

ECONOMIC COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A REVIEW OF PAPERS PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1988-2019

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Abstract

Domestic violence of women continues to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations. The cost of domestic violence against women to society is substantial. Every visible outcome, whether direct or indirect, has a cost to the person, the society, or the country. Roberts made the first attempt to evaluate the cost of domestic violence against women in 1988 in recognition of this. Following this outstanding work, academia from all over the world have begun to delve deeper into assessing the costs related to domestic violence against women, as the financial losses caused by domestic violence against women have an impact on the entire economy and the entire national community. This paper put restrictions on time frame from 1988-2019 from the initiation of first study to a period of 30 years. A total of 45 studies have been reviewed and results are discussed into two themes-Studies undertaken by type of countries and type of costs. Future study potential is also highlighted, and gaps in the literature are recognized.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Cost of domestic violence, Economy, Financial losses, Human rights.

I. Introduction

It has been claimed that the regional, local and international womenfolk were raised their voices in 1980s to stand against different types of violence or abuses they were suffering from (Jones et al,2010). Some scholars have argued that only in early 1990s some specific laws were implemented or designed for violence related to women across the globe (Gelles ,1997). In Indian context, it was even late. Indian judiciary has introduced “Domestic violence prevention Act,2005” in the year 2005 to give a platform to fight against domestic violence against women of the nation. However, this study doesn’t deny the fact that women have also suffered from different types of abuses before 1980s.It is only for summarize the literature after the consensus has begun against the violence against women more specifically focusing on the works that have devoted on the estimation of cost in case of domestic violence.

When creating legislation or action plans to stop domestic violence against women, the topic of "costs" regularly comes up. Understanding the scope of the issue and how it impacts society as a

whole requires an understanding of the financial costs of violence against women. Individuals, families, communities, and entire societies are all responsible for the costs associated with domestic violence against women. Individuals pay out-of-pocket expenses, and as a result, their families' consumption preferences alter. Reduced earnings, decreased savings, and decreased household output all affect people and their families. Communities pay for the private services offered by neighbourhood organizations like churches or volunteer crisis workers. The costs of providing public services within their respective jurisdictions are borne by the local, state or provincial, and federal governments. They also fund private enterprises through grant programmes. The precise services that each level of government provide vary each nation, according to its history and political climate. Overall, the financial losses brought on by domestic violence against women have an impact on the entire economy and the entire national community.

II .Methodology

The published and grey literature has been searched by providing keywords mainly in four databases Jstor, google scholar, SSRN and NCBI. A total of 45 papers have been reviewed extensively. Initially, we have divided the surveyed literature according to the countries' income levels—high, middle, and low. Since Roberts' initial study estimating the cost of violence was completed in 1988, the time period chosen is 1988 to 2019. Following chorological classification, investigations were divided according to the sort of costs they had assessed and the subject matter. The researcher will be able to tell from this segmentation what costs are typically more concentrated and in which nations. Additionally, it will provide a summary of those unexplored regions or locations where such investigations could be conducted.

III. Discussion

Economic Cost estimation of Domestic violence

Costs of Domestic violence broadly falls into two categories- Monetary or economic or tangible costs and non-monetary or intangible costs. Under the head of monetary cost, from the available literature we have found two categories of costs- Direct cost and indirect cost. However, in the category non-economic costs or intangible costs, anxiety, trauma, depression etc. these psychological conditions are analyzed.

The first study on the economic cost estimation of violence against women was carried out by Roberts in 1988. Since then, numerous studies have been carried out by academicians from around the globe. Roberts calculated the women's and their children's lifelong indirect income loss as well as the direct costs of the services they received.

