



Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Rural and Urban Population

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Abstract- The domestic violence in the contemporary scenario has emerged as an important issue in both rural and urban areas across the world. No country or any of the community is untouched by the impact of domestic violence. Himachal Pradesh is a rural state wherein 90% of population resides in far flung areas as seem to be in a malicious grip of domestic violence. It has affected the family coherence and stability in general and the women serenity in particular. Powerful minorities seem to dominate majorities by encouraging gender differences in this male dominant society both in developed and developing countries. Mostly, the beginning of domestic violence towards women itself begins within their family wherein their loved one and intimate partner elicit such behavior detrimental to their wellbeing, quality of life and performance. Therefore, the present study is aimed at exploring the prevalence of domestic violence among rural and urban population of district Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh in India. The study has been conducted on the sample of N = 80 subjects who were selected randomly initially on the basis of locality (40 Rural and 40 Urban), and later on the basis of Gender (20 Men and 20 Women) comprised of four groups (Rural Men, Rural Women, Urban Men and Urban Women) with n = 20 subjects to represent aforesaid sample. The subjects were assessed by giving Domestic Violence Questionnaire developed by Babita and R.L. Zinta. The results based on 2 x 2 ANOVA revealed that the main effect of locality on the measure of domestic violence was found as $F(1, 76) = 61.43, p < .01$ as statistically significant wherein the urban people reported more domestic violence (59.37) towards female as compared to their rural (21.15) counterpart. The main effect of Gender on the measure of domestic violence was also found $F(1, 76) = 45.71, p < .01$ as statistically significant wherein women witnessed more domestic violence (56.75 as an average) as compared to their men (23.77) counterpart. The two way interaction (L x G) was also found as 36.52, $p < .05$ as statistically significant, that further support the same. In nutshell, urban people in general and women in particular reported more domestic violence in this hill state which is matter of further exploration, required humanitarian approach and significant policies to curb the domestic violence towards women.

Keywords- Women, Domestic, Violence, ANOVA, Behavior.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Domestic Violence is the front line of the war against women” Pearl Cleage (1993). It is one of the most common crimes against women which is linked to the perpetuation of patriarchy. This terribly affects many sectors of social system and the development of a nation and the batterers cost nations fortunes in terms of law enforcement, health care, lost labor and general progress in development. These costs have not only affected the present generation but also the future as well. It is a global problem reaching across national boundaries to socio-economic, cultural, and racial distinctions. It has a serious impact on women's health and well-being. It can be described as the power misused by one adult in a relationship to coercively control the other individual. Violence can be in any form of physical assault, psychological abuse, social abuse, economical abuse and sexual abuse. Physical assault includes (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, and restraining, slapping, throwing

objects); Sexual abuse includes (controlling domineering, intimidation, stalking, passive covert abuse or neglect). It can also mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, and harassment (Abrahams et al., 2004). More appropriately, the domestic violence is basically described as a behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other person. According to Susan Scheter “Domestic violence is not simply an argument rather a patterns of coercive control that one person exercise over another”. Abusers use physical and sexual violence, threats, emotional insults and economic deprivation as a way to dominate their victims and get their way”.

The United Nations defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." In Himachal Pradesh the cruelty by husband and



relatives incidence were covered as 239 and the rate was 3.5 in the year 2011. But, domestic violence is not only limited to women. Men also suffer from domestic violence but the cases regarding this were not registered and men usually do not open up if they face such type of situation. NFHS from the survey suggested that women who were employed at any time in the past 12 months have a much higher prevalence of violence (39-40%) than women who were not employed (29%). Although the corresponding differential in the experience of violence in the past 12 months is much smaller (22% for women employed in the past 12 months, compared with 17% of women who were not employed. Women's experience of the different types of violence varies greatly by state.

