

Impact of Gender-Based Violence on Developing Children's Personalities

Jade G. Bonganciso^{1*}, Bharti Kumari²

¹ Department of Education, Philippines

² Central University of Haryana, India

*Corresponding Author Email: jadebonganciso20@gmail.com

Abstract

The article sheds light on "gender-based violence" and its impacts on the development of children in India. Different types of "gender-based violence" are domestic violence against men and women, sexual violence against women and children, kidnapping, rape and others are influential towards the developing perspective and personality of children. Often children become emotionally damaged, depressed, angry, introverted and antisocial due to experiencing "gender-based violence". Thus, identifying the potential impacts of this violence on the mental health and personalities of children is the main purpose of this study.

Several articles and journals based on this topic are observed for enhancing knowledge as well as primary methods used for data collection. A survey among males and females above 18 was conducted and their opinions regarding the research topic are collected through a Likert scale. Collected data are tested by using SPSS software and then evaluated statistically. As a result, it is identified that increasing "gender-based domestic violence" is increasing which is impacting the mental health of children in India. Psychological disorders are increasing among children due to violence and that is impacting their education as well as enhancing trust issues among children.

Keywords

Children Development, Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Violence, Mental Health, Sexual Violence.

INTRODUCTION

Background of Research

"Gender-based violence" is one of the major social issues in Indian society which is mainly caused by gender discrimination. The social structure of Indian society is male-dominated which enhances violence against women in the country. **About 19.54%** per 100,000 females have experienced domestic experience in 2019 across India and that is an enhancement in comparison with 2018 [1]. Along with domestic violence, sexual violence against women is also increasing in India. **Nearly 30%** of women in recent times have been subjected to sexual violence in India [2]. This violence, especially domestic violence, is highly impactful on the mental health of children as well as their personalities.

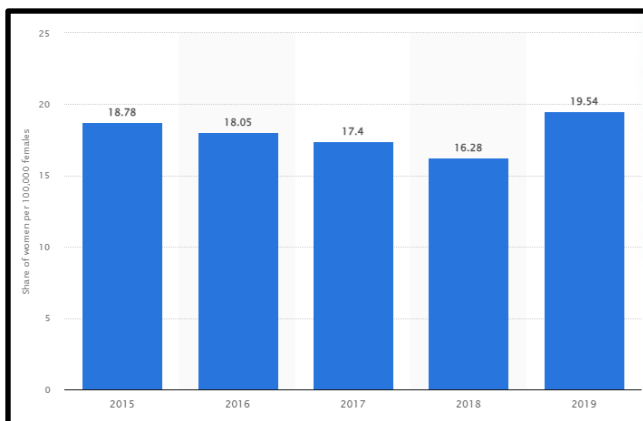


Figure 1: Percentage of domestic violence against women per 100,000 females in India [1]

On the other hand, sexual violence against female children is another major social issue that affects children's development. In 2018, **about 109 children** were sexually abused every day across India and a total of **39,827 cases** of child sexual abuse were reported in the year [3]. The number of "gender-based violence" is increasing in the country and that has a vital impact on the personalities of the children. The following study includes a brief discussion about the impacts of this "gender-based violence" on the mental health of children and their developing personalities as well.

Aim and objectives

The following study is focused on evaluating the potential impacts of gender-based violence on the mental health and development of children's personalities. Particular objectives for achieving the goal are,

- To identify major causes of increasing "gender-based violence" in India
- To understand the potential impacts of "gender-based violence" on the mental health of children
- To elaborate on the overall effects of "gender-based violence" on the upbringing of a child and his/her personality

Scope of the study

The study discusses all the factors that are influencing "gender-based violence" in India as well as its effects on the upbringing of children. This particular study will be capable of providing relevant information about "gender-based violence" and its impacts on children. There is a high scope that the study will be used by other researchers to gain knowledge about the concept.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Research design

The research design can be referred to as the framework consisting of the chosen methods and in this research; a *descriptive research design* has been selected. This research design is widely used in studies due to its effectiveness in describing a phenomenon accurately [4]. On the other hand, research philosophy is regarded to involve the nature and formation of knowledge out of the collected data. A *positivism philosophy* has been chosen for gaining “factual knowledge” through conducting scientific research. Using this particular research design will help to collect reliable data and develop accurate insights associated with the impact of “gender-based violence” on children’s personalities. In this study, a deductive approach has been chosen for investigating the existing phenomenon more accurately. A positivism approach enables the researcher to observe society and generalise the findings of the data collection procedure [5]. Thus, these methods and techniques have been selected as per their appropriateness toward gathering the type of data needed for this study.

