

Economic Stress and Domestic Violence During and after Covid 19 Pandemic: Understanding Causes and Global Response

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ABSTRACT:

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered widespread economic disruption, leading to increased unemployment, financial insecurity, and psychological distress across populations. This study explores the link between economic stress and domestic violence in the Indian context during and after the pandemic, aiming to identify key causes and evaluate the role of global and governmental responses. Using quantitative methods, the research analyzes demographic patterns, correlation, regression, chi-square tests, and structural equation modeling to understand the complex relationships among economic hardship, domestic abuse, and mental health. Findings reveal a strong positive correlation between economic stress and incidents of domestic violence, further amplified by deteriorating mental health. Chi-square analysis confirms that economic uncertainty and job loss significantly predicted the rise in domestic violence cases. Government interventions and social support networks emerged as crucial mitigating factors. Structural equation modeling highlights that economic stress indirectly influenced global responses through increased domestic violence reports, prompting policy actions and international attention. The study concludes with a call for integrated welfare strategies that address both economic recovery and psychosocial well-being to prevent domestic abuse during future crises.

Keywords: Economic stress, domestic violence, COVID-19, financial insecurity, government intervention, mental health, global response, social support, India.

Introduction

Generally, Domestic Violence (DV) occurred in the domestic space. Domestic Violence is the general term and it includes the Intimate Partner Violence, child abuse and elder abuse (Boserup, McKenney, & Elkbuli, 2020). The domestic abuse have increased in the covid-19 pandemic

period. The impacting factors are divided into 4 groups, such as societal or individual, community, relationship, and structural and environmental. The Violence increased, because of the household's tensions, increased perpetrator's risk factors such as economic burden, and violence (Usta, Murr, & El-Jarrah, 2021). The domestic violence occurred, due to the following reasons

in covid-19 pandemic: the loss of income, exposure to habits, layoffs, and extended domestic stays. These are the additional reasons for violence in the covid-19 pandemic, these domestic violence incidents has contributed to social and economic crises. Before covid-19, the social crisis have occurred and that time the victims accessed the help from relatives and family, having sheltered homes, and legal remedies like, protective orders. In the lockdown period, these options are not available. The victims cannot able to leave their home, the violence intensity and sufferings, increased. Then, the domestic violence also affected the children significantly. Generally, these incidents, becomes very challenging for the parents to access help from their family and community and they losing their childcare and it has been considered as the loss for victims and it creates the high stress or responsibility for children and victim (Sharma & Borah, 2022). Globally, the economic impact of covid-19, increased the unemployment rates, financial instability, and illness/death. The covid-19 pandemic has served as the catalyst for the people, who are the victims and reported the bad experiences of incidence and violence severity made by their abusive partners. The financial stress linked with covid-19 pandemic has been unparalleled and is impact the survivors and victims of the domestic violence (Piquero, Jennings, Jemison, Kaukinen, & Knaul, 2021). Nowadays, the unemployment rates increased, financial stress and anxiety, and community resources scarcity creates the stage for exacerbated domestic violence. Most of the victims quarantined in the violent homes, without connected with the family or friends. Abusers may experiences the heightened financial stress and pressures, there has the increased alcohol consumption/drugs, and purchase or store guns as the emergency measure (Bettinger-Lopez & Bro, 2020).

Literature Review

During the covid-19 pandemic, the domestic violence issues, were considered as the major issues, in the world. The empirical study (Gianesan & Chethiyar, 2021) emphasized the

domestic violence issue from counselors perspective during the pandemic period. The study findings showed that there has the several causes for the domestic violence. The main cause for the domestic violence in the pandemic period is the financial factors. Because, many people lost their sources of income due to the covid-19 pandemic. The people who have lost their income had some difficulties to support their families.

Most of the women, in their relationship experience the psychological or the physical violence and it causes severe health issue. The coercive approach's pattern includes economic, physical, emotional, and psychological, sexual abuse that one person do against the other person, with the intention to maintain and establish the control and power is called as the domestic violence. The study (Chalakal, 2020) identified the nature and various causes of the domestic violence among women in the lockdown period. The empirical study collected the sample data from the females (165) working in different sectors, with the varied educational qualification and family status. The study findings had obtained that there has the several factors for the domestic violence such as, physical assault, verbal abuse, harassment, sexual abuse, ill-treatment, maltreatment, and spouse's offensive nature, because of the reasons like dominant nature, identity of female, alcohol extramarital affairs and financial crisis, and so on.