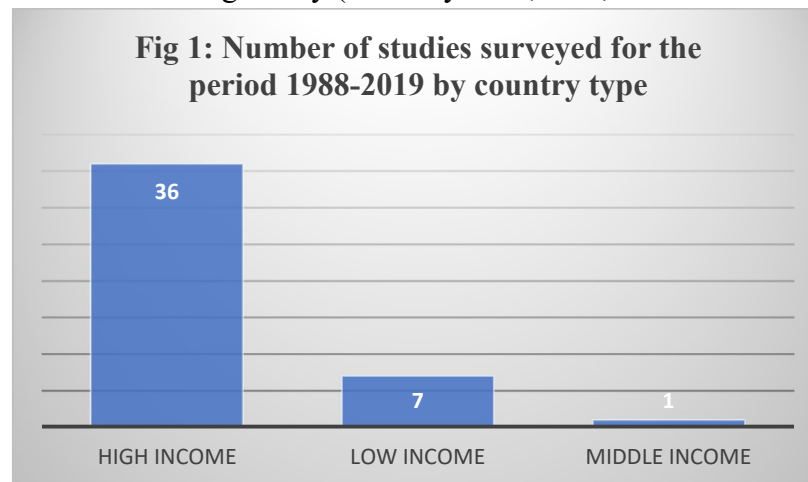
Scholars around the world have estimated different costs associated with domestic violence or intimate partner violence. Roberts 1988; Miller et al., 1993; Morrison and Orlando,1999; Korf et al.,1997; Heiskanen and Piipsa,2001; Bowlus et al,2003; Psytel; 2006; Walby,2009; Nectoux et al.,2010; Duvvury, et al.,2012; Elmusharaf, et al.,2019; Merino, et al.,2019; Oliver et al.,2019 etc.are some of the notable scholars who have estimated the cost of crime/violence against women. Interestingly most of the studies have been conducted in developed countries' contexts. Available literature shows that only a few studies have been carried out in developing/middle income/low-

income countries. Moreover, a combination of cost categories has been estimated in the cost estimation of DV/IPV literature.

Studies by Country type: High income, middle income and low income

Available literature shows an inclination towards conduction of studies in high income countries. Moreover, among high income countries it is found that highest number of studies have been carried out in Canada (Day,1995; Greaves et al.,1995; Kerr and MacLean,1996; Bowlus et al.,2003; C. Varcoe et al.,2011; K. McInturff,2013) and in Australia (Leonard and Cox,1991; Blumel,1993; Henderson & Assoc,2000; Deloitte and Touche, Almenara ,2002; Access Economics,2004, The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children,2009)

Interestingly in case of low income and middle-income countries there is scanty of literature. We have come across only a few studies estimating cost of domestic violence for such countries (Morrison and Orlando ,1999; Y. Gancheva et al.,2006; ICRW and UNFPA,2009; CARE,2013; Elmusharaf ,2019; Merino et al.,2019).Countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc. need more attention in this issue as these have diverse cultural, social and economic aspects to explore from the lenses of domestic violence. However, it is important to point out that there are few costing studies that have been conducted globally (Duvvury et al.,2013; Council of Europe,2014)



Source: Literature survey by author

Fig 1 depicts the segregation of surveyed literature by types of countries of the world. Highest number of studies surveyed have been found for high income countries.

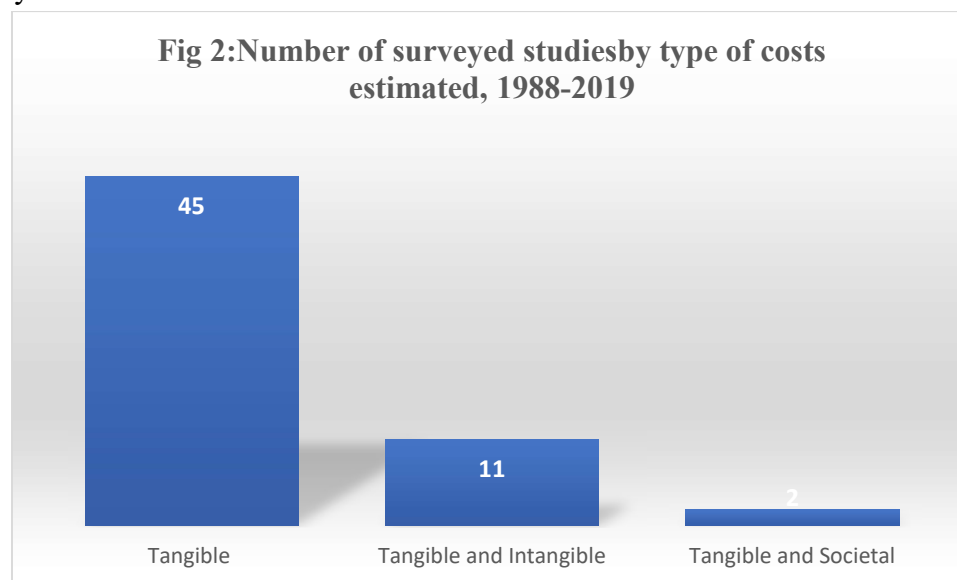
3.1.2. Studies by cost type: Tangible, Intangible and Societal