Research type

In the following research, a primary quantitative data collection method has been chosen to follow in order to collect relevant and reliable data for assessing and evaluating the influence of “gender-based violence” on shaping children’s emotional and social personalities. Online surveys have become a widely accepted approach for collecting accurate data from a larger sample [6]. Regarding this, a questionnaire containing 10 close-ended questions has been designed and a survey has been conducted. 101 participants have been selected for providing their opinions on the research subject.

Sample

Sample refers to a group or team of people selected from a larger population under specific criteria. In the following study, a sample of 101 participants has been selected for collecting data about the impact of “gender-based violence” on “children’s personalities and their well-being.

Data analysis method

Data analysis is another essential procedure that involves assessing, illustrating and interpreting the gathered data. Statistical analysis has been conducted by using the IBM SPSS software for analysis and interpreting the outcomes of the survey. The SPSS software has gained popularity in various studies due to its accuracy and reliability [7]. In

addition, the findings have been further illustrated by developing suitable themes in the Discussion section. Using this data analysis method will help to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the outcomes along with providing effective insights associated with various factors impacting “children’s personality” and emotional well-being regarding “gender-based violence”. Apart from this, potential research ethics have been considered and no participants have been forced for responding to the questionnaire.

RESULTS

| Descriptive Statistics | | | | | |
|---|-----|---------|---------|------|----------------|
| | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 1. Age group | 101 | 0 | 3 | 1.52 | 1.083 |
| 2. Gender | 101 | 0 | 2 | .83 | .584 |
| 3. The male-dominated social structure in India is a major cause of increasing gender-based violence | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.99 | 1.404 |
| 4. Gender-based violence has a vital impact on mental health of children | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.85 | 1.424 |
| 5. Gender stereotypes in Indian society influences gender-based violence against women | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.92 | 1.317 |
| 6. Gender-based violence is highly influential towards children's personalities | 101 | 0 | 4 | 3.22 | 1.246 |
| 7. Gender-based violence negatively impacts emotional, physical and social factors of children | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.59 | 1.443 |
| 8. Gender-based violence poses a major impact on children's educational performance | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.80 | 1.400 |
| 9. Often children become anti-social which is a negative impact of gender-based violence | 101 | 0 | 4 | 2.79 | 1.505 |
| 10. Gender-based violence causes depression and anxiety among children which influences their personalities | 101 | 0 | 4 | 3.02 | 1.265 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 101 | | | | |

Figure 2: Descriptive statistics (Source: SPSS)[8]

Descriptive statistics are generally used for describing the reliability of the outcomes of the data collection procedure. Furthermore, these statistics involve interpreting the logical connection between the gathered data and assumptions [8]. The reliability of the interpretation of the collected data is revealed by assessing the Mean value of the data and if the Mean value is founded to be greater than 1, then the data is considered to be reliable. In the study, the Mean value of the collected data has been identified to be 2.99, 2.05, 2.92, 3.22, 2.59, 2.80, 2.79 and 3.02 respectively (Mean value > 1). Hence, considering the Mean value of the data, it can be stated that the outcomes of this study are reliable and accurate.

| | | Correlations | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------|-----------|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | 1. Age group | 2. Gender | 3. The male-dominated social structure in India is a major cause of increasing gender-based violence | 4. Gender-based violence has a vital impact on mental health of children | 5. Gender stereotypes in Indian society influences gender-based violence against women | 6. Gender-based violence is highly influential towards children's personalities | 7. Gender-based violence negatively impacts emotional, physical and social factors of children | 8. Gender-based violence poses a major impact on children's educational performance | 9. Often children become anti-social which is a negative impact of gender-based violence | 10. Gender-based violence causes depression and anxiety among children which influences their personalities |
| 1. Age group | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .805** | .852** | .881** | .892** | .775** | .899** | .881** | .884** | .869** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 2. Gender | Pearson Correlation | .805** | 1 | .803** | .835** | .814** | .752** | .807** | .839** | .835** | .816** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 3. The male-dominated social structure in India is a major cause of increasing gender-based violence | Pearson Correlation | .852** | .803** | 1 | .960** | .957** | .945** | .911** | .951** | .960** | .963** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 4. Gender-based violence has a vital impact on mental health of children | Pearson Correlation | .881** | .835** | .960** | 1 | .980** | .909** | .953** | .988** | .988** | .968** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 5. Gender stereotypes in Indian society influences gender-based violence against women | Pearson Correlation | .892** | .814** | .957** | .980** | 1 | .925** | .946** | .968** | .980** | .974** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 6. Gender-based violence is highly influential towards children's personalities | Pearson Correlation | .775** | .752** | .945** | .909** | .925** | 1 | .873** | .902** | .920** | .924** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 7. Gender-based violence negatively impacts emotional, physical and social factors of children | Pearson Correlation | .899** | .807** | .911** | .953** | .946** | .873** | 1 | .959** | .946** | .941** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 8. Gender-based violence poses a major impact on children's educational performance | Pearson Correlation | .881** | .839** | .951** | .988** | .968** | .902** | .959** | 1 | .977** | .957** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 9. Often children become anti-social which is a negative impact of gender-based violence | Pearson Correlation | .884** | .835** | .960** | .988** | .980** | .920** | .946** | .977** | 1 | .969** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | | .000 |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 10. Gender-based violence causes depression and anxiety among children which influences their personalities | Pearson Correlation | .869** | .816** | .963** | .968** | .974** | .924** | .941** | .957** | .969** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 | |
| | N | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 101 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Figure 3: Correlation statistics (Source: SPSS) [9]

