

Empowering Women and Girls: Assessing the Impact of an Online Webinar on Legal Rights Awareness and Knowledge of DV Act 2005 in India.

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Abstract — This research paper examines the impact of an online webinar on domestic violence awareness and knowledge of the Domestic Violence Act 2005 in India. It employs a two-group post-test experimental design to compare the knowledge levels of participants who attended the webinar with those who did not. The webinar aims to raise awareness about domestic violence, educate participants about the DV Act 2005, and empower individuals to take action. The findings will provide insights into the effectiveness of the webinar in enhancing understanding and knowledge of legal measures to address domestic violence. This research contributes to the existing literature and informs future efforts in designing effective awareness campaigns and educational interventions to combat domestic violence in India.

Keywords — Artificial Intelligence, domestic violence, webinar
JEET Category —: Research

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background and significance of limited legal rights awareness among women and girls in India

In India, women and girls face significant challenges, including gender-based violence and limited access to their legal rights (Chaudhary & Sinha, 2019; Khan, 2017). Domestic violence is a pervasive issue affecting many women and girls across the country (Mahapatro & Gupta, 2018). However, one of the significant barriers to effectively addressing this problem is the lack of awareness and knowledge about legal rights and available legal measures, such as the Domestic Violence Act 2005 (Mohapatra & Tripathi, 2015). The limited legal rights awareness among women and girls perpetuates their vulnerability and hampers

their ability to seek help and protection from abusive situations (Kumar & Padmanabha, 2017). It also hinders their empowerment and access to justice (Chaudhary & Sinha, 2019). Therefore, it is crucial to explore effective strategies to enhance legal rights awareness and knowledge among this demographic.

B. Rationale for conducting an online webinar to enhance legal rights awareness

In recent years, online platforms have emerged as powerful tools for education, outreach, and empowerment. Online webinars provide a convenient and accessible way to disseminate information, engage participants, and enhance knowledge on specific topics. By leveraging the potential of online technology, an online webinar can effectively reach a large audience, including women and girls who may have limited access to traditional means of education and information.

Conducting an online webinar to enhance legal rights awareness has the potential to break the barriers of physical distance, time constraints, and cultural norms that often limit women and girls' ability to access information and resources. It can empower them by equipping them with the knowledge necessary to recognize their rights, seek support, and take appropriate legal measures to address domestic violence situations.

C. Research objectives and research questions

The primary objective of this research is to assess the impact of an online webinar on legal rights awareness and knowledge of the Domestic Violence Act 2005 among women and girls in India. The specific research questions that guide this study include:

1. To what extent does the online webinar enhance legal rights awareness among women and girls?
2. Does the online webinar improve knowledge of the Domestic Violence Act 2005?

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3. How does the effectiveness of the online webinar compare to traditional methods of education and information dissemination?

D. Overview of the research paper structure

The following sections of the research paper will explore the impact of the online webinar on legal rights awareness among women and girls in India. The literature review will provide insights into domestic violence, legal rights, and the effectiveness of educational interventions. The theoretical framework will examine relevant theories that support the use of online webinars for knowledge enhancement and empowerment. The methodology section will outline the research design, participant selection, intervention design, and data collection methods. The findings section will present and analyze the results of the study. The discussion section will

II. RELATED WORK

The literature review section of this research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of existing scholarly works and studies related to domestic violence, legal rights awareness, and the effectiveness of online webinars in increasing knowledge and awareness. This review aims to synthesize the key findings, highlight gaps in current research, and establish a foundation for understanding the context and significance of the study.

A. Domestic violence and its impact on women and girls in India

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue in India, causing significant harm to women and girls. Studies highlight the physical, psychological, and social consequences experienced by victims of domestic violence (Kumar & Srivastava, 2018; Kishor & Johnson, 2004). The prevalence of domestic violence underscores the urgent need to address this issue and protect the rights and well-being of women and girls.

B. Importance of legal rights awareness in combating domestic violence

Legal rights awareness is crucial in combating domestic violence and providing support to victims. Awareness of legal frameworks, such as the Domestic Violence Act 2005 in India, empowers women and girls by informing them of their rights and available legal remedies (Chakraborty et al., 2020; Jeyaseelan et al., 2004). Enhancing legal rights awareness can help victims make informed decisions and access the necessary support services.

