



WWJMRD 2018; 4(4): 25-28  
www.wwjmr.com  
International Journal  
Peer Reviewed Journal  
Refereed Journal  
Indexed Journal  
UGC Approved Journal  
Impact Factor MJIF: 4.25  
E-ISSN: 2454-6615

**Dr. G.S Venumadhava**  
Assistant Professor, Coordinator  
I/C, Project Director ICSSR,  
New Delhi, DOS in  
Criminology and Forensic  
Science, Karnatak University  
Dharwad, Karnataka, India

**Jayashri Vishwanath Bhagwat**  
Research Assistant, ICSSR  
Project, DOS in Criminology  
and Forensic Science,  
Karnatak University Dharwad  
Karnataka, India

**Correspondence:**  
**Dr. G.S Venumadhava**  
Assistant Professor, Coordinator  
I/C, Project Director ICSSR,  
New Delhi, DOS in  
Criminology and Forensic  
Science, Karnatak University  
Dharwad, Karnataka, India

## A Study on Assessment of Masculinity and Gender-Based Violence in Men of Bellary District

**Dr. G.S Venumadhava, Jayashri Vishwanath Bhagwat**

### Abstract

The study aims at assessing various aspects of Masculinity and Violence in men under the microscope of Gender Violence. Masculinity and violence emphasise the nature of Gender Violence especially domestic violence to establish or to continue the existence of masculine dominance in the form of anger, aggression and assault. It is a hidden hindrance to social, cultural and economic development.

This article draws together the collected data on the dimension of trait masculinity and violence in men of Bellary district. It explains various reasons for the trait masculinity and violence. Masculinity has enforced many men to perform several acts that are hazards to them as well as their loved ones. Masculinity as a trait has a very negative commutation when considered in relation to domestic violence. Society has been a witness to many power struggles in the past of which women have borne the brunt. Women have been victims of male dominance and aggression for ages now that has only aggravated crime against women in society as well as has lowered men's ability of endurance.

The information sources are both primary as well as secondary. The data procured has been assessed using percentage, and relevant suggestions have been put forth based on the findings of the study.

**Keywords:** Masculinity, Gender-Violence, Domestic Violence.

### Introduction

The obsession to prevail mark of masculinity paves the way to various forms of gender-based violence against women like physical violence, sexual violence, verbal violence, financial violence, and so on. Mainly deprivation from fundamental rights needed for existence and sustainability.

The Sex ratio of India in the year 2014 was 943 females/ 1000 males. According to National Crime Record Bureau 2013, total crime against women (IPC + SLL) cases are ported 30, 0357 contributing 11.3% to total IPC Crimes having a rate of crime 52.2 with a conviction rate of only 22.4. Around 1, 18,866 cases were alone reported under 'Cruelty by Husband and Relatives' dedicating highest percentage wise. 4.5% to total IPC crimes concerning crimes against women.

### Meaning and Definition

#### Masculinity

The social construct has created an ambiance for men in which they are brought up imbued with trait masculinity (Hearn & Connell, 2005). Rather than focusing on biological universals, social and behavioral scientists investigate the different meanings that masculinity and femininity have in different contexts. While biological "maleness" varies very little, the roles, behaviors, bodies, and identities that are thought of as "masculine" vary enormously. This variation allows scholars to argue that masculinity is socially constructed. (Michael Kimmel, Tristan Bridges, 2011) Masculinity here means, the possession of the qualities i.e., Dominance, Arrogance, Violent Actions, possessiveness, competitiveness, aggressiveness, assertiveness, sexual appetite, lack of control over emotions leading to crossing over the boundary between practicality and impulse, passion, confidence, independence, and so on traditionally associated with men.

## Violence

Violence against women is a primeval and worldwide problem stirring in every culture and social group. According to World Health Organization Violence is defined as “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development, or deprivation.