The Domestic violence like, legal, health and social violence is the common violence types against women. The study (Yari, Zahednezhad, Gheshlagh, & Kurdi, 2021) assessed the frequency of DV against women and identified the risk factors for women in the covid-19 period, in Iran. The sample data have been collected with the help of using the DV questionnaire, that were measured in 3 violence forms, such as sexual, physical, and emotional violence. The results indicated that the DV is common in the Iran. Hence, it has the need of strategies to prevent and reduce the domestic violence, and these strategies can be adopted by providing them the better educational opportunities, promoting the wise

marriage, creating awareness, and giving them social support.

The empirical study (Ukwubile & Linda, 2020), conducted to investigate the consequences and causes of intimate partner violence among the couples in, Nigeria. The study findings revealed that the violence against women is the common problem, and the high occurrence rate, are sexual and physical types of violence, which were ranked among the highly suffered violence forms, unfaithfulness, disobedience, to husbands and ignoring marital responsibilities are the important reasons for the violence against women.

The study (Abdel Rahman, 2021) investigated the spreading of family violence and detected the predictors with the help of using the model SEM. The study findings revealed that there has the high levels of family violence, and violence of parents to children, the sibling violence and violence between the partners. The results identified that years of marriage are statistically important to the above mentioned violence. Although, sex is statistically major predictor of the violence between partners, where the age, income level and educational level, did not predicts the violence.

The empirical study (Mulyana et al.) described and determined the factors, which influenced the sociology of domestic violence, in Indonesia. The covid-19 phenomenon affected the each and every families, resulted in domestic violence, and the most of husbands treated their wives badly. During the pandemic, the violence is not revealed publicly. Many women as victims conveyed that these are the domestic problems, hence it has held internally in the family. In the Indonesia, there has the culture of fear and shame, which troubles them and resulted in domestic violence. The study results shown that the domestic violence in Indonesia has increased in every months at the covid-19 pandemic. This happened because of the complex life of community, which automatically affects the household lives.

(Low & Mounts, 2022) Investigated the pathways, where the financial stress impacted adolescents' and parents' well-being at the covid-

19 pandemic. The financial stress in the pandemic were experienced by the parents and it has indirectly affected the adolescents' well-being. The financial stress levels have been related with the higher levels of adolescent loneliness, parenting stress, and parental psychological distress.

(Simonse, Van Dijk, Van Dillen, & Van Dijk, 2022) examined the financial stress role, and it is defined as the individuals, experiencing the lack of financial resources to meet the demands. Also, the study inspected the financial stress and the mental health related to the income, debts and savings, in home. The results have revealed that every individual's mental health, did not changed in the pandemic's first 6 months, but it has showed the considerable basic heterogeneity. When, the financial stress increases, the mental health decreases, where, financial stress decreases, mental health increases.

The covid-19 pandemic, created the downfall to economy. In the Covid-19 pandemic of 1st wave, governments took several measures to help the societies and economies, such as jobs protection and the financial support to people. The study (Chłoń-Domińczak & Holzer-Żelażewska, 2022) analysed the economic condition of the older Europeans, depends on the socio-economic status and the country of residence characteristics, included the changes of economy and the labour market at 1st pandemic phase. The results indicated that the individual characteristics has impacted majorly on the people's economic stress.

(Borrescio-Higa, Droller, & Valenzuela, 2022) Examined the covid-19 pandemic impacts on financial distress and mental health, psychological well-being of people. The study conducted the survey and analyzed the sample data. The linear probability models were used to analyze the association between psychological wellbeing, economic fragility, and financial distress. The findings of the study has showed that the unemployment and the loss of income were the predictive of experiencing the high range of financial issues, like, lack of savings, and

difficulties in paying mortgage loans, consumer debt, and bills. Also, the financial distress is the major cause for the higher occurrence of the poor well-being, mental health deterioration and sleep problems.

The study (Goyal, Kumar, Rao, Colombage, & Sharma, 2021) explored the impacts of containment measures on the people's finance in pandemic period of covid-19, and found the financially unstable people. Tracing these impacts in the pandemic was considered as the challenging task. The results highlighted the outstanding loans, insufficient savings and the insurance, the poor retirement planning. Specifically, the women, lower-income levels, and less educated people are financially vulnerable.

The study (Syed, Gupta, & Rai, 2021), used to unravel the covid-19 effects on economic, psychological and, social well-being of working people, in India. The survey was conducted by focusing on the factors such as financial stability, psycho-social well-being, work from home and safety implications. The study findings have revealed that the female in the society are highly vulnerable to organizational and social-psychological stress.

