV among women in SubSaharan Africa is influenced by sociodemographic characteristics. The most recent Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), which was conducted in 18 SubSaharan African nations between January 1, 2010, and December 3, 2016, was used in the study. Only women between the ages of 15 and 49 were utilized for



the study (N = 84,486). The connection between the explanatory variables and the outcome variable was examined using univariate and multivariate logistic regression models. Women who could make decisions had a higher likelihood of reporting ever experiencing IPV [AOR = 1.35; CI = 1.35-1.48]. There was little chance of IPV among young women. There were disparities in how each socio-demographic component predisposed women to IPV in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite the fact that linked socio-demographic traits and women's decision-making capacity gave an explanation for IPV among women in that region. Zegenhagen(2019) has demonstrated that intimate partner violence (IPV) has harmful

consequences on one's health and is a problem for both public health and human rights. Because of measurement issues, the study into household decision-making as an indicator of women's empowerment and its relationship to IPV has so far yielded contradictory results. It is crucial to comprehend how family decision-making influences IPV in order to improve women's health, given the sizeable money devoted to programs promoting women's empowerment. They conducted a secondary analysis of the 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data in order to look into the relationship between women's household decision-making and experiences of physical IPV. The dependent variable for their analysis was past-year physical violence and it was created using the men's reports of relationship violence. There was a correlation between household decision-making and a woman's chance of experiencing IPV, depending on the decision-making domain and who reported it.

Atteraya (2019) suggested that in order to end violence against women, it is thought that women's household decision-making, which reflects interpersonal power dynamics in intimate relationships will be crucial. They set out to investigate the relationship between Ethiopian women's access to decision-making in the home and the prevalence of intimate partner violence(IPV)Data from the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey were used (EDHS 2016). They restricted our research to 4,469 ever-married women (aged 15 to 49) who provided answers to the domestic violence survey conducted. Overall, 24% of women have experienced mental abuse, 23% have experienced physical abuse, and 10% have experienced sexual assault. Demographic factors and IPV seemed to have an unpredictable and mostly non-significant association. They discovered a strong correlation between IPV factors and decision-making autonomy. When compared to women who had little or no control over home decisions, those who made decisions along with their husbands or partners were less likely to experience domestic violence.

Rammohan(2021) The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationships between female autonomy in domestic decision-making and intimate partner violence in a situation that is both very relevant and understudied. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS), conducted by the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) in 2012–13 and 2017-18, was used for the analyses in this paper. ICF International and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) provided technical assistance, and the United States Agency for International Development provided financial support (USAID). The third and fourth waves of Pakistan's Demographic Health Survey are the PDHS 2012–13 and 2017–18, respectively. However, these are the only two waves that included a specific domestic violence module in addition to data on domestic autonomy and common individual- and household-level factors. Although the magnitude of the relationship in their comprehensive specification was smaller, the estimated marginal effects in both cases hint at a negative statistically significant relationship between a female's participation in household decision-making and her exposure to IPV. However, these figures do not imply a causative association



because females in the treatment and control groups may differ in terms of socioeconomic status and demographics, which could account for the variations in IPV encounters.

Considering the reviewed literature, the current research proposes to study the relationship between the literacy of men, alcohol consumption of men, and women's household decision-making on spousal violence.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Keeping the above citation the current study proposes to study the following objectives:

- → To analyze the relationship between male literacy with Spousal Violence
- → To review the impact of consumption of alcohol in men on Spousal Violence
- → To study the relationship between women's household decision making and Spousal Violence
- → To suggest the probable measures to reduce Spousal Violence

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study is descriptive in nature and is completely based on secondary data. The data for the study has been collected and used from National Family Health Survey-5.

The study examines the causal relationship between proximate education, alcohol consumption of men, and women's household decision-making on Spousal Violence in India during the periods of 2019-21. The Spousal Violence information has been taken from the National Family Health Survey for the chosen period of the study.

### **Dependent and Independent Variables**

The data on Spousal Violence is considered the dependent variable. The state-wise data of 2019 and 2021 NFHS is taken for the study to run the multiple linear regression to study and assess the relationship between independent and dependent variables.