## Background

Violence based on Gender is standard in all developing countries. Central dissimilarities are created by most vague and bizarre imposts imitated in specific culture of the society. The adversaries of these customs have failed time and again to evoke the chosen response regardless of the customs being reiterated over and over in many written works. In the present paper, some of the customs, prevalent for years in India, have been identified to reveal the women are facing the gender-based violence in addition to the day to day harassment. Approximately recommendations that are always in the discussion at the policy level but with no fruitful result have reviewed, and an attempt is made to put forward some simple ideas to check gender-based violence, particularly, in the developing world.

Studies show that violence against women in general, and domestic violence in particular, is intricately linked to real or perceived fulfillment of masculinities (Moore 1994). Men are further likely known to use violence against women when they are powerless to satisfy hegemonic manhood. During the Gulf War, for example, Israeli men who were not involved in war perpetrated more violence against women as compared to men involved in war increasing the prevalence of sexual offences and violence against women in Israel (Klein 1999). Their powerlessness in meeting their roles as guardians while their nation needed them destabilized their male identity and made them more prone to using violence towards women.

The character of women becoming more economically independent, while men struggling through the socio-economic change has been observed very prominently in East Africa, rendering them incapable in their role as primary breadwinners (Silber Schmidt, 2001). This according to Silber Schmidt has resulted in men exaggerating or turning more often to other masculine behaviours to reimburse for their economic incapacitation specifically violence and sexual activity with multiple partners.

Women’s deviating from the prescribed gender roles and not functioning as per the expectation of the family is also a stated reason for the expression of masculinity and exertion of control over them. Challenging women observed more common threats by men inviting the wrath of their violence. Reactions from men with energy are seen as non-compliance with the marital contract and generate violent reactions from husbands.

Situations, where the wife confronted the man in front of his family or friends, were especially likely to provoke violence. Similarly, in narratives from male youth in South Africa, violence usually occurred when youth thought that their girlfriends were threatening their authority or otherwise “stepping out of line” (Wood & Jewkes, 2001). Honor killings, when male family members killed women for disrespecting their family members, betrayal

through infidelity and other sexual transgressions, are perhaps the most extreme examples of such behaviour. Violence is a sign of a struggle to maintain a sense of identity and power. What then constitutes this identity and what is the interrelationship between identity and power? As pointed out earlier, masculinity is not a unitary construct. Ethnographic research across various cultural settings indicates that identity is multiple and individuals often embody different attributes. For example, a ‘macho’ man is aggressive, virile, controlled, emotional, and generous (Cornwall & Lind frame). Further experience of identity linked to the exercise of evil influence and tests to the superintend are a threat to individuality and vice versa.

In 1997, the International Center for Research on Women began an extensive research program in India that sought to provide reliable and sound information with which to identify and advocate for effective responses to domestic violence. The program comprised the following eight studies: An in-depth study of women’s experiences with domestic violence in rural Gujarat (Visaria 1999). Two studies are documenting government and nongovernmental organizations’ responses to domestic violence across four states (Mitra, 1999; Poonacha&Pandey, 1999). Findings from ICRW’s first phase of research demonstrated that domestic violence in India is a widespread problem with an extensive, but an insufficient reply. In one of the household investigation, approximately one in two women were reported to have been suffering from at least one type of domestic violence. Over 40% of women stated of being smacked, hit, jolted, or beaten by their husbands (INCLIN, 2000). These women have access to a proliferation of services, ranging from legal counselling cells to special police cells for women and children. They are profiting from a variety of innovative community responses (Mitra, 1999; Poonacha&Pandey, 1999). However, there are significant gaps in these responses, including the health system’s lack of consideration to domestic violence and a lack of precautionary approaches. These gaps are linked in part to the widespread acceptance of domestic violence as a normal part of the wedding. To account the extensive acceptability of domestic violence, social customs and attitudes need to be distorted to facilitate the implementation of appropriate and meaningful responses to domestic violence, and ultimately, to prevent it from occurring altogether. The first step in transforming these norms and attitudes is promoting dialogue. Such an exchange must include both men and women and take place within and across families, communities, and government institutions. Thus, in India, as in other countries, men are an integral part of preventing and responding to domestic violence. To ensure men’s inclusion, ICRW initiated a group of studies on men and masculinities in India that sought to bring men’s voices and experiences to the dialogue on domestic.

