

A Study Conducted Among Young Women Living in Specific Locations of Honavar, Uttara Kannada, to Evaluate their Attitudes and Knowledge about Women Abuse. With a View to Organize A Mass Health Education Programme

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Abstract

Worldwide and regional projections of violence against women indicate More than 25% of women in relationships between the ages of 15 and 49 report having experienced physical or sexual abuse at least once in their lifetime (since they were 15). Up to 38% of all female killings globally are the result of intimate relationship violence. Apart from domestic violence, 6% of women worldwide report experiencing sexual assault at the hands of someone other than their relationship, yet there is comparatively little information available regarding non-partner sexual violence. Most of the intimate relationship and sexual violence against women is committed by men. The study adopted a descriptive research design and a quantitative research approach. 100 young women were selected by purposive sampling technique from Haldipur, Pavinkurva and Karki at Honavar. Data was collected with a 20 structured questionnaire and five-point rating scale with 34 statements to measure the knowledge and attitude level on women abuse. Data analyzed by testing the frequency, percentage distribution, chi-square test to determine the significant association between the knowledge and attitude level with selected demographic variables. Findings of overall knowledge level show that there is only 1(1%) has excellent knowledge, 42(42%) has good knowledge, 47(47%) has average knowledge and 10(10%) has poor knowledge. It shows that the maximum number of subjects had average knowledge in the study. Overall attitude level shows that only 15(15%) are having very positive attitude, 65(65%) are having positive attitude and 20(20%) are having neutral attitude. The Present study was concluded as majority of the young women in the selected areas at Honnavar are having average knowledge in the study and only few are having neutral attitude. The researchers recommend conducting similar study among larger and different population with randomized sampling in different settings to make broad generalization.

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INTRODUCTION

“Never trust your fears they don’t know your strength”

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including

threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life," is how the United Nations defines women's violence." The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) reports on violence against women. One according to WHO estimates, one in three (30%) women worldwide have experienced intimate relationship abuse—either physical or sexual—or non-partner sexual violence at some point in their lives [1]. This aggression is mostly directed towards intimate partners. Almost one-third (27%) of women in relationships between the ages of 15 and 49 worldwide claim to have experienced physical or sexual abuse at the hands of their intimate partner [2]. In certain situations, violence may raise the risk of HIV infection and have a detrimental impact on women's sexual, emotional, physical, and reproductive health. In addition to serving as a gateway for women seeking referrals to other support services, the health sector is crucial in providing complete medical care to women who have been victims of abuse. The National Crime Records Bureau of India reports that in 2021 there was a 15.3% rise in reported cases of crime against women over 2020 [3]. In 2022, Karnataka faced a concerning surge in cases of molestation and outraging of modesty, with an average of 15 women filing complaints every day. Across the districts, more than 5,800 cases were registered during that year [4]. In comparison to the 13,513 instances in 2018 and the 13,824 cases in 2019, the total of 15,942 cases in 2022 represented a 14% increase. But while there were 14,468 instances in 2021, the number dropped to 12,680 in 2020. Uttara Kannada district has been grappling with an alarming trend of missing people over the past three years. In the first 10 months of this year, there were reports of 232 missing instances. What's particularly distressing is that a significant proportion of these missing individuals are young girls and middle-aged women. The reasons behind these disappearances vary, including love affairs, extramarital relationships, and even suspected abductions [5]. Some cases involve mentally deranged individuals, while others are influenced by social media interactions.

Domestic violence is mostly classified as "cruelty by husband or his relatives" in legal documents and has been the most frequently reported violent crime against women in India [6].

137,956 women reported suspicious activities to the police in 2021, or roughly one complaint every four minutes. This is a 27% rise from the 110,434 women who requested police assistance in 2016 [7]. Approximately 641 million women worldwide are victims of intimate partner abuse, making it the most common type of violence against them. That being said, 6% of women worldwide report having experienced sexual assault at the hands of someone other than their spouse or partner. The true number is probably far higher due to the widespread shame and underreporting of sexual abuse [8]. At least 887 women were killed by intimate male partners between 2009 and 2018, and 727 of them escaped an attempt on their lives, according to the Korean Women's Hotline. The number of victims may exceed official reports because there may be more unreported incidents [9]. It is well recognised around the world that women who are younger, have lower household incomes, are less educated, are from lower castes, are not employed, have partners who drink or gamble, etc., are more likely to experience marital violence [10].