Research gaps

- (Gianesan & Chethiyar, 2021) only focused on the issues of the domestic violence during the Covid-19, in counselors' perspectives. It does not involve the external parties like government, community, NGOs, and predators.
- The study (Abdel Rahman, 2021) investigated the family violence and it also detected the predictors. The counselling programs are needed to reduce the family violence and psychotherapy programs are needed to reduce the family violence's adverse effects on children and parents.
- The study (Chłoń-Domińczak & Holzer-Żelazewska, 2022) findings only captured the first reaction of policy measures, introduced in the Covid-19 pandemic and there has the further need to observe long-term effects of crisis on the employment and labour market, and long periods of lockdown and workplace closures, and the

falling people's finance situation, which might affect the economic risks faced by pensioners and older workers.

- The study (Borrescio-Higa et al., 2022) policies designed with the purpose to improve the financial education and it has the necessity to improve the financial resilience and precautionary savings, and the psychological burden of debt in future.

Research Objectives

- To examine the relationship between economic stress and the prevalence of domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- To analyze the global responses and intervention strategies addressing domestic violence linked to economic hardship in India.
- To assess the long-term socio-economic consequences of pandemic-induced financial distress on domestic relationships in India.
- To investigate the effectiveness of Government policies and social support systems in mitigating domestic violence in crisis periods in India.

Research Questions

- How did economic stress impact domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India?
- How did different governments and organizations respond to the increase in domestic violence linked to economic hardship in India?
- What were the socio-economic consequences of domestic violence on affected individuals and families?
- What interventions were most effective in reducing domestic violence amid economic crises?

Research Hypothesis

H1: Economic stress significantly increased domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

H0: Economic stress significantly not increased domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

H2: Governments with stronger social welfare programs witnessed decrease in domestic violence cases linked to economic hardship in India.

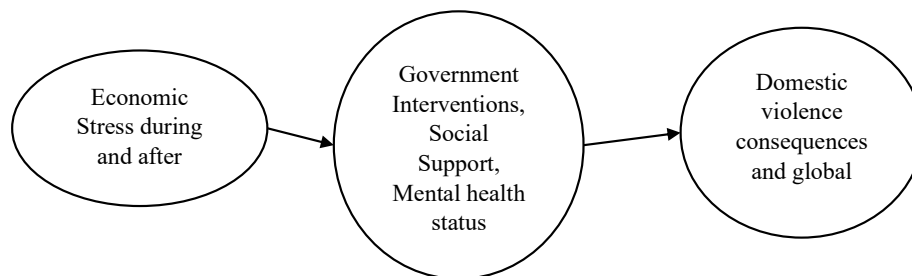
H0: Governments with stronger social welfare programs witnessed not decrease in domestic violence cases linked to economic hardship in India.

H3: Loss of employment and financial insecurity were primary predictors of increased domestic violence incidents.

H0: Loss of employment and financial insecurity were not primary predictors of increased domestic violence incidents.

Conceptual Framework

The study will be based on **social stress theory**, which suggests that economic hardship exacerbates tension within households, increasing the risk of domestic violence (Aneshensel, 1992; Fox, Benson, DeMaris, & Van Wyk, 2002).



The framework will incorporate:

- **Independent Variable:** Economic stress (e.g., job loss, income reduction, financial insecurity)
- **Dependent Variable:** Domestic violence (physical, emotional, psychological abuse) Consequences and Global responses
- **Moderating Variables:** Social support, government interventions, mental health status
- **Control Variables:** Age, education level, geographical region, marital status

Research Method: Quantitative Approach

Data Collection:

Surveys: Collecting responses from individuals affected by financial strain and domestic violence.

Target Group: Individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds who experienced economic stress post-COVID-19.

Sampling Technique: Stratified random sampling to ensure representation across different demographics.

Data analysis & interpretation

Table 1: Demographic analysis

Age	Frequency	Percent
Below 18 years	23	15.30
18 - 30 years	70	46.70
31 - 45 years	54	36.00
46 - 60 years	3	2.00
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	77	51.30
Female	73	48.70
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Married	109	72.70
Unmarried	41	27.30
Employment status	Frequency	Percent
Employed full-time	71	47.30
Employed part-time	12	8.00
Self employed	67	44.70
Education	Frequency	Percent
Primary school	34	22.70
College Degree	104	69.30

Postgraduate Degree	12	8.00
Total	150	100.00

The age distribution shows that 46.7% of the respondents fall between the ages of 18 and 30. With 36% of the participants in their peak career and family stages—times generally defined by financial demands and emotional pressures—the next demographic is the 31–45 years cohort. A small portion, 15.3%, consists of individuals under 18, maybe reflecting younger people affected either directly or indirectly by domestic violence and family financial difficulty. Just 2% of the respondents fell between the ages of 46 and 60, suggesting a lower degree of involvement or impact seen among older adults in this specific research area.