Violence against women is present across the world cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Internationally, one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in their lifetime by a member of her own family (Heise et al., 1999). Domestic violence is the most prevalent yet relatively hidden and ignored form of violence against women and girls. While reliable statistics are hard to come by, studies estimate that, from country to country, between 20 and 50 per cent of women have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. Violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, or who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power – husbands, boyfriends, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, or other relatives. But, many of the victims of domestic violence has either refused to name the perpetrator of the assault or attributed the injuries to other reasons (Daga et al., 1999). In fact, many a victims also justify the wife-beating. HariharSahoo and ManasRanjanPradhan conducted a study upon 90,303 ever married women and found widespread prevalence of domestic violence (21 percent, since age 15) in India but also the acceptance of majority of ever-married women (57 percent) to at least one reason for justifying a husband beating his wife (Sahoo et al., 2007)

In all states, however, physical violence alone tends to be the most common form of violence (with or without physical violence) ranges from 1% in Himachal Pradesh. Reasons that consider as domestic violence in India includes as an age old phenomenon. Women were always considered to be weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to women. Cultural and religious practices, economic and political conditions may set the precedence for initiating and perpetuating domestic violence, but ultimately committing an act of violence is a choice that the individual makes out of a range of options. There are different variables like gender-based violence within any country, including

India; individual-level variables (such as observing violence between one's parents while growing up, absent or rejecting father, delinquent peer associations) also play important roles in the development of such violence. The gender imbalance in domestic violence is partly related to differences in physical strength and size. Moreover, women are socialized into their gender roles in different societies throughout the world. National Crime Records Bureau Report of 1991 reveals that in every 33 minutes one Indian woman is being abused by her husband. Female participation in public life is increasing and laws have been amended, India still has a long way to go to make Indian women equal citizens in their own country. In our society many women are violently treated by their intimate partners while they suffer in silence. Domestic violence results in the death of these women.

UNICEF reports on progress of nations released jointly by government of India and UNICEF says that more than 60 million women, who should have been alive today, are missing. Responsible factors are from feticide to domestic violence to dowry deaths to physical assaults. Discrimination starts even before women are born and continue till they die. Dowry deaths occur in every 1 hour 42 minutes. Dowry related violence is also increase in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are the states with maximum number of reported cases and many of the cases remain unreported.

In societies with a patriarchal power structure and with rigid gender roles, women are often poorly able to protect themselves if their partners become violent. However, much of the disparity relates to how men-dependence and fearfulness amount to a cultural disarmament. Husbands who batter wives typically feel that they are exercising a right, maintaining good order in the family and punishing their wives. The study was conducted on comparison of domestic violence against women in urban versus rural areas of southeast Nigeria by Leonard OgbonnaAjah, Chukwuemeka Anthony Iyoke, Peter OnubiweNkwo, Boniface Nwakoby, Paul Ezeonu in the year (2014) on was the perception and prevalence of domestic violence (DV) in rural areas was poorly understood the result is that most efforts at eradicating this harmful practice are concentrated in urban areas. The objective of the study was to compare the burden and perception of DV among women living in rural and urban Igbo communities of southeast Nigeria. The method include the cross-sectional study of women residing in rural and urban communities in Enugu, Nigeria, who had gathered for an annual religious meeting from August 1–7, 2011. Data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistics and was conducted with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, software version 17.0, at a 95% level of confidence and the result showed a total of 836 women who met the eligibility criteria



participated in the survey. Of these, 376 were from Okpanku, a rural community, while 460 were from Ogui Nike, an urban community. The prevalence of DV among rural women was significantly higher than that among urban women (97% versus 81%, $p < 0.001$). In particular, the prevalence of physical violence was significantly higher among rural women than among urban women (37.2% versus 23.5%; $P = 0.05$). In contrast, rural and urban women did not differ significantly in the proportions that had experienced psychological or sexual violence. The proportion of women who believed that DV was excusable was significantly higher among rural dwellers than among urban dwellers (58.5% versus 29.6%; $P = 0.03$). The burden of DV against women may be higher in rural communities than in urban communities in southeast Nigeria. More rural women perceived DV as excusable; this finding suggests that factors that sustain DV could be strong in rural areas. A comprehensive program to curb DV in this area may need to significantly involve the rural areas.

