

Gender-Based Violence and Correlates in Underprivileged Tea Plantation Sectors of Sri Lanka

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INTRODUCTION



Sri Lanka has reached most Millennium Development Goal targets well ahead of schedule.

Many of Sri Lanka's health indicators are better than several other countries in the region.

INTRODUCTION

- Tea estates have been the backbone of the Sri Lankan economy since the late 18th century.
- However, the health and social indices in Sri Lanka's tea estate populations lag far behind national figures.
- Tea estates of Sri Lanka are mainly situated in Nuwara-Eliya and Badulla districts and around one million people live in the estate sector of Sri Lanka.
- This is the first large-scale prevalence study of GBV in the tea estate sector.



OBJECTIVES

To determine the prevalence and correlates of gender based violence (current and lifetime) for pregnant women in the tea estate sector of Sri Lanka.



METHODS [1/4]

A **community-based cross-sectional** descriptive study was conducted with pregnant women recruited using **multistage cluster sampling** in Sri Lanka's tea estate sector.

- The calculated **sample size** was **800**.
- **Ethical clearance** was obtained from ERC, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka.

METHODS [2/4]

- A Tamil version of a modified **WHO** women's health and life events questionnaire was used.
- **Trained female research assistants** were used to collect data.
- Data was collected over a period of 4 months.



METHODS [3/4]

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence were studied as defined by the WHO questionnaire.
- The **response rate** was 98%.

METHODS [4/4]

- A **secondary case control analysis** was carried out among 278 women to assess correlates:
 - **Cases:** Pregnant women, who identified as having been abused physically or sexually within past 12 months by IP.
 - **Controls:** Pregnant women, who did not identify as having been abused physically, sexually or psychologically by partner or any others during lifetime.
- **Multivariate analysis** using **logistic regression** to identify the adjusted odds ratios.

RESULTS (Preliminary) [1/8]

Physical Violence by Intimate Partner (IP)

Type		Number (787)	Percentage (%), (95% CI)
Slapped or something thrown	Lifetime	314	39.9 (36.5-43.3)
	Current	233	29.6 (26.4-32.8)
Pushed or shoved or hair pulled	Lifetime	52	6.6 (4.9-8.3)
	Current	35	4.4 (3.0-5.8)
Hit with fist or with something else	Lifetime	64	8.1 (6.2-10.0)
	Current	45	5.7 (4.1-7.3)
Kicked, dragged or beaten similarly	Lifetime	53	6.7 (4.9-8.4)
	Current	35	4.4 (3.0-5.8)
Choked or burnt on purpose	Lifetime	22	2.8 (1.6-3.9)
	Current	11	1.4 (0.6-2.2)
Threatened use or actual use of gun, knife or other weapon	Lifetime	25	3.2 (2.0-4.4)
	Current	19	2.4 (1.3-3.5)
Any Physical Violence by IP	Lifetime	327	41.6 (38.2-45.0)
	Current	245	31.1 (27.9-34.3)

RESULTS [2/8]

Sexual Violence by Intimate Partner (IP)

Type	Number (787)		Percentage (%), (95% CI)
Physically forced to have sexual intercourse	Lifetime	34	4.3 (2.9-5.7)
	Current	28	3.6 (2.3-4.9)
Had sexual intercourse because afraid of IP	Lifetime	74	9.4 (7.4-11.4)
	Current	59	7.5 (5.7-9.3)
Forced to do something sexual that is degrading or humiliating	Lifetime	7	0.9 (0.2-1.5)
	Current	6	0.8 (0.2-1.4)
Any Sexual Violence by IP	Lifetime	82	10.4 (8.3-12.5)
	Current	69	8.8 (6.8-10.8)

RESULTS [3/8]

Violence by Intimate Partner (IP)

Type of violence		Number (787)	Percentage (%), 95% CI
Physical or sexual violence by IP (Any)	Lifetime	360	45.7 (42.2-49.2)
	Current	278	35.3 (32.0-38.7)
Physical and sexual violence by IP (Both)	Lifetime	47	6.0 (4.4-7.8)
	Current	36	4.6 (3.1-6.1)

RESULTS [4/8]

Psychological Violence by Intimate Partner (IP)

- Nearly half (46.6%, CI: 43.1-50.1) of the pregnant women experienced a **controlling behaviour**.
- More than half (52.4%, CI: 48.9-55.9) of the pregnant women were **emotionally abused** by their partners, while 48.0% (CI: 44.5-51.5) experienced this in immediate past year.

RESULTS [5/8]

Violence by Non-Partner

Type of violence	Number (787)	Percentage (%), 95% CI
Physical violence by non-partner	134	17.0 (14.4-19.6)
Sexual violence by non-partner	48	6.1 (4.4-7.8)
Physical or sexual violence non-partner	158	20.1 (17.3-22.9)

RESULTS [6/8]

Lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence

Every other women (n=426, 54.1%) in the sample experienced **physical or sexual violence** by an intimate partner or non-partner during her lifetime.

	Number (787)	Percentage (%), 95% CI
Physical violence (Any)	404	51.3 (47.8-54.8)
Sexual violence (Any)	108	13.7(11.3-16.1)
Physical or sexual violence (Any)	426	54.1(50.6-57.6)

RESULTS [7/8]

Correlates for Intimate Partner Violence – Univariate Analysis

Variable	OR	95 % CI
Low education of women	2.04	1.40-2.97
Married for three or more years	1.80	1.28-2.53
Having children	2.10	1.49-2.98
Low monthly income of women	2.15	1.14-4.06
Having assets	0.57	0.40-0.82
Low monthly income of partner	1.78	1.25-2.52
Partner drinking alcohol 1-3 times a week or more	5.78	3.58-9.32
Partner fighting with other men	7.89	4.17-14.93
Low household income	1.70	1.04-2.80

RESULTS [8/8]

Correlates for Intimate Partner Violence – Logistic Regression

Variable	Sig	OR	95% CI for OR	
			Lower	Upper
Partner's alcohol consumption	.000	7.48	3.52	15.91
<i>1-2 times a week or more</i>				
<i>Less than 1-2 times a week*</i>				
Partner physical fights with other men	.000	6.60	2.75	15.86
<i>Yes</i>				
<i>No or other responses*</i>				
Low household income	.025	2.06	1.10	3.90
<i>Rs.28000 or less</i>				
<i>Rs.28001 or more*</i>				

* Reference Level

CONCLUSION

- **One in two women** have experienced **GBV** in their lifetimes in the tea estate sector, and prevalence of abuse is also high during **immediate past year** which includes pregnancy and pre-pregnancy periods.
- High alcohol use, fighting with other men and low household income are the most significant correlates. **Targeted preventive measures** are required to address these. Also care should be provided to abused women.

Weighing tea leaves



Line Homes in Tea Estates

Thank You



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