These facts the team of nurse researchers to conduct the present descriptive study in selected setting of Uttarkannada district.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers employed a descriptive study design along with a quantitative research approach. 100 young women were selected by non-randomized (purposive) sampling technique from Haldipur, Pavinkurva and Karki. Data collected from the subject with a structured questionnaire with 20 questions and five-point rating scale with 34 statements to measure the knowledge and attitude level regarding women abuse. Data analyzed by testing the frequency, percentage distribution, chi-square test to determine the significant association between the knowledge and attitude level with selected demographic variables.

RESULTS

The demographic information of subjects those who participated in the present study shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of various method of assessing knowledge regarding women abuse (n=100).

Sample No.	Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Age in years		
	(a) 18-20	24	24%
	(b) 21-23	35	35%
	(c) 24-26	41	41%
(d)	Place		
	(a) Haldipur	51	51%
	(b) Karki	8	8%
	(c) Kasarkod	0	0%
	(d) Pavinkurva	41	41%
(e)	Education		
	(a) SSLC	25	25%
	(b) PUC	16	16%
	(c) Degree	50	50%
	(d) Illiterate	9	9%
(e)	Employment		
	(a) Student	50	50%
	(b) Employed	9	9%
	(c) Unemployed	8	8%
	(d) Housewife	33	33%
(e)	Religion		
	(a) Hindu	69	69%
	(b) Muslim	28	28%
	(c) Christian	3	3%
(d)	Type of family		
	(a) Nuclear family	75	75%
	(b) Joint family	25	25%
(c)	Social status		
	(a) High class	37	37%
	(b) Middle class	46	46%
	(c) Low class	17	17%
(d)	Marital status		
	(a) Married	52	52%
	(b) Unmarried	48	48%
	(c) Divorced	0	0%
	(d) Widow	0	0%
(e)	Age of marriage		
	(a) 18	15	15%
	(b) Above 18	35	35%
	(c) Below 18	2	2%
	(d) Unmarried	48	48%
(e)	Duration of marriage		
	(a) 1-3 years	25	25%

	(b) 4-6 years	17	17%
	(c) 7-9 years	10	10%
	(d) Unmarried	48	48%
(e)	Type of marriage		
	(a) Arrange marriage	32	32%
	(b) Love marriage	20	20%
	(c) Live in relationship	0	0%
	(d) None	48	48%
(e)	Number of children		
	(a) 1	15	15%
	(b) 2	23	23%
	(c) 3 or more	14	14%
	(d) None	48	48%
(e)	Have you ever victimized a person with abuse?		
	(a) Yes	49	49%
	(b) No	51	51%
(c)	Do you have any previous knowledge on women abuse		
	(a) Yes	68	68%
	(b) No	32	32%
(c)	How will you react if you see a victim of women abuse?		
	(a) I will help her to report to police	51	51%
	(b) I will ignore her	25	25%
	(c) I will provide psychological support	24	24%

Table 2. Shows the Overall knowledge and attitude level of young women regarding women abuse (n=100)

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage	Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	10	10%	Neutral	20	20%
Average	47	47%	Positive attitude	65	65%
Good	42	42%	Very positive attitude	15	15%
Excellent	1	1%			