As the masculinity and violence directly get connected to the violence against women, there are various manifestations when it comes to violence against women. The most common of all is domestic violence and intimate partner violence, psychological violence, sexual harassment, and so on.

Other widespread forms around the globe include: sexual exploitation, sexual trafficking, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C), forced and child marriage.

Less documented forms include:

- Crimes committed in the name of “Honour.”
- Feticide
- Prenatal sex selection
- Female infanticide
- Economic abuse
- Elder abuse
- Dowry related violence

The perpetrators of violence may include the state and its agents, family members (including husband or other family members). (UN General Assembly, 2006)

**Facts about Masculinity and Gender-Based Violence**

The reasons for it being so predominant are the prevailing and idiotic mindset of the civilized society that all females are bodily and mentally weaker than the males. Nevertheless women today have demonstrated themselves in almost every field of life-affirming that they are not less to men, the reports of violence against them are much more significant in number than against men. The possible reasons are many and expanded over the length and breadth of the country.

According to United Nation Population Fund Report, around two-thirds of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence, and as many as 70 percents of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex. In India, more than 55 percent of the women suffer from domestic violence, especially in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P. and other northern states.

The most common causes for women stalking and battering include dissatisfaction with the dowry and exploiting women for more of it, arguing with the partner, refusing to have sex with him, neglecting children, going out of home without telling the partner, not cooking correctly or on time, indulging in extramarital affairs, not looking after in-laws etc.

In some cases, infertility in females also leads to their assault by the family members. The greed for dowry, desire for a male child and alcoholism of the spouse, are significant factors of domestic violence against women in rural areas. In urban areas, there are many more factors which lead to differences in the beginning and later take the shape of domestic violence. These include more income of a working woman than her partner, her absence in the house till late night, abusing and neglecting in-laws, being more forward socially etc.

Violence against young widows has also been on the rise in India. Most often they are cursed for their husband’s death and are deprived of proper food and clothing. They are not allowed or encouraged for remarriage in most of the homes, especially in rural areas. There have been cases of molestation and rape attempts of women by other family members in nuclear families or someone in the neighborhood. At times, women are even sexually coerced

by their partner themselves against their will. They are brutally beaten and tortured for not conceiving a male child. Incidents like ripping off a woman’s womb for killing the female fetus when she disagrees with abortion have also come to light especially in rural areas. Female feticide and female infanticide continue to be a rising concern.

The fluctuating sources which can spur the violence within the four walls of homes need to be analyzed carefully, and a thoughtful study of the factors causing the violence may prevent a family to suffer from the menacing act. A far deeper impact in real life than what has been covered in this article. What is required is to see closely the association of the factors provoking a particular form of domestic violence. If these factors could get controlled, then more than one form of violence can be prevented from harming an individual or our society and India would be a much better place to live.

**Research Methodology**

**Sample Size and Type:** The total sample chosen from the district of Bellary was 100 as a representation of the total population of men in Bellary. The sample included only men in the study as the focus of the research was to understand the rate of masculinity trait existent in men that encourages them to perpetrate violence.

**Sampling Technique:** The sample was chosen using the Simple Random Sampling Technique.

**Area of the Study:** Bellary District has been observed to have higher rates of violence against women in marriages based on the earlier pilot study conducted by the researcher therefore the district of Bellary was chosen as the study area for this particular article.

**Methods of Data Collection:** The data was collected using a questionnaire designed by the researcher specifically for assessing the rate of trait masculinity in men. The questionnaire is framed on a five point Like RT Scale options ranging from 1= Agree, 2= Partially Agree, 3=Partially Disagree, 4= Disagree. The questionnaire was validated on the basis of the pilot study conducted.

**Methods of Data Analysis:**

The objective was assessed using the frequency and the percentage of trait masculinity of men from Bellary District.

**Objective**

To assess the level of trait masculinity in men in Bellary District.