Correlation statistics are used for assessing the reliability and connection between variables. It is among the most common and widely accepted methods used in “statistical procedures” in studies [9]. Considering the significance value of the variables, it can be stated that the data is reliable and have been interpreted effectively.

| Reliability Statistics | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Cronbach's Alpha | N of Items |
| .987 | 10 |

Figure 4: Reliability statistics (Source: SPSS)[10]

The reliability statistics are used for interpreting the reliability and accuracy of data and “Cronbach’s alpha” is among the main measurements of this test [10]. In this research, the value of “Cronbach's alpha” test has been identified to be 0.987, which is greater than 0.70. Hence, the outcomes can be stated to be reliable and accurate.

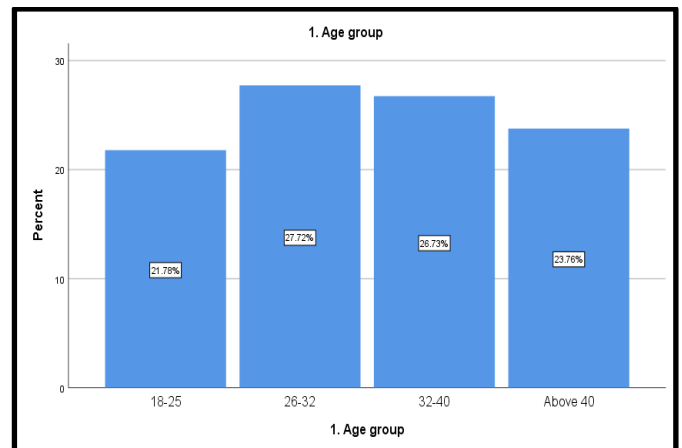


Figure 5: Age group (Source: SPSS)[10]

In this study, four age groups have been selected and the findings indicate that most of the respondents are of the 26-32 age groups. Around 27.72% of participants in this age group have responded to the survey and in the second position is the 32-40 years age group. In addition, approximately 26.73% of people from the age group of 32-40 years have responded to the survey and provided their opinions. 23.76% of

respondents have been observed to be of the age group of 40 years above and around 21.78% of people from the 18-25 years age group having provided their opinions about the impact of “gender-based violence” on children’s personality and mental well-being.

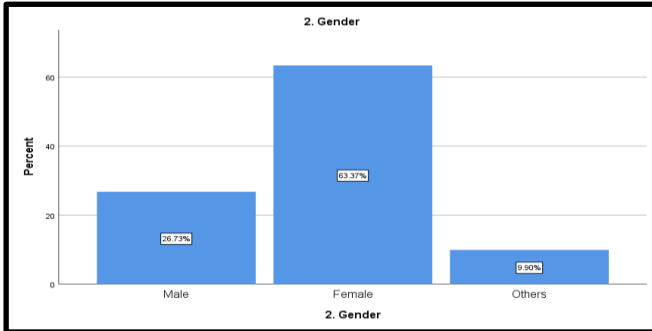


Figure 6: Gender (Source: SPSS)[10]

Male, female and other gender groups have been chosen for participating in the survey and it has been identified that the major portion of the sample is females. Around 63.37% of females have responded to the survey, while the percentage of male respondents is merely 26.73%. Additionally, 9.90% of people of other genders have responded, which indicates that females are more concerned and interested to share their opinions about the personality impacts and mental well-being of children due to witnessing “gender-based violence”.