The study was conducted in the year 2016 by Ameeta Kalokhe, Carlos del Rio, Kristin Dunkle, Rob Stephenson, Nicholas Metheny, Anuradha Paranjape, and Seema Sahayf on domestic violence against women in India: A systematic review of a decade of quantitative studies. A systematic review of 137 quantitative studies published was directly evaluated the DV experiences of Indian women to conclude the breadth of recent work and identify gaps in the literature. Among studies surveying at least two forms of abuse, a median 41% of women reported experiencing DV during their lifetime and 30% in the past year. The past 10 years have been an incredible period of growth in DV research in India and South Asia. This systematic review contributes to the growing body of evidence by providing an important summary of the epidemiologic studies during this critical period and draws attention to the magnitude and severity of the ongoing epidemic in India. Comprehensively, the reviewed literature estimates that 4 in 10 Indian women (when surveyed about multiple forms of abuse) report experiencing DV in their lifetime and 3 in 10 report experiencing DV in the past year. This is concordant with the WHO lifetime estimate of 37.7% (95% CI: 30.9%–43.1%) in South-East Asia (defined as India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Timor-Leste) and is higher than the regional estimates provided by the WHO for the Europe, the Western Pacific, and potentially the Americas. The DV takes on the lives of many Indian women through its impact on mental, physical, sexual, and reproductive health. Violence against women is globally prevalent and harmful to women's health and wellbeing.

Younger women are at higher risk of abuse, especially those from non-urban areas who may face specific barriers to disclosure and support (Hooker, Theobald & Anderson, 2017). Evidence obtained from

the study by Leela Visara and the author of the community based report (Burton, Duvvury, Rajan, Varia, 1999) on the domestic violence among rural women of the Gujarat and reached at a consensus that the women of rural area in Gujarat faced acute crime. Similarly, the survey conducted by National Family and Health (2005-2006) showed that all women who reported physical and sexual violence and never sought for help were higher in the rural area of India however, scant difference was observed among rural and urban domestic violence victims of India (Babu & Kar, 2009; Peirotti, 2013).

The domestic violence based on gender include different factors (job, family income and urbanization. A man is more likely to use the violence if (as a child) he saw violence between his parents (Martin et al., 2002). Alcohol consumption is an important factor that influences domestic violence and increases the risk of violence (Coast et al., 2012). The expectation of the prevalence of violence rises, if women reject traditional ideas: "conflict is likely to increase as their freedom increases" (Mittal, 2008). A study conducted by Bonthna and Shantanu (2009) on domestic violence against women in eastern India: a population based study on prevalence and related issue. The prevalence of domestic violence in Eastern India is relatively high compared to majority of information available from India and confirms that domestic violence is a universal phenomenon. The primary healthcare institutions in India should institutionalize the routine screening and treatment for violence related injuries and trauma.

According to the study conducted by Logan, Walker and Leukfield (2001) on rural, urban influenced and Urban differences among domestic violence arrestees. Results indicated that community context is critical in understanding domestic violence, rural males appear to present more significant problems given their lower employment rates, lower educational attainments, greater use of psychoactive medications, and higher arrest rates. Alcohol use was significantly prevalent across all three groups, but combined alcohol and nerve pill drug use was more prevalent among rural domestic violence arrestees.