Men make 51.3% and women 48.7% of the sample, hence the gender distribution is quite fair. This virtually equal representation helps to fairly compare the ways in which domestic violence and economic stress show themselves across sexes. Particularly in analysing the gendered dimensions of victimising, perpetrating, and coping mechanisms, the inclusion of both points of view is very vital.

Marital status data shows that 27.3% of respondents are single and 72.7% are married. This is crucial as domestic violence usually occurs in personal or familial surroundings and the significant proportion of married people provides a suitable background for examine occurrences of domestic abuse. Married couples, whose interpersonal dynamics suffered constant stress, were most likely influenced directly by the difficulties arising from economic instability during the epidemic: unemployment, lower income, and greater confinement.

The work position gives this story yet another layer. Of the respondents, around 47.3% are

employed full-time and 8% are working part-time. A noteworthy 44.7% of respondents said they were self-employed, implying that a substantial number of the sample would have come across uneven income, more economic uncertainty, and sensitivity to market disturbances brought on by the pandemic. Lockdowns and economic downturns had a major impact on self-employed people, particularly in the informal sector, which probably raised household tensions and resulted in more instances of domestic violence.

The interviewees' educational backgrounds show that 8% have a postgraduate degree, 22.7% have completed simply basic education, and 69.3% have a college degree. The predominance of college-educated individuals suggests that the sample consisted largely of people with better educational understanding and maybe higher inclination to participate in conversations regarding delicate subjects like domestic violence. Including respondents with merely elementary school helps the study to gather views from individuals of lower socioeconomic and educational levels, who could have different issues and little choices for support or redress.

These demographic observations taken together point to a sample generally composed of young to middle-aged, educated, economically active persons, mostly married, with a pretty equal gender representation. This demographic profile is especially relevant for a research on domestic violence among rising economic stress since it shows the groups most vulnerable to job loss, income instability, and the consequent strains on personal relationships during the COVID-19 epidemic and its aftermath. The information enables more complex research of how financial stress showed up as emotional and behavioural pressures within households all around

Correlation analysis

Table 2: Correlation analysis

Correlations	Economic Stress	Domestic Violence	Global Response	Social Support	Government Interventions	Mental Health Status
Economic Stress	1	.870**	.542**	.718**	.659**	.717**
Domestic Violence	.870**	1	.648**	.667**	.662**	.769**
Global Response	.542**	.648**	1	.683**	.739**	.682**
Social Support	.718**	.667**	.683**	1	.905**	.913**
Government Interventions	.659**	.662**	.739**	.905**	1	.861**
Mental Health Status	.717**	.769**	.682**	.913**	.861**	1

According to the overall analysis, domestic violence and economic stress show a significant positive link of 0.870. This strong correlation emphasises the close relationship between financial difficulty and higher frequency of domestic violence. People and families had sudden job losses, unstable finances, and rising living expenditures throughout the pandemic, therefore aggravating psychological stress. This conflict sometimes led to more frequent personal conflicts in households, which increased the likelihood of abuse. The studies support the claim that economic volatility is not just a financial issue but also a very social one with great effects on personal security and society cohesiveness.

Measuring at .717, the high positive connection between economic stress and mental health status is a noteworthy finding; similarly, between domestic violence and mental health status, assessed at .769. The results show that people's mental health was much compromised by both financial problems and violent exposure. Apart from the physical health hazards, the pandemic caused emotional and psychological suffering. The statistics clearly reveal that those dealing with unstable income or turbulent home environments have definitely experienced trauma, anxiety, and despair. The strong linkages highlight the urgent necessity of coherent

solutions addressing both psychological and financial support systems.

Crucially important and showing strong positive correlations with mental health status (.913), government interventions (.905), and domestic violence (.667) is social support. The results show that reducing the negative effects of emotional and financial stress required access to supportive networks like family, friends, community groups, or institutionalised care. The strong positive link between social support and government interventions supports its protective role even further by implying that initiatives meant for economic relief or preventive actions were more successful when backed by strong community and social support. Particularly government interventions (.739) and social support (.683), the global response—which encompasses national and international policy measures, health advisories, relief operations, and coordinated tactics—has significant correlations with other factors. This suggests that coordinated worldwide projects helped to define the tone and effectiveness of national reactions as well as encourage community participation. This suggests that international cooperation and communication were crucial in stopping countries from acting alone and rather promoting a shared understanding of how to reduce the

social and financial consequences of the pandemic.