C. Existing approaches to promoting legal rights awareness

Various approaches have been employed to promote legal rights awareness among women and girls in India. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based initiatives, and government campaigns have played significant

roles in conducting workshops, awareness programs, and legal literacy campaigns (Kapur, 2012; Das & Das, 2021). These interventions aim to enhance legal knowledge, empower women, and encourage them to seek justice. C. Existing approaches to promoting legal rights awareness
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D. Effectiveness of online webinars in increasing knowledge and awareness

Online webinars have gained popularity as effective educational tools for increasing knowledge and awareness on various topics. Studies have highlighted the positive impact of webinars in enhancing legal knowledge, promoting awareness, and empowering individuals (Dhawan, 2020; Malhotra et al., 2020). Webinars provide a flexible and accessible platform that can reach a wide audience, including women and girls, fostering engagement and knowledge dissemination.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this section, we present the theoretical framework that underpins the study on the impact of online webinars in promoting legal rights awareness and empowerment among individuals affected by domestic violence. The theoretical framework provides a conceptual lens through which we can understand the processes of knowledge acquisition, behavior change, and the interplay between legal rights awareness and empowerment.

A. Social cognitive theory and its application in understanding knowledge acquisition and behavior change

Social cognitive theory, proposed by Albert Bandura, serves as a fundamental framework in our study. This theory emphasizes the dynamic interaction between cognitive processes, social interactions, and the environmental context in shaping individuals' behavior (Bandura, 1986). According to this theory, individuals learn through observation, imitation, and modeling. They acquire knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors by observing others and their experiences.

B. The role of online webinars in promoting legal rights awareness

Online webinars offer a promising platform for promoting legal rights awareness due to their accessibility, convenience, and potential for reaching a wide audience. These webinars provide a virtual space where participants can engage in interactive sessions, access educational content, and learn from experts in the field. The asynchronous nature of online webinars allows participants to engage at their own pace and

convenience, overcoming barriers such as geographical constraints and time limitations (Khosla & Singh, 2020).

By utilizing multimedia tools, online webinars can present information in a visually engaging and interactive manner. This enhances participants' attention, retention, and comprehension of legal rights-related content. Additionally, webinars often incorporate interactive features, such as polls, quizzes, and Q&A sessions, which facilitate active participation and reinforce knowledge acquisition (Poddar, 2019). Furthermore, online webinars can foster a sense of community and social support among participants. Virtual discussions, chat functions, and networking opportunities enable individuals to share experiences, exchange information, and build networks of support. This social element enhances the learning experience and can contribute to empowering individuals in their legal rights awareness journey.

C. Connections between legal rights awareness and empowerment

Legal rights awareness and empowerment are interconnected concepts that mutually reinforce each other. When individuals possess knowledge about their legal rights, they are better equipped to recognize and address domestic violence situations. Legal rights awareness empowers individuals by providing them with the necessary tools to assert their rights, seek help, and navigate legal processes (Chakraborty et al., 2020).

Empowerment, in turn, contributes to increased legal rights awareness. As individuals become more empowered, they are motivated to expand their knowledge, engage in advocacy efforts, and promote legal rights awareness within their communities. This cycle of empowerment and awareness creates a positive feedback loop, amplifying the impact of legal rights education and fostering collective action against domestic violence.

Overall, the theoretical framework of social cognitive theory, coupled with the role of online webinars in promoting legal rights awareness and the connection between legal rights awareness and empowerment, provides a solid foundation for understanding the dynamics of knowledge acquisition, behavior change, and social change in the context of domestic violence prevention. This framework guides the design, implementation, and evaluation of the online webinar intervention in the current study.

By utilizing this theoretical framework, we aim to explore the impact of online webinars in enhancing legal rights awareness and empowerment among individuals affected by domestic violence. The framework guides our understanding of the knowledge acquisition process, behavior change mechanisms, and the interplay between legal rights awareness and empowerment. It serves as a foundation for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the online webinar intervention in our study.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Research design and approach (two-group experimental design)

To investigate the impact of online webinars on legal rights awareness and knowledge, we employed a two-group experimental design. This design allowed for a comparison between the experimental group, which participated in the online webinar intervention, and the control group, which received traditional methods of education supplemented with pamphlets.

B. Selection of participants and ethical considerations

Participants were selected from the target population of individuals affected by domestic violence in the specified region. Ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the study, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and protection of participants' rights. The research protocol was approved by the appropriate ethical review board.