Another study was conducted on domestic violence in Northern India by Martin, Tsui, Maitra and Marinshaw (1999) This study examined the prevalence and characteristics of wife abuse as reported by nearly 6,700 married men living in five districts of northern India during 1995–1996. In addition, associations between wife abuse and sociodemographic factors were investigated to enable two theoretical/conceptual perspectives regarding abuse to be evaluated: that abuse is more common among families under stress and among more "private" families. The district-specific percentages of men who reported physically abusing their wives ranged from 18% to 45%, with 18–40% of the men in each district having had nonconsensual sex with their

wives and 4–9% having physically forced their wives to have sex. Positive associations found between wife abuse and stress-related factors, including the husband having a low educational level, the couple living in poverty, the husband being young when he first lived with his wife, and the couple having multiple children.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area

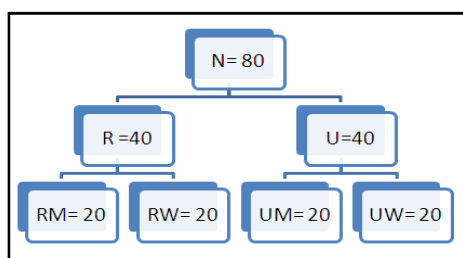
The present study on domestic violence among rural and urban population was conducted in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh. According to the census of 2011, total number of male in the district is 2,17,070 and total number of female in the district is 2,37,698. The total number of population of rural area is 4,23,338 which includes the male population with 217,070 and total female population with 237,698. The total number of population of urban area is 31,430 which include the male population with 200,748 and female population with 222,590. The male literacy rate is 94.36% and female literacy rate is 82.62%. The study has been conducted in the rural area in the Panchayat of Charjeri near hakmoh of district Hamirpur and urban area of Hamirpur District that include Hira Nagar and Anu area.



Fig.1. Map of district Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)

2.2 Sample

The study has been conducted on a sample of N = 80 subject (40 Rural and 40 Urban) further subdivided in 4 groups on the basis of gender (men and women). In this manner, there were four Groups with N= 20 (20 Rural Men, 20 Rural Women, 20 Urban Men and 20 Urban Women) in each comprises of aforesaid sample. In the present sampling random sampling method was used. These subjects were assessed with the help of the measure. The sample classification is as follows:



Notation: R =Rural, U =Urban, M =Men, W =Women, RM = Rural Men, UM = Urban Men, RW = Rural Women, UW = Urban Women.

3. MEASURE USED

3.1 Domestic Violence Questionnaire

It was developed by Babita and Dr. R.L. Zinta, Department of Psychology, Himachal Pradesh University was used to measure the level of domestic violence among the couples. The scale measured domestic violence on different parameters like psychological and physical violence with the help of 42 items questionnaire. It is a five point scale. The score ranges from 0 to 4. The minimum score is 0 and maximum is 168. More the score more will be the domestic violence.

4. PROCEDURE

The main objective of the study is to study the domestic violence among rural and urban population of district Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh). The main purpose of the study is to see the impact of gender and locality on the measure of domestic violence. The objective of the study was to see the impact of domestic violence among rural and urban population. Another objective of the study is to see the impact of domestic violence among men and women. For accomplishing the objectives the study was carried out on a sample of 80 subjects. In all there were two groups of Rural and Urban population (40 Rural and 40 Urban) which was further subdivided on the basis of gender (20 Rural Men, 20 Rural Women, 20 Urban Men and 20 Urban Women). The present study tried to assess the subjects with the help of domestic violence questionnaire. The sample was randomly obtained from Panchayat of Charjeri from Chakmoh and urban area (Anu area and Hira Nagar). The subjects were given domestic violence scale to perform. The data received was tabulated and analyzed with the help of ANOVA whose description is as follows:-

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The objective of the present study was to assess the prevalence of domestic violence among rural and urban population of district Hamirpur of Himachal Pradesh. In this study ANOVA has been used and the results are as follows:-

Table 1.1: A 2 x 2 ANOVA performed on the measure of Domestic Violence among Rural and Urban Population of District Hamirpur (H.P.)

SOURCE	ss	df	ms	F	p
TOTAL	234183.00	80			
L	29223.013	1	29223.013	61.43	<.01
G	21747.013	1	21747.013	45.72	<.01
L x G	17375.513	1	17375.513	36.53	<.01
Error	36151.950	76	475.684		



Notation: L = Locality, G = Gender, L x G = Locality x Gender

A 2x2 ANOVA was performed on the measure of