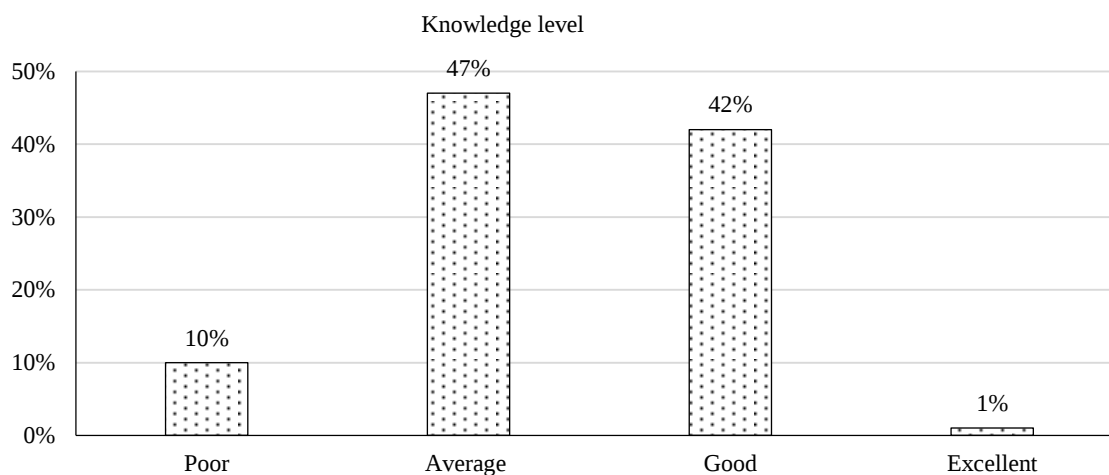


Figure 1. Overall knowledge and attitude level of young women regarding women abuse.

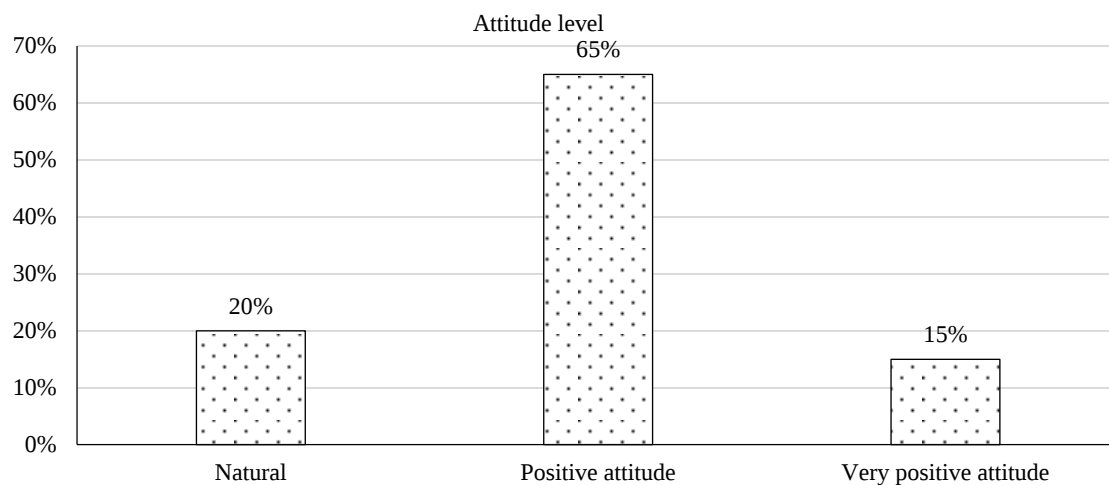


Figure 2. Overall attitude level of young women regarding women abuse.

Overall knowledge and attitude level of young women regarding women abuse shown in Table 2 and graphically shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Table 3. Chi-square test shows the association between the knowledge and selected demographic variables regarding women abuse (N=100).

S.N.	Demographic variables	criteria				Chi-square		df	Inference
		P	A	G	E	χ^2	P		
1.	Age in years					25.16	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) 18-20	2	9	15	0				
	(b) 21-23	4	18	12	1				
	(c) 24-26	6	20	15	0				
2.	Education					13.495	16.92	9	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) SSLC	1	17	7	0				
	(b) PUC	2	10	4	0				
	(c) Degree	5	16	28	1				
	(d) Illiterate	2	4	3	0				
3.	Employment					26.288	16.92	9	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Student	1	25	23	1				
	(b) Employed	4	4	1	0				
	(c) Unemployed	3	3	2	0				
	(d) Housewife	2	15	16	0				
4.	Religion					16.719	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Hindu	5	30	33	1				
	(b) Muslim	3	16	9	0				
	(c) Christian	2	1	0	0				
5.	Type of family					10.748	7.82	3	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Nuclear family	9	29	36	1				
	(b) Joint family	1	18	6	0				
6.	Social status					25.289	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) High class	0	17	20	0				
	(b) Middle class	9	27	9	1				
	(c) Low class	1	3	13	0				
7.	Age of marriage					5.487	16.92	9	$\chi^2 < P$