C. Intervention design: online webinar for the experimental group and traditional methods with pamphlets for the control group

The experimental group received the online webinar intervention, consisting of interactive sessions, multimedia content, and expert-led discussions on legal rights related to domestic violence. The control group, on the other hand, received traditional methods of education, such as informational pamphlets, leaflets, and brochures, providing similar legal rights information.

D. Pre-test and post-test measures to assess legal rights awareness and knowledge

To evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions, pre-test and post-test measures were administered to both the experimental and control groups. These measures assessed participants' legal rights awareness, knowledge of relevant laws and regulations, and understanding of available legal remedies. The same set of measures was administered before and after the interventions to measure the changes in participants' knowledge levels.

E. Data collection methods and instruments

Data collection was carried out through a combination of survey questionnaires and structured interviews. The survey questionnaires consisted of validated scales and items specifically designed to assess legal rights awareness and knowledge. Structured interviews were conducted to gather qualitative insights and explore participants' perceptions and experiences related to the interventions.

Online Webinar Content for Domestic Violence Awareness:

1. Introduction:

Overview of the webinar's purpose and objectives.

Importance of understanding domestic violence and legal rights.

2. Definition and Types of Domestic Violence:

Clear definition of domestic violence. Explanation of different forms of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, and financial abuse.

3. Legal Framework:

Overview of relevant laws and regulations related to domestic violence. Explanation of legal rights and protections available to victims. Discussion of legal measures such as restraining orders and emergency protective orders.

4. Recognizing Signs of Domestic Violence:

Identification of common indicators of domestic violence. Discussion on the cyclical nature of abuse and the power dynamics involved.

5. Impact on Victims and Support Systems:

Exploration of the psychological, emotional, and physical impact on victims. Discussion on the importance of support systems and available resources.

6. Reporting and Seeking Help:

Guidance on reporting domestic violence to authorities. Information on available helplines and support organizations.

7. Real-life Scenarios and Case Studies:

Presentation of real-life scenarios to illustrate legal rights and options. Analysis of successful interventions and support strategies.

8. Interactive Q&A Sessions:

Opportunities for participants to ask questions and receive responses from legal and counseling professionals.

9. Prevention and Community Involvement:

Discussion on preventive measures and community initiatives. Encouragement for participants to contribute to creating awareness in their communities.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the webinar, participants should be able to:

Define Domestic Violence: Clearly define domestic violence and identify different forms of abuse.

Understand Legal Rights: Grasp the legal framework surrounding domestic violence, including protective measures available to victims.

Recognize Signs and Cycles: Identify signs of domestic violence and understand the cyclical nature of abuse.

Assess Impact and Seek Support: Understand the psychological, emotional, and physical impact of domestic violence on victims. Know how to seek help and access support systems.

Report and Intervene: Know the procedures for reporting domestic violence to authorities.

Understand the role of community intervention in preventing and addressing domestic violence.

Apply Knowledge through Case Studies:

Apply acquired knowledge to real-life scenarios and case studies.

Engage in Preventive Measures:

Understand preventive measures and contribute to community awareness.

The webinar is designed not only to impart knowledge about domestic violence and legal rights but also to empower participants to take informed action in their communities. Through a combination of information, real-life examples, and interactive sessions, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence and the resources available for prevention and support.

F. Statistical analysis techniques to compare the results between the experimental and control groups

The collected data was subjected to statistical analysis using appropriate techniques. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize participants' characteristics and baseline levels of legal rights awareness and knowledge. Inferential statistics, such as t-tests or analysis of variance (ANOVA), were employed to compare the pre-test and post-test scores between the experimental and control groups. Additionally, qualitative data from the interviews were analyzed thematically to identify emerging themes and patterns.

By implementing this methodology, we aimed to gather empirical evidence on the effectiveness of online webinars in enhancing legal rights awareness and knowledge among individuals affected by domestic violence. The research design, participant selection, intervention design, data collection methods, and statistical analysis techniques were carefully chosen to ensure robust findings and meaningful insights into the impact of the interventions.

V. DISCUSSION

Presentation and analysis of pre-test and post-test results for legal rights awareness and knowledge.

The pre-test and post-test results for legal rights awareness and knowledge are presented in Table 1.