At last, measuring .905 and .861 respectively, governmental policies show a significant correlation with social support and mental health state. This connection demonstrates that

governmental interventions—including stimulus packages, lockout rules, help for victims of domestic violence, mental health outreach, and emergency housing—very much help to reduce vulnerability. Such therapies proved to be more effective when they were viewed as easily available and supported by the social context.

Regression analysis

Table 3: Regression analysis

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p value
Regression	184.546	4	46.137	45.556	.000b
Residual	146.847	145	1.013		
Total	331.393	149			
Coefficients ^a	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	p value
(Constant)	0.034	0.293		0.118	0.91
Social Support	-0.116	0.178	-0.11	-0.651	0.52
Government Interventions	0.679	0.144	0.625	4.712	0.00
Mental Health Status	0.211	0.155	0.194	1.366	0.17
Economic Stress	0.083	0.097	0.07	0.86	0.39
a Dependent Variable: Global Response					

Using four independent variables—social support, government actions, mental health status, and economic hardship—this study's regression analysis offers crucial new perspectives on the factors influencing the global response to the COVID-19 epidemic. With an F-value of 45.556 and a p-value of 0.000, the results expose a statistically significant regression model much below the usual threshold of 0.05. This confirms that the independent elements taken together explain the fluctuations in the dependent variable—that is, the global response to the pandemic. The total variance of the model, expressed by the sum of squares, is 331.393; 184.546 is given to the regression and 146.847 to the residuals. This indicates a strong explanatory ability of the model, thereby suggesting that the selected predictors are important in understanding the elements influencing global reaction mechanisms during crises.

But when one uses the regression coefficients to examine individual elements, a more complex picture emerges. With a standardised beta value of 0.625, a t-value of 4.712, and a very significant p-value of .000, government interventions seem to be the most often occurring and powerful predictor. This suggests that effective international responses need critically on robust, timely, well-organized governmental actions including lockdown requirements, economic stimulus programmes, improvement of healthcare facilities, and emergency response systems. The strength of this relationship emphasises the critical need of government leadership and policy development in crisis management and fostering of worldwide cooperation.

Analysed independently, the remaining factors—social support, mental health status, and

economic stress—did not seem to be statistically significant predictors of global response. Though theoretically important in reducing crisis-related suffering, social support shows a negative beta coefficient (-0.110) and a p-value of 0.52, thereby indicating no statistically meaningful effect. This suggests that while social support might be essential at the individual or community level, it could not directly or quantitatively affect affecting more general institutional or global reactions to the pandemic.

Though positively linked with global response ($B = 0.211$), mental health status does not reach statistical relevance ($p = 0.17$). Although people's psychological well-being is a major issue during pandemics, our findings indicate that its direct impact on world policy reactions is minimal, presumably mediated by other factors not included in our model. Indicated by a modest positive coefficient ($B = 0.083$) and a non-significant p-value of 0.39, economic stress similarly shows no significant influence, suggesting that although it was a main stressor during the epidemic, its direct correlation with global responses is tenuous unless supported by institutional intervention.

With a high p-value of 0.91, the constant value ($B = 0.034$) shows the absence of a significant intercept effect, therefore underlining the main contribution of the independent variables—especially government interventions—to the considerable variance in the dependent variable. This regression model clearly shows that, even if numerous factors interact during world crises, coordinated government involvement has the main effect. Notwithstanding the possible impact of other social or psychological elements that may operate more subtly or indirectly, it underlines the vital relevance of policy development and institutional readiness in creating effective global responses.

Reliability and Validity

Table 4: Cronbach alpha

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
0.943	6

With a Cronbach's Alpha score of 0.943, this study shows among the six items on the scale an exceptionally high degree of internal consistency and dependability. In social science research, this statistic is often recognised as a measure of the degree of connection among a set of objects, thus essentially assessing whether they consistently measure the same underlying construct. Under this framework—examining economic stress, domestic violence, global responses, social support, government interventions, and mental health during and after the COVID-19 epidemic—the elevated alpha coefficient indicates that the variables in the scale are significantly interrelated and collectively assess a cohesive concept pertinent to the general theme of socio-economic and psychological responses to crisis.