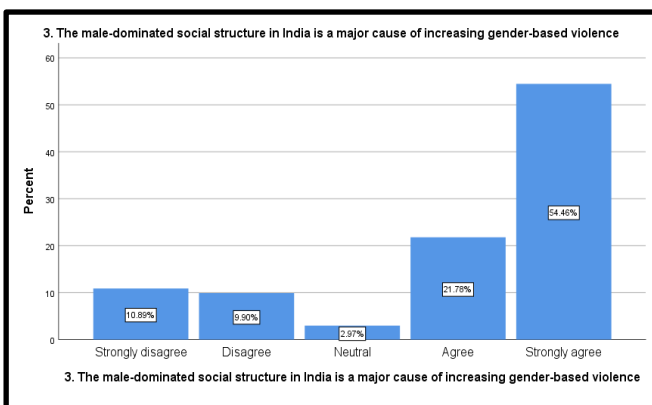


Figure 7: The male-dominated social structure in India is a major cause of increasing gender-based violence (Source: SPSS)[10]

Around 54.46% of the respondents strongly agreed with the influence of “male-dominated social structure” driving “gender-based violence” in India, whereas approximately 10.89% of respondents strongly disagreed. On the other hand, 21.78% of respondents agreed with this statement, which reveals that the “male-dominated stereotyped society” of India is a major cause of violence against women. 2.97% of respondents have not provided their opinions in this statement indicating a neutral viewpoint.

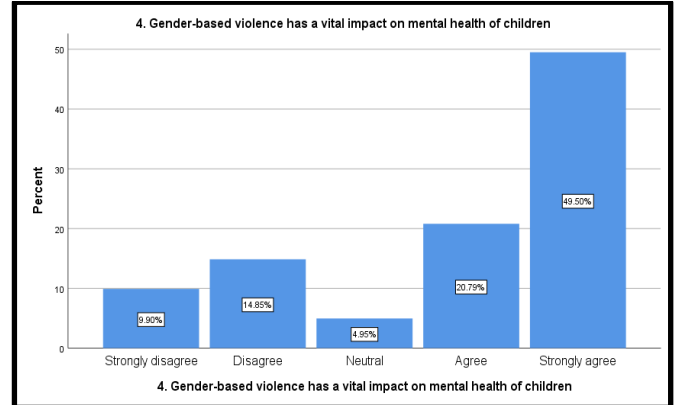


Figure 8: Gender-based violence has a vital impact on mental health of children (Source: SPSS)[10]

More than 49% of respondents strongly agreed and supported that “gender-based violence” has a crucial impact on the mental health and well-being of children. While most of the respondents agreed with this statement, 14.85% of respondents disagreed. The outcomes of the collected data indicate that children’s mental health and well-being are directly impacted by “gender-based violence”. However, a contradiction has been observed which reveals that not in all cases of witnessing or experiencing violence children’s mental wealth get impacted and approximately 4.95% have remained neutral and have not responded to this statement.

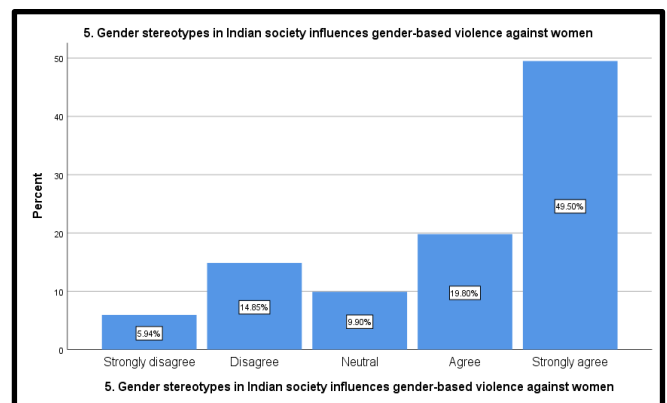


Figure 9: Gender stereotypes in Indian society influences gender-based violence against women (Source: SPSS)[10]

Gender stereotypes are a major factor in Indian society that influences gender discrimination and violence against women. Over 49% of the respondents supported this statement, while around 19.80% of the respondents agreed with this statement. Around 5.94% of the respondents strongly disagreed with this statement which is a minimal percentage. Hence, it can be stated that the stereotyped nature of Indian society and high gender gaps are major causes that influence as well as increase “gender discrimination” and “gender-based violence” in India. Indian society has been observed to have a significant gap in gender inclusion and mainly consists of a patriarchal nature that increases discrimination and violence against women.