The Multiple Linear Regression Model is as follows:

 $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \mu$ 

For this study, the model is:

 $V= \beta_0 + \beta_1 L + \beta_2 A + \beta_3 D + \mu$ 

Where V = Spousal Violence experienced by women (%)

L is the Literacy of Men,

A is the men who consume alcohol (%)

D is the currently married women who usually participate in household decision making(%)

### FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Using the linear regression model, Spousal Violence is regressed on female participation in household decision-making (D), Literacy of Men(L), and alcohol consumption of men. Table 2 shows that 29.3% of females in 2019-21 were facing Spousal violence which signifies the alarming prevalence of domestic violence in Indian society. Correspondingly, 88.7% of females were involved in household decision-making in 2021 respectively while 84.4% of the literacy of men during the period. The variables of alcohol consumption show a significant presence in the country. With 18.1% in 2021 respectively, signifies the drinking behavior of men.



SN	Variable	2019-2021(%)
1	Spousal Violence	29.3%
2	Literacy of Men	84.4%
3	Alcohol Consumption of Men	18.1%
4	Women participation in household decision making	88.4%

### Table 2: Statistics of India as a whole

Source: NFHS(2019-21)

Figure 3: Multicollinearity using V	ΊF	
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. vif			
Variable	VIF	1/VIF	
D	1.14	0.878149	
A	1.13	0.886434	
L	1.11	0.904346	
Mean VIF	1.12		
. estat hette	st		
Breusch-Pagan	/ Cook-Weisb	erg test fo	or heteroskedasticity
Ho: 0	Constant vari	ance	
Varia	ables: fitted	l values of	v
chi2	(1) =	0.86	
Prob	> chi2 =	0.3525	

Multicollinearity is checked using VIF before regression analysis. Variance inflation factors start at 1 and go up.

In this analysis, we see that all the variables have a VIF almost equal to 1 for each variable which means that there is no correlation between the variables(Alcohol consumption, Literacy of men, and Women's household decision-making).



Source	SS	df	MS		Number of obs	= 36
					F(3, 32)	= 13.15
Model	9.2872382	3 3.0	9574607		Prob ≻ F	= 0.0000
Residual	7.5346864	32.2	3545895		R-squared	= 0.5521
					Adj R-squared	= 0.5101
Total	16.8219246	35.48	30626417		Root MSE	= .48524
v	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P≻ t	[95% Conf.	Interval]
L	-5.849823	1.290508	-4.53	0.000	-8.478502	-3.221144
A	. 350961	. 1018854	3.44	0.002	. 1434272	. 5584948
D	.4076722	. 2404338	1.70	0.100	0820755	. 8974198
~ 1						

**Figure 4: Linear Regression for the year 2021** 

Figure 1 shows the linear regression between dependent and independent variables for all the states and union territories for the year 2021. The probability > F depicts that the overall model is significant and it is predicted that 55% variation in the dependent variable is being explained by the independent variables.

In 2021: V = -1.831 - 5.85 L + 0.351A - .41D

*Literacy of Men in the year 2021:* In the year 2021, the result shows that Literacy has a significant impact on Violence with a 95% significance level. The coefficient of Literacy is -5.85 which means that there is a 5.85 increase in Violence due to a unit decrease in Literacy respectively. The lower the literacy rate of men, as a result, the more incidence of facing violence from a partner. Literacy of Men has a negative impact on V in the year 2021. Men who are educated may also be able to avoid other actions and situations that have been associated with domestic violence, such as substance misuse, gambling, and sexual dysfunction. Additionally, individuals with less education are more likely to think that controlling their wives' behavior and using physical force to achieve this dominance is acceptable because some men use IPV as a way to claim their power over women(Ackerson et al 2008). Our findings suggest the same that men with low literacy rates have a higher probability of violence rather than men with high literacy rates.

