

## Confronting the Burden of Injuries - JHSPH OpenCourseWare

### Self-Study Survey 11

Reading: [Martin, Kilgallen, Tsui et al. Sexual Behaviors and Reproductive Health Outcome: Associations with Wife Abuse in India. JAMA 1999; 282: 1967-1972](#)

1. What are the risk factors for domestic violence in India?
2. Which characteristics make some men more likely to inflict physical violence on their spouse or partner in India?
3. What are the implications of this study for health policy in India?
4. What are the non-health sector issues that would need to be considered if interventions were being planned for this problem in India?
5. Which specific population would you like to study for further evaluation of this problem in India?

### Answer Key

1. Example of acceptable answer: Low SES, low educational levels, and belonging to a lower caste. Additional risk factors include those related to the man's sexual activity and pregnancy status of the female.
2. Example of acceptable answer: Men having premarital sex, extramarital sex, STD symptoms, or their wives having an unplanned pregnancy.
3. Example of acceptable answer: Domestic violence is an important cause of injuries among women, especially uneducated poor women. This study demonstrates that women are often in great danger in a place where they should be safe within their own families. This study provides a greater understanding of the problem of domestic violence, the causes of domestic violence, and the need to study its consequences. It also stresses the urgency to develop a way to deal with this issue from a health, legal, developmental, and human rights perspective.
4. Example of acceptable answer:
  - Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) have an important role to play.
  - Improving a person's educational status may have a two-fold advantage as it is necessary in order for that individual to begin the process of empowerment. Education can also initiate long term changes in the social norms that shape society.
  - The media is important in a strategy to change cultural values because it has the power to support or oppose current values. The media also controls information distribution and therefore is a powerful force in any movement for social change.
  - Political mobilization is necessary (especially in the early stages of activity) to change social structures and to gain the attention of decision makers and policy makers.

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- The legislative and judicial sectors have a large role to play in any change in the social structure. New legislation, or strengthening current legislation, dealing with family violence is important.
  - The police force will have to be made more sensitive in their dealings with domestic violence cases.
5. State your chosen population e.g.: I would like to study domestic violence in a vulnerable sub-group of the population, such as pregnant women. Defining the problem and assessing the scope of domestic violence against pregnant women is an important component in the process of understanding and addressing solutions to the problem. In developing countries, there is little research in this field to indicate whether pregnancy is a risk factor for violence. Therefore, this is a question that needs to be answered.