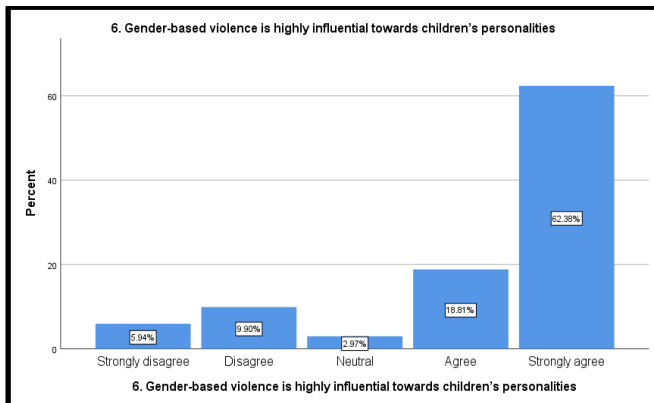


Figure 10: Gender-based violence is highly influential towards children’s personalities (Source: SPSS)[10]

Witnessing or experiencing violence regarding gender differences poses a crucial influence on “children’s personalities and a major portion of the total respondents strongly agreed. More than 62% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement, whereas 18.81% of respondents agreed and 9.90% of respondents disagreed. The results indicate that most of the respondents are aware of this statement and consider “gender-based violence” to be highly impactful towards the personalities and emotional well-being of the children being witnessed.

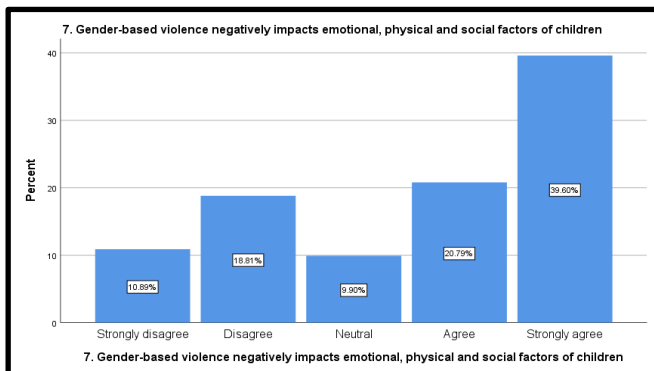


Figure 11: Gender-based violence negatively impacts emotional, physical and social factors of children (Source: SPSS)[10]

“Gender-based violence” poses highly negative impacts on the emotional, social and physical aspects associated with children and around 39.60% of participants supported this statement. On the other hand, more than 18% of participants disagreed with this statement which indicates that witnessing violence or discrimination regarding gender does not always impact children’s emotional or social well-being and behaviours. It has been observed that witnessing or experiencing violence regarding gender diversity has the potential to impact the physical, emotional and social factors of children, though it is not compulsory. Hence, it can be stated that “children’s personality” and social status have a correlation with their physical and emotional factors.

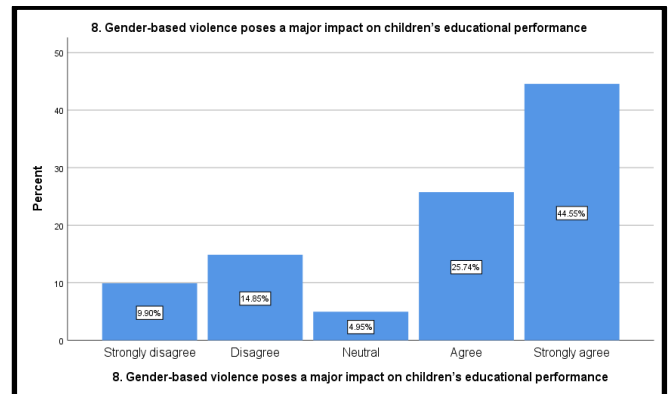


Figure 12: Gender-based violence poses a major impact on children’s educational performance (Source: SPSS)[10]

It has been identified that “gender-based violence” not only impacts children’s emotional or mental well-being and personality, but it also impacts the educational performance of children. In the survey, most of the respondents supported this statement and around 44.55% strongly agreed. Additionally, only 14.85% of participants disagreed, which suggests that witnessing or experiencing violence regarding gender-based discrimination consists of a major potential of impacting children’s “educational performance” and capabilities due to its direct connection with emotional and mental factors. On the other hand, 4.95% of participants have remained neutral in this regard, however, the strong support of a large percentage of the participants has indicated that “children’s educational performance” gets highly impacted due to violence and exploitation associated with “gender discrimination”.