Usually seen as extraordinary, an alpha score of 0.9 indicates that the questionnaire or instrument of data gathering employed in this study was painstakingly created with highly linked questions that consistently produce responses among different respondents. This consistency is crucial especially in studies involving complex and sensitive subjects like domestic violence and mental health, where erroneous or inconsistently interpreted objects could cause significant measurement error and threaten the validity of the findings. Six items improve the interpretive strength of this result by proving that the instrument's internal structure stays robust even with a quite small number of variables.

By verifying that the measured constructs are stable and internally consistent, the Cronbach's Alpha value strengthens the validity of next studies like correlation and regression. It also guarantees that the knowledge gained from

participant responses might be assigned to real correlations among variables instead of random mistake or measurement disagreement. This strong dependability coefficient emphasises the methodological integrity of the study and supports the validity of the conclusions about the relationship between economic and psychological strains and the worldwide reaction mechanisms during and after the epidemic.

Chi-square analysis

Research Hypothesis

H1: Economic stress significantly increased domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

H0: Economic stress significantly not increased domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

Table 5: Chi-square analysis 1

	Domestic Violence					
Social Support	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Strongly Disagree	14	7	0	0	0	21
Disagree	6	0	0	0	0	6
Neutral	0	0	0	0	7	7
Agree	0	0	7	19	14	40
Strongly Agree	0	7	21	7	41	76
Total	20	14	28	26	62	150
Chi-Square Tests	Value	df	p value			
Pearson Chi-Square	172.645a	16	0.00			
Likelihood Ratio	161.457	16	0.00			

Strong statistical data supporting the alternative hypothesis (H1) are provided by the Chi-square analysis conducted to assess the hypothesis that economic stress significantly raised domestic violence rates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in India. With 16 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.000, the research shows a Pearson Chi-square value of 172.645 much below the usual threshold of 0.05. This significant result shows a strong and non-random connection between reported cases of domestic violence and perceived social support—considered here as a contextual element connected to the stress environment. The response distribution in the table reveals different trends: people who strongly endorsed the presence of social support concurrently showed elevated awareness of domestic violence events, suggesting a paradoxical or compensatory relationship whereby those enduring major stress and violence increasingly pursued or reported strong social support.

The trend of response frequencies highlights even more the relationship between domestic violence and economic stress. For instance, increased incidences of domestic violence experiences were common among lower degrees of agreement, implying limited coping mechanisms or resources, in the absence or little availability of social support (as shown in the "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" categories). On the other hand, there was concentration of responses within the higher domestic violence ranges in the locations where respondents indicated agreement or strong agreement with social support. This suggests that even with more social support, economic stress might still be a major underlying cause of domestic violence, maybe aggravating home tensions due to job losses, financial uncertainty, or insecurity resulting from the economic shocks of the epidemic.

The null hypothesis (H0), which claims that economic stress did not significantly increase domestic violence rates, is therefore refuted in

view of the statistically significant link. The results show that in this context economic stress and domestic violence are correlated. This finding fits the broad national and worldwide patterns seen throughout the pandemic when lockdowns and economic hardships aggravated domestic tensions and limited victims' access to outside help, legal services, or shelters. The strong statistical correlation shown here supports the theory by showing that, in the Indian setting, economic crisis during and after the epidemic greatly contributed to the increase in domestic

violence incidence, so providing a convincing empirical basis for the hypothesis and requiring targeted policy interventions.

H2: Governments with stronger social welfare programs witnessed decrease in domestic violence cases linked to economic hardship in India.

H0: Governments with stronger social welfare programs witnessed not decrease in domestic violence cases linked to economic hardship in India.

Table 6: Chi-square analysis 2

	Domestic Violence					
Government Interventions	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Strongly Disagree	7	7	0	0	0	14
Disagree	13	0	0	0	0	13
Neutral	0	0	7	6	7	20
Agree	0	0	0	13	7	20
Strongly Agree	0	7	21	7	48	83
Total	20	14	28	26	62	150
Chi-Square Tests	Value	df	p value			
Pearson Chi-Square	200.719a	16	0.00			
Likelihood Ratio	172.993	16	0.00			

With 16 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.000, the Chi-square analysis done to assess the second hypothesis—that governments with more strong social welfare programmes had a decrease in domestic violence cases linked with economic difficulty in India—generated a Pearson Chi-square value of 200.719. With strong evidence to refute the null hypothesis (H0), this result is statistically significant and well below the recommended alpha threshold of 0.05. The findings supports the alternative hypothesis (H2), which holds that increased government interventions—which show up as social welfare programs—correspond with a notable drop in domestic violence events resulting from economic constraints.