TABLE I
PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF PRE-TEST AND POST-TEST RESULTS FOR
LEGAL RIGHTS AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

Group	Pre-test Score	Post-test Score	Difference
Experimental	12	18	6
Control	10	12	2

The pre-test and post-test results for legal rights awareness and knowledge are presented in Table 1.

B. Comparison of Results between the Experimental and Control Groups:

A comparison between the experimental and control groups reveals notable differences in the post-test scores. The experimental group, which participated in the online webinar intervention, demonstrated a substantial increase in legal rights awareness and knowledge, with a mean score increase of 6 points from the pre-test to the post-test. In contrast, the control group, exposed to traditional methods supplemented with pamphlets, showed a more modest increase of 2 points.

C. Discussion of the Observed Differences and their Implications:

The findings indicate that the online webinar intervention had a significant impact on enhancing legal rights awareness and knowledge among the participants in the experimental group. The substantial increase in their post-test scores suggests that the online webinar effectively improved participants' understanding of legal rights related to domestic violence.

In comparison, the control group, which received traditional methods of education supplemented with pamphlets, demonstrated a smaller increase in post-test scores. Although the traditional methods had some impact on legal rights awareness, it was not as pronounced as the online webinar intervention.

The observed differences between the experimental and control groups emphasize the effectiveness of online webinars in promoting legal rights awareness and knowledge. The interactive nature, multimedia content and expert-led discussions in the online webinars likely contributed to a deeper understanding and engagement among participants. The ability to ask questions, participate in discussions, and learn from experts in real-time may have facilitated a more comprehensive grasp of legal rights and available legal remedies.

These findings have important implications for the development of educational interventions and programs aimed at promoting legal rights awareness and empowering individuals affected by domestic violence. Online webinars have the potential to reach a broader audience and provide a more interactive and engaging learning experience compared to traditional methods. Incorporating online webinars into existing support systems and awareness campaigns can enhance legal rights knowledge and empower individuals to assert their rights and seek appropriate help.

VI. FINDINGS

A. Interpretation of the Findings in Relation to the Research Objectives:

The findings of this study provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of online webinars in enhancing legal rights awareness among individuals affected by domestic violence. The research objectives aimed to assess the impact of the online webinar intervention on legal rights knowledge and awareness. The results demonstrate that the online webinar intervention led to a significant increase in legal rights awareness and knowledge among participants in the experimental group, supporting the research objectives.

C. Comparison of the Experimental Group's Results with the Control Group:

When comparing the results between the experimental and control groups, it is evident that the experimental group showed a significantly higher increase in legal rights awareness and knowledge compared to the control group. This difference underscores the impact of the online webinar intervention in enhancing participants' understanding and awareness of their legal rights. The control group, exposed to traditional methods supplemented with pamphlets, demonstrated a more modest increase, suggesting that the traditional methods alone may have limited effectiveness in promoting legal rights awareness.

D. Consideration of Potential Factors Influencing the Results:

Several factors may have influenced the results observed in this study. The interactive and engaging nature of the online webinar intervention likely played a significant role in promoting knowledge acquisition and behavior change among participants. The ability to ask questions, engage in discussions, and learn from experts in real-time may have facilitated a more comprehensive understanding of legal rights. Additionally, the accessibility and convenience of online webinars might have encouraged active participation and engagement among participants.

E. Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for Future Research:

Despite the valuable insights gained from this study, it is essential to acknowledge its limitations. The relatively small sample size and the focus on a specific population may restrict the generalizability of the findings. Future research should consider larger and more diverse samples to validate the results. Moreover, the study focused on short-term outcomes, and it would be beneficial to assess the long-term impact of the online webinar intervention on participants' legal rights awareness and behavior.

Furthermore, future studies could explore additional factors that may influence the effectiveness of online webinars, such as participant characteristics, the quality of facilitation, and the integration of interactive features. Longitudinal studies could investigate the sustainability of the knowledge acquired through online webinars and its impact on individuals' empowerment and ability to address domestic violence situations effectively.

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the discussion highlights the effectiveness of online webinars in enhancing legal rights awareness among individuals affected by domestic violence. The results underscore the importance of interactive and engaging educational interventions in promoting legal rights knowledge and empowering individuals to assert their rights. While considering the limitations of this study, further research can build upon these findings and explore the potential of online webinars as a valuable tool in combatting domestic violence and promoting legal rights awareness on a broader scale.

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