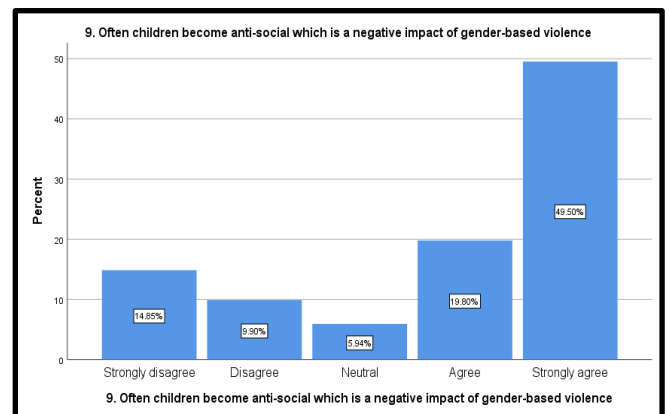


Figure 13: Often children become anti-social which is a negative impact of gender-based violence (Source: SPSS)[10]

Experiencing and witnessing “gender-based exploitation” can create a barrier to socialising for children and pushes them toward becoming anti-social. Approximately 49.50% of participants have provided strongly agree responses on this statement and 19.80% of respondents agreed. Considering the outcomes of the survey, it can be stated that children are more likely to become anti-social or decrease socialising with others due to the comprehensive and disruptive impacts of “gender-based violence”. Witnessing gender discrimination

or experiencing exploitation can influence children to become isolated which eventually pose a crucial negative impact on their personality and mental well-being.

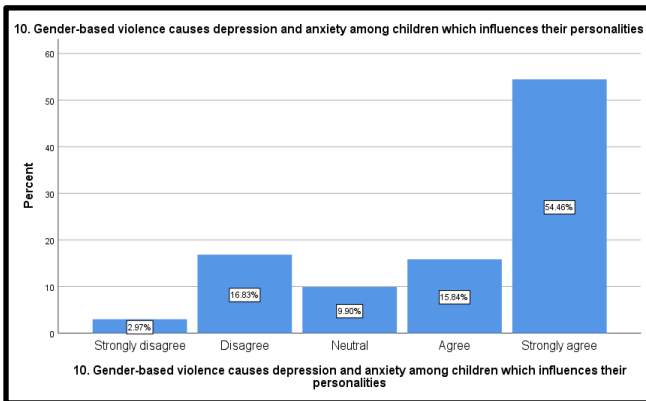


Figure 14: Gender-based violence causes depression and anxiety among children which influences their personalities (Source: SPSS)[10]

“Gender-based exploitation” and violence can cause high anxiety and depression among children. In the survey, around 54.48% of respondents strongly supported that this type of violence can lead to causing anxiety and depression among children which eventually impacts their personalities. On the other hand, 2.97% of participants strongly disagreed which indicates a very low positive impact of “gender-based violence” on children’s mental health and personalities. Hence, it can be stated that the results of the data collection indicate a high and disruptive impact of this type of exploitation and violence on “children’s personalities” and mental well-being.

DISCUSSION

Theme 1: Overview of “gender-based violence” and its causes in India

"Gender-based violence" refers to abusing people based on their gender. Violence against women is a common issue in Indian society which includes sexual violence, trafficking, “female genital mutilation”, child marriage, sexual harassment, “intimate partner violence” and sexual exploitation [11]. Majorly women and female children are victims of gender-based violence in India. Hence, boys and men are also victimised sometime due to sexual harassment and exploitation. This violence is impactful on the mental health of children as well as domestic violence is another type of "gender-based violence" that influences the personalities of children. A high increase in domestic violence by 53% is identified between 2001 and 2018 in India which signifies domestic violence is a crucial issue in Indian society [12]. Children who witness and experience domestic violence often have negative personality traits and their impacts on the emotional factors of children.

| STATES | TOTAL CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (Indian Penal Code+Special and Local Laws) |
|----------------|---|
| Madhya Pradesh | 19,173 |
| Maharashtra | 17,261 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 16,838 |
| West Bengal | 9,523 |
| Odisha | 7,899 |

Figure 15: Five states in India with the highest number of crimes against children.[13]

On the other hand, crimes against children such as sexual harassment, kidnapping and others have also increased in India. The figure above represents the number of crimes against children in the five states of India which have the highest number of registered cases of crimes against children. Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are the five states with the highest percentage of crimes against children. About **19173 cases in Madhya Pradesh, 17261 cases in Maharashtra, 16838 cases in Uttar Pradesh, 9523 cases in West Bengal** and **7899 cases in Odisha** were registered in 2022 [13]. Apart from that, a huge increase of 16.2% in crimes against children between 2020 and 2021 is identified which includes cybercrimes, kidnapping, rape, sexual harassment and others.