Examining the frequency distribution in the cross-tabulation reveals important trends that

confirm this result. In groups that showed low degrees of agreement with government interventions—more especially, "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree"—there is a disproportionately high incidence of respondents who also report having domestic violence. On the other hand, in the "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" categories, where participants identified improved government support, the counts greatly tilt towards more favourable outcomes, with a rise in the "Neutral" to "Strongly Agree" domestic violence categories suggesting either a reduction in experiences or enhanced coping strategies.

This statistical correlation shows that governments can reduce the strain and tension that usually develop into domestic violence in economically deprived households by actively

participating in relieving economic hardships via interventions including direct cash transfers, food security programmes, employment guarantees, or housing assistance. Strong social assistance systems tend to be mitigators, reducing some of the pressures coming from unemployment, income decrease, and rising living expenses—all of which were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The observed correlation shows a two-fold impact of these interventions: they may also increase social cohesion and minimise psychological suffering, therefore lowering the likelihood of aggressive conduct; they also provide economic help to financially weak families. From this point of view, the Chi-square

test provides necessary empirical evidence that public policies and welfare reactions during crises are not just economic tools but also main means of addressing and reducing social issues like domestic violence. These findings unequivocally justify the adoption of scalable and long-lasting welfare systems that go beyond transient aid and combine into a whole strategy for social safety and family stability in the post-pandemic recovery planning.

H3: Loss of employment and financial insecurity were primary predictors of increased domestic violence incidents.

H0: Loss of employment and financial insecurity were not primary predictors of increased domestic violence incidents.\

Table 7: Chi-square analysis 3

	Domestic Violence					
Mental Health Status	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Strongly Disagree	14	0	0	0	0	14
Disagree	6	7	0	0	0	13
Neutral	0	0	0	0	7	7
Agree	0	7	7	6	0	20
Strongly Agree	0	0	21	20	55	96
Total	20	14	28	26	62	150
Chi-Square Tests	Value	df	p value			
Pearson Chi-Square	207.732a	16	0.00			
Likelihood Ratio	192.042	16	0.00			

With 16 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.000, the Chi-square analysis done to look at the third hypothesis—whether unemployment and financial instability were main predictors of increased domestic violence incidents during and after the COVID-19 epidemic—generated a Pearson Chi-square value of 207.732. Reversing the null hypothesis (H0), this statistically significant result below the 0.05 level supports the alternative hypothesis (H3). The results verify that the rise in domestic violence cases was mostly caused by economic problems like financial instability and job loss. Examining the

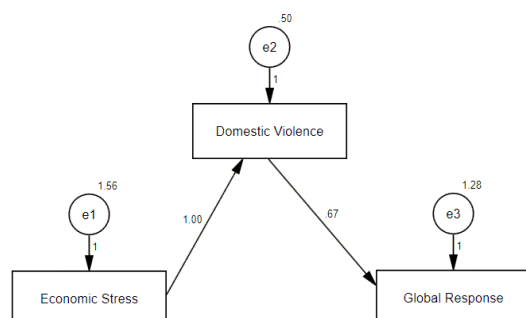
cross-tabulation between reported cases of domestic violence and mental health status—a measure largely influenced by economic pressures like unemployment and financial insecurity—shows unusual trends. The domestic violence categories show a notable concentration of answers indicating "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" with stable mental health, implying a high frequency of such incidents among groups experiencing mental stress probably resulting from financial instability. Those who "Strongly Agree" that they maintained improved mental health, on the other hand, mostly fit the more

positive categories of domestic violence responses; most of them are positioned in the "Neutral," "Agree," or "Strongly Agree" columns, indicating less experience of or exposure to domestic violence.

The relationship between declining mental health and increasing domestic violence emphasises the domino consequences of unstable economic times. Many persons and families faced unemployment, pay cuts, and an uncertain financial future over the COVID-19 outbreak. These stresses not only compromised the basic quality of life but also caused psychological discomfort that often manifested in interpersonal settings as hostility, impatience, and violence. Economic uncertainty compromises emotional resilience and reduces people's ability to manage personal conflicts with calm, therefore increasing the possibility of violent behaviour.