**Results and Discussion**

Levels of Trait Masculinity	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
High	21	20.8	21.0
Average	66	65.3	66.0
Low	13	12.9	13.0
Total	100	99.0	100.0
Total	101	100.0	

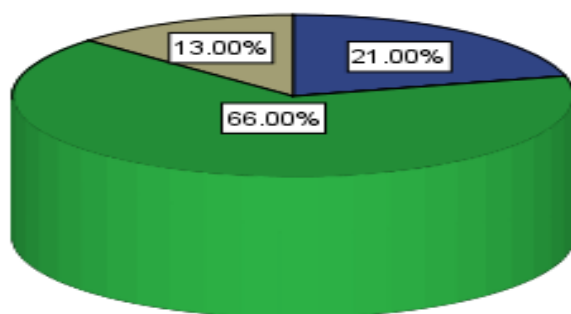


Fig.1: Trait Masculinity

fall in the average (66%) range when assessed for trait masculinity followed by men belonging to high (21%) range of the trait and then men having low (13%) trait masculinity.

Thus it shows that men with low trait masculinity are less in number as compared to men who belong to the average and high category. This indicates that men in Bellary district are having qualities of masculinity which means that they possess average and high levels of dominance, arrogance, possessiveness and are also highly competitive.

Men here are either average or high aggressive with an insatiable sexual appetite. They also have a problem segregating reality from morality as they are very high on emotions and impulsively act over their aggression.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

It is very essential to evaluate different forms of trait masculinity, understand the violent behaviors and take decisions towards changing them. Assimilate a perspective about gender-based violence into school education to build cognizance of the different positions of boys and girls within the family, in culture and imitation, and to endorse their development into stable personalities and into men and women in a relationship of equality and mutual respect.

1. It is no longer about only the victims, the women who are abused and being abused, but also who are the one who abuse.
2. It is now admitted that violence based on genders are not only for those who commit the violence but also it is the concern of all men, in this way the roots of male violence, which is the one of the fundamentals of patriarchy, can be discovered.
3. It is predictable that, initial in childhood, a defined frame of masculinity is forced upon boys and men, just as stereotypes of femininity are imposed on girls and women.
4. The approach recognizes that violent men can be helped, and gender-based violence can be prevented; men can be empowered to define and live masculinity in new ways.
5. Men are to be stimulated to look at themselves as individual human beings and not just as representatives of masculine culture.

As men change, entire cultures can begin to change, resting the necessities for a culture of peace, equality and a richer lifestyle, thus building a culture of equality and peace.

### References

1. Domestic Violence in India 4: Men, Masculinity And... (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Domestic-Violence-in-India-4-Men>
2. Edwards, Tim. 2006. Cultures of masculinity. London: Routledge.
3. Hearn, J., & Connell, R. (2005). Handbook of Studies on Men & Masculinities. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
4. Kimmel, Michael S., and Michael A. Messner, eds. 2010. Men's lives, 8th ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
5. Krug et al., "World report on violence and health", World Health Organization, 2002
6. Krug (2002, October 3). Violence. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence>
7. Sharma, B. R., & Gupta, M. (2004, Nov 1). Gender-Based Violence in India - A Never-ending Phenomenon. Studies, Journal of International Women's, 6, 113-122.
8. Sharma, B. R. and Gupta, Manisha (2004). Gender-Based Violence in India: A Never-ending Phenomenon. Journal of International Women's Studies, 6(1), 114-123. Available at: <http://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/vol6/iss1/8>
9. Whitehead, Stephen M. 2002. Men and masculinities: Key themes and new directions. Cambridge, UK: Polity.
10. <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Domestic-Violence-in-India-4-Men-Masculinity-and-Domestic-Violence-in-India.pdf>
11. <https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2010/02/domestic-violence-in-india-causes-consequences-and-remedies-2/> retrieved on 14th March 2018
12. Chapter 3 And 25 Glossary Flashcards | Quizlet. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://quizlet.com/172674941/chapter-3-and-25-glossary-flash-cards/>