There are many causes of increasing domestic violence and other “gender-based violence” in India. Historical male-dominant social structure is one of the factors as well as anger issues and aggressiveness is considered as common male behavioural factor which is also highly influential towards domestic violence. In addition to that, early marriage, sociocultural norms and others are the drivers of crimes against children in Indian society [14]. There are specific legislations against domestic violence or any type of "gender-based violence" in India but most of the time cases are not registered and the silence of victims also increases the number of cases in the country.

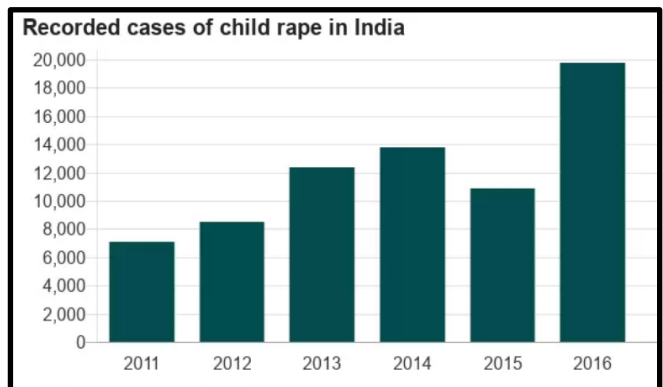


Figure 16: Increasing number of child rape cases in India. [15]

On the other hand, sexual exploitation against children and child rape is rising day by day in India, although there are

specific protection acts in the country. In 2018, over 53.2% of children experienced sexual abuse in India. The figure above represents that the number of child rape cases has been increasing. There were about 13000 cases of child rape in 2013 which decreased to 11000 cases in 2015 and then enhanced to nearly 20000 cases in 2016 [15]. The major impacts of increasing violence on the personalities and mental health of children are discussed below.

Theme 2: Impact of “gender-based violence” on children education and development

Different types of "gender-based violence" are impactful on the physical health of children but majorly impactful on psychological health. Depression, anxiety and other mental health illnesses become a part of the life of children who experience violence. Sexual harassment at an earlier age is highly impactful on mental health which makes a child antisocial [16]. Apart from that, these mental health disorders enhance the chances of having diabetes, obesity and CHD, as well as sexual exploitation, enhancing the chance of HIV among children. Therefore, there are many psychological and physical risks for children who experience "gender-based violence". The figure below represents a case of Saudi Arabia where it was identified that the odds ratio of obesity among children due to experiencing violence was 3.5 and the odds ratio of having chronic mental health disorders was 4.1 [17]. Therefore, there are high chances of obesity, depression and other mental illnesses among children due to “gender-based violence”.

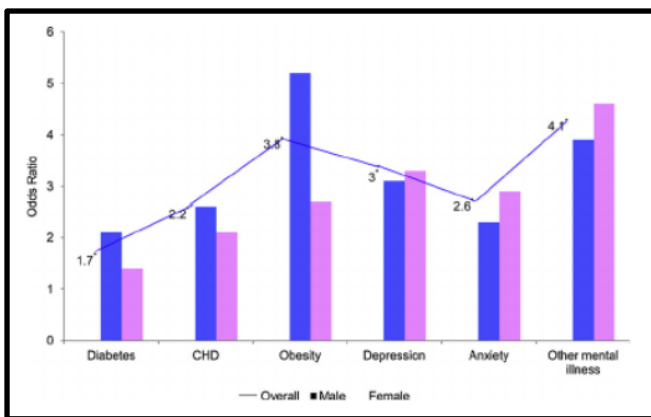


Figure 17: Impact of "gender-based violence" on the mental health of children [17]

In addition to that, “gender-based violence” enhances behaviour that is risky for health such as smoking, using drugs, drinking alcohol, wedlock sexual relations, suicidal thoughts and others. These behaviours represent the personalities of the children, therefore it can be stated that "gender-based violence" is highly influential towards the personality development of children. Apart from that, domestic violence also has some short-term and long-term effects on children. Enhancement of thumb-sucking, crying, whining and bed-wetting are the signs of preschool children when they feel fear and anxiety because of domestic violence [18]. Besides, lower self-esteem, getting into trouble, not

getting good grades and low activity are the short-term impacts of domestic violence on school-going children.