Alcohol consumption of men 2021: In 2021, Alcohol has a significant impact on Violence with a 95% significance level. The coefficient of Alcohol is 0.35 which means that there is a 0.35 increase in Violence with a unit increase in Alcohol respectively. The increased consumption of alcohol in men resulted in higher spousal violence. Alcohol has a positive impact on Violence in the year 2021, it was significant at 95% of the confidence interval.Pernanen (1976, 1981) has focused on the relationship between alcohol consumption's negative impacts on memory and the occurrence of alcohol-related violence. Alcohol is believed to affect one's ability to make wise decisions and think abstractly. According to Pernanen, people are less able to understand behavioral cues after drinking, making them more prone to misinterpret cues and use aggression in social situations. In other words, when one or both parties have been drinking, violence may be more likely to occur between them due to misunderstandings brought on by the cognitive impairment caused by alcohol. The findings suggest that the association between the increased likelihood of violence and alcohol use is a proximal effect of alcohol consumption rather than traits linked to "alcoholism."



*Women Household Decision Making 2021:* In 2021, the result shows no significant relationship between Violence and women's household decision-making. But the value of the coefficient is negative. Ahinkorah et al(2018) investigate that women who were capable of making decisions appeared to be more likely than women who were not capable of making decisions to encounter Spousal Violence. According to a study by Cools and Kotsadam, there is a positive correlation between women's decision-making ability and Spousal Violence. The results support earlier research that demonstrated that a woman's risk of developing Spousal Violence increases with her level of empowerment. This may be explained by the fact that more powerful women are better equipped to defend their rights and won't submit to complete male dominance, which may lead to spousal violence. But our research shows that there is no relationship between Women's household decisions and Spousal Violence as the p-value at 95% turns out to be less than 0.05.

# CONCLUSION, LIMITATION, SUGGESTIONS

In India, 428278 incidences of violence against women were reported in 2021, of which 26% were IPV (NCW 2021). Violence against women and in domestic relationships is at an alarming level. According to previous studies (Jay G. Silverman(2016), Jeyaseelan et al., 2007, Poulose & Srinivasan, 2009, Subodh et al., 2014), the husband's alcohol use is a risk factor for IPV among Indian women. This study provides significant evidence for that idea. Conversely, Alcohol abuse/dependence diagnostic criteria-meeting individuals are not more likely to have compared to those who do not meet such requirements, committed a violent offense. This data implies that the association between a higher likelihood of aggression and alcohol consumption is a proximal impact of alcohol use rather than characteristics of being an "alcoholic." (William. E.Schlenger 2010). To our knowledge, this study is a nationally representative sample to investigate the relationship between education and Spousal Violence in India. Our findings affirm despite of women's education and her proximate educational context have a major influence on Spousal Violence and serve as a foundation for evaluating the importance of the expenses and benefits of others' education to women's health. The necessity to specifically take into account the importance of the proximate educational context emphasizes the fact that Spousal Violence may not be much reduced by efforts that exclusively focus on teaching women. Education of men and boosting the overall level of education in communities should receive top priority in Spousal Violence prevention efforts. Though our study doesn't show a causal relationship between women's household decision-making and Spousal Violence it is an important predictor of Spousal Violence. Women empowerment and Gender equality may be helpful toward reducing IPV because women who participate in joint household decision-making with their husbands/partners have the lowest likelihood of experiencing domestic abuse. Women's wellbeing may be enhanced by promoting social and economic initiatives aimed at balancing women's roles in the home(Madhu S. Atteraya 2019).

The limitation of the study is the ongoing availability of the data. No other papers jointly focus on statistics of women's economic independence, socio-economic profile, or availability of NFHS survey data, which is available every five years. COVID's impact is not taken into consideration in the study. The factor of women's participation in household decision-making is unimportant in explaining Spousal Violence, hence the study advised future research to focus on determining the relationship between women's participation in household decision-making and Spousal Violence while taking COVID into account. Given that certain studies reveal a high correlation between these variables, this topic has a broader research focus. It is crucial to remember that the NFHS replies could be biased if given in front of other household members or if the responder is confused about the implications of her choice. However, under-



reporting is likely lower in NFHS than in NCRB statistics because there aren't any barriers to the actual complaint filing.

"It's time for India's courts to glance within and discard deeply embedded patriarchal attitudes that prevent judgments from being fair to women," said Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General of India. Before it harms the nation, sexism within the system must be eliminated. Last but not least, we will succeed if we are truthful. Say "No" to violence against women together.

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