The studies typically look at costs in terms of tangible or monetary terms by taking into account increased burden on law enforcement structures, costs associated with the judiciary (civil, criminal, and administrative), legal expenses incurred by an individual party, health care costs, housing and shelters, lost wages and/or decrease in taxes paid to the state due to reduced employment and productivity, social services for women and their children, income support, and other costs. The costs of domestic violence against women can be divided into direct and indirect costs in numerous research.

Direct cost to the victims is the out of pocket expenditure in response to the violent incidents by the victims. Additionally, direct expenses from a governmental perspective refer to the amount that public authorities actually spend on programmes and initiatives connected to preventing and combating domestic violence against women. Studies have either examined both components of direct costs or just one. Indirect costs are those incurred as a result of the long-term, adverse, and physical consequences that such violence's victims experience. The quality of life of the victim and their loved ones may also be viewed as an indirect cost.

Another important category of cost is intangible- refers to the trauma, depression, and other psychological conditions that the victims experienced as a result of or as a result of the abuse. Many studies have also attempted to estimate these costs (KPMG,1994; Miller et al.,1996; Institute for Women of Andalusia,2003; Access Economics,2004; S. Walby,2009; M. Nectoux et al.,2010; J. Fliedner et al.,2013; K. McInturff, 2013; Institute for women policy research,2017; Elmusharaf K,2019; Oliver et al.,2019).

Societal cost of domestic violence is another type of cost that scholars have focused on (Greaves et al,1995; The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009). These studies have broadened the sphere of costs of domestic violence taking into account different indicators like shelters, home service, services of child welfare, school authority, crisis aid, social work of church, family counselling clinic etc. Fig. 2 shows the breakup of costs estimated by number of studies reviewed-



Source: Literature survey by Author

4. Conclusion

Overall, from the review of literature, it has been found that most studies are carried out at the national level at high income countries. The dearth of micro-level create difficulty in understanding the issue at the household level in cost estimation. Another issue is that studies related to domestic violence are more and most are done basically in developed countries. However, the literature is thin for developing countries due to the lack of victimization surveys or a culture of silence.

Therefore, studies at the micro-level are required to get the real picture of the cost and consequences of different crimes.

One element that existing studies on the cost estimation of violence against women do however have in common is that all of the studies represent underestimates. Research on the costs of violence cannot take into account non-reported cases and it is extremely difficult to take into account all of the costs linked to violence against women. Consequently, these studies help to show that violence against women and domestic violence are not cost-free, and help make the case for investing in measures and services to prevent and combat such violence.

Existing research also uses various data samples and resources, focuses on various definitions and types of domestic violence, and has various research questions depending on various socioeconomic contexts. Due to the aforementioned factors, it is challenging to compare research findings and obtain a comprehensive understanding of the financial burden of domestic violence against women.

Another reason of One of the reasons that such studies are rare is that there are few examples of systematically collected data. Every nation needs to concentrate on starting crime victimization surveys to gather information on varieties of crime. This will assist researchers in their work on these important challenges as well as governmental authorities in developing scientifically sound counter-measures. Although nations like the USA have undoubtedly already started this process, low-income or middle-income countries may find it difficult to assume such a significant responsibility due to a lack of funding. However, entrusting the task to NGOs, regional women's societies, and research institutions might be a good option.

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