On the other hand, there are some long-term effects of domestic violence on the behaviour of children. Often children become aggressive and repeat the same violence as domestic violence impacts the upbringing and personality of a child. Thereafter, there are higher chances of getting into an abusive relationship. Emotional damage, poor mental health conditions, increase in chronic diseases are the other potential impacts of witnessing domestic violence by children [19]. These mental health disorders and chronic diseases disrupt the educational performances of children. Hence, careers might also be impacted due to lack of education and the development of personalities is also influenced by the environment provided by parents at home.

Theme 3: Governmental initiatives to prevent violence against children in India

There are many initiatives taken by the Indian government against children which are discussed in this section of the study. “*Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Bill (POCSO), 2011*” is one of the most significant legislations against sexual assault, “aggravated penetrative sexual assault”, “sexual harassment” and “penetrative sexual assault” [20]. The bill protects children below 18 years old from this violence. It is important to report abuse and having a recording or witness of sexually abusive behaviour is also important under the bill. Hence, the particular legislation is not as effective as the number of sexually abusive behaviour against children is increasing rapidly in India.

On the other hand, the “*Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006*” is legislation against child marriage in India. It is identified that child marriage is a historical event in India and that is one of the crucial reasons for the enhancement of "gender-based violence" in the country. As per the legislation, the marriage of a girl under 18 and a boy under 21 is considered child marriage and it is a punishable action [21]. In country profile 2020, UNICEF stated that India has the highest number of child brides, *with about 223 million child brides* in India every year which is one-third of the total child brides in the world [22]. Thus, the legislation is not effective to reduce the percentage of child marriage in the country.

In addition to that, *IPC 498A* is a legal Section in India for protecting people from domestic violence. As domestic violence is also impactful on children’s personalities, therefore, taking action against domestic violence is important. Besides, “*The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015*” is another legislation for protecting children in the country which suggests children need care and protection for positive personality build-up [23].

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that “gender-based violence” is a crucial factor impacting the health and mental health of children in India. The number of “gender-based violence” is

increasing in the country and along with that the percentage of mental health disorders among children is also increasing. Domestic violence and sexual violence against children are the most impactful violence on children. Witnessing and experiencing these types of violence changes the perspective of children and enhances negative feelings. In most cases in India, children become aggressive and anxious because of witnessing domestic violence and sexual violence at home. Providing a healthy environment to children is immensely important for the development of positive personalities among them.

The Indian government has taken several initiatives regarding domestic violence, sexual violence and other types of “gender-based violence”. The initiatives seem not so impactful which reflects the increasing number of violence across India, it is identified that sexual violence against children and witnessing domestic violence by children are more impactful on mental health rather than physical health. Depression, stress and other mental illnesses enhance diabetes, obesity and heart diseases which are chronic diseases highly affecting the health of children. Thus, the governmental authorities need to implement more strict policies against “gender-based violence” in India.

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APPENDIX: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Age group
 - a) 18-25
 - b) 26-32
 - c) 32-40
 - d) Above 40
2. Gender
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Others

SECTION 2: IMPACT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ON DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S' PERSONALITIES

(Please rate your opinion against the following statements as per the following scale
0 = strongly disagree, 1 = disagree, 2 = neutral, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree)

| Statements | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 3. The male-dominated social structure in India is a major cause of increasing gender-based violence | 11 | 10 | 3 | 22 | 55 |
| 4. Gender-based violence has a vital impact on mental health of children | 10 | 15 | 5 | 21 | 50 |
| 5. Gender stereotypes in Indian society influences gender-based violence against women | 6 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 55 |
| 6. Gender-based violence is highly influential towards children's personalities | 6 | 10 | 3 | 19 | 63 |
| 7. Gender-based violence negatively impacts emotional, physical and social factors of children | 11 | 19 | 10 | 21 | 40 |
| 8. Gender-based violence poses a major impact on children's educational performance | 10 | 15 | 5 | 26 | 45 |
| 9. Often children become anti-social which is a negative impact of gender-based violence | 15 | 10 | 6 | 20 | 50 |
| 10. Gender-based violence causes depression and anxiety among children which influences their personalities | 3 | 17 | 10 | 16 | 55 |