	(a) 18	1	7	7	0				NS
	(b) Above 18	5	15	15	0				
	(c) Below 18	0	2	0	0				
	(d) Unmarried	4	23	20	1				
8	Duration of marriage					12.822	16.92	9	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) 1-3 years	4	11	10	0				
	(b) 4-6 years	0	12	5	0				
	(c) 7-9 years	1	1	8	0				
	(d) Unmarried	5	23	19	1				
9	Number of children					15.146	16.92	9	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) 1	0	5	10	0				
	(b) 2	3	13	7	0				
	(c) 3 or more	4	3	7	0				
	(d) None	3	36	18	1				
10	Have you ever victimized a person with abuse?					3.027	7.82	3	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) Yes	7	23	19	0				
	(b) No	3	24	23	1				
11	Do you have any previous knowledge on women abuse?					4.09	7.82	3	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) Yes	6	35	26	1				
	(b) No	4	12	16	0				
12	How will you react if you will see a victim of women abuse?					21.996	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) I will help her to report to police	3	29	19	0				
	(b) I will ignore her	4	3	5	0				
	(c) I will provide psychological support.	3	15	18	1				

Chi-square test shows the association between the knowledge and selected demographic variables regarding women abuse shown in Table 3.

Table 4. Chi-square test shows the association between the attitude and selected demographic variables regarding women abuse (n=100)

S. N.	Demographic variables	criteria			Chi-square		df	Inference
		N	P	VP	χ^2	P		
1.	Age in years				11.26	9.49	4	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) 18-20	1	17	4				
	(b) 21-23	7	25	7				
	(c) 24-26	12	23	4				
2.	Education				17.97	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) SSLC	4	22	6				
	(b) PUC	2	19	0				
	(c) Degree	10	22	9				
	(d) Illiterate	4	2	0				
3.	Employment				22.4	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Student	7	29	11				
	(b) Employed	2	15	0				

	(c) Unemployed	2	7	0				
	(d) Housewife	9	14	4				
4.	Religion				20.02	9.49	4	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Hindu	11	41	12				
	(b) Muslim	6	9	3				
	(c) Christian	3	5	0				
5.	Type of family				1.95	5.99	2	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) Nuclear family	13	37	11				
	(b) Joint family	7	28	4				
6.	Social status				2.63	9.49	4	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) High class	6	16	2				
	(b) Middle class	13	42	12				
	(c) Low class	1	7	1				
7.	Duration of marriage				16.15	12.59	6	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) 1-3 years	5	15	4				
	(b) 4-6 years	4	4	0				
	(c) 7-9 years	1	11	1				
	(d) Unmarried	10	35	10				
8.	Number of children				11.2	16.92	9	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) 1	4	10	1				
	(b) 2	4	16	3				
	(c) 3 or more	2	4	1				
	(d) None	10	35	10				
9.	Have you ever victimized a person with abuse?				8.56	5.99	2	$\chi^2 > P$ S*
	(a) Yes	10	33	6				
	(b) No	10	32	9				
10.	Do you have any previous knowledge on women abuse?				1.64	5.99	2	$\chi^2 < P$ NS
	(a) Yes	8	38	9				
	(b) No	12	27	6				

Chi-square test shows the association between the attitude and selected demographic variables regarding women abuse shown in Table 4.

CONCLUSION

The Present study was concluded as majority of the women has the average knowledge and positive attitude towards women abuse with selected research setting. Only a few subjects had a neutral attitude. Conducting similar studies in various setting among different age population with different methodology would be much more effective initiation to prevent women abuse among future generation. Abusing not only women at young age but any age irrespective of gender and any he attributes it is considered as anti-social or in human behavior.

Recommendation

A similar study can be replicated for larger samples, in different settings to make broad generalization and conduct a comparative study with two different groups / sectors. The findings of the study would give a strong base for the future studies on Women Abuse.

Conflict of Interest

This article is unique, unpublished, and not being considered by any other journals, as we guarantee. We agree with the submission to International Journal of Brain Sciences through STM journals.

Ethical Clearance

Informed consent was obtained from the women and permission was obtained from the medical officer of selected community areas at Honavar. Ethical clearance is obtained.

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