

Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women's Health and Well-being

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Worldwide, roughly 736 million women, which is nearly one-third of the female population, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their lifetime. This represents approximately 30 percent of women aged 15 and older (World Health Organization, 2021). Furthermore, during the year 2018, approximately one out of every seven women had encountered physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or spouse in the past 12 months (World Health Organization, 2021). The objective of this study was to investigate the impact of intimate partner violence on women's health and wellbeing in Sri Lanka. This study was basically based on Women's and wellbeing survey which was conducted in 2019 in Sri Lanka. The survey was structured to encompass representation at various levels including national, urban, rural, and estate settings. Considering this, a sample size of 2,520 households was selected. The survey data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Over 28.9% of women who had undergone physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner had suffered injuries as a direct outcome at some stage in their lives, and 5.4% indicated that they had incurred injuries within the past year. Of them the largest proportion (18.94%) of women falls within the 45-49 age group. Furthermore, a significant majority, which is 69.8 percent, of women who had suffered injuries had experienced multiple instances of injuries. Among the women who sustained injuries requiring medical attention, nearly all of them (97.7%) did receive healthcare for their injuries. The results indicate that intimate partner violence has a significant impact on women's health and well-being. When considering prevention and intervention for women who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing intimate partner violence, professionals can assist these individuals in using empowering coping strategies that tap into their resilience.

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