This important Chi-square result emphasises how urgently coherent economic and mental health plans are needed during crises. It supports the claim that addressing financial uncertainty and unemployment is a social and psychological as well as an economic requirement. Establishing thorough safety nets, mental health services, and employment possibilities helps stabilise houses, reduce stress, and lower domestic violence. The findings clearly show the link between social cohesiveness and economic development, therefore supporting policy actions stressing economic stability and mental health as fundamental strategies to reduce domestic violence in both crisis and normal conditions.

Structural Equation Modelling



Three key variables—Economic Stress, Domestic Violence, and Global Response—have directional and strength-based interactions shown in the structural equation model (SEM) figure. With a coefficient of 1.00, which denotes a perfect positive connection within the model, the graphic shows a direct and exactly standardised association between Economic Stress and Domestic Violence. This suggests that events of domestic violence also escalate with increasing economic difficulty, therefore emphasising economic hardship as a major driver of marital conflict and abuse especially during crises like the COVID-19 outbreak.

Moreover, there is another route from Domestic Violence to Global Response marked by a consistent regression weight of 0.67, thereby reflecting a strong and positive association. This suggests that higher rates of domestic abuse are associated with more global responses, maybe including more attention from international bodies, more media coverage, or more governmental actions using social programmes and aid. The coefficient shows that while domestic violence rates do not define all global responses, the prevalence and intensity of these issues clearly influences a significant portion.

Each latent variable's error terms— $e1 = 1.56$ for Economic Stress, $e2 = 0.50$ for Domestic Violence, and $e3 = 1.28$ for Global Response—show the degree of unaccounted variance in the model. The extremely small error term for Domestic Violence indicates that the model well captures the variance in this variable, primarily explained by Economic Stress. Still, the somewhat higher error terms for Economic Stress and Global Response point to the inclusion of other factors not included into the current model.

Variable	Variable	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Domestic Violence	Economic Stress	0.996	0.046	21.517	0.00
Global Response	Domestic Violence	0.674	0.065	10.387	0.00

From a structural equation model assessing the relationships among Economic Stress, Domestic Violence, and Global Response, the table shows the route coefficients and related statistical values. With an unstandardized estimate of 0.996, a standard error of 0.046, a critical ratio (C.R.), of 21.517, and a p-value of 0.00, the first relationship examined is between Economic Stress and Domestic Violence. With an almost one-to-one positive association between economic stress and domestic violence, the estimate nearing 1.00 implies that domestic violence increases nearly proportionally for every unit increase in economic stress. Like a z-score, the raised critical ratio is far over the normal threshold of ± 1.96 ; the p-value, which is less than 0.05—more especially, 0.00—indicates that this connection is statistically significant. This firmly supports the theory that economic hardship directly and significantly influences the frequency of domestic violence, a result especially important for understanding the social consequences of economic instability as seen in India both during and following the COVID-19 epidemic.

Complementing a standard error of 0.065, a critical ratio of 10.387, and a p-value of 0.00, the second connection, from Domestic Violence to Global Response, provides a positive and statistically significant estimate of 0.654. This result suggests that higher domestic violence corresponds with a notable global response, maybe showing up as foreign aid, legislative reforms, or international lobbying campaigns. The score of 0.674 indicates a really strong link, meaning that while domestic violence is not the sole element affecting world response, it is rather important. The null p-value and the higher critical ratio highlight even more the reliability and relevance of this relationship. The model

unequivocally shows a major and statistically valid mechanism whereby economic stress causes increased domestic violence, hence inspiring a worldwide response and underlining the great systematic consequences of socioeconomic misery on domestic affairs and international intervention.

Conclusion and Final Suggestions

This study compellingly illustrates the profound connection between economic stress and domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the Indian context. Statistical analyses—including correlation, regression, chi-square tests, and structural equation modeling—clearly establish that financial instability, job loss, and declining mental health significantly contributed to a rise in domestic violence cases. Social support and government interventions were identified as critical buffers that mitigated the adverse impacts of economic hardship, while the regression results emphasized that government responses played the most significant role in influencing global and institutional reactions.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that policymakers prioritize comprehensive social welfare programs, including economic relief measures, mental health support, and legal protection mechanisms, to reduce the incidence of domestic violence during future crises. Mental health services must be made more accessible, and community-based support networks should be strengthened to provide timely assistance to vulnerable individuals. Governments must also ensure that crisis response plans include gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches that recognize the compounded burden economic shocks place on families and intimate relationships.

In conclusion, economic stress is not merely a financial issue but a deep social concern with far-reaching consequences. Sustainable global and national responses must integrate economic,

psychological, and social dimensions to effectively combat domestic violence and promote resilience in post-pandemic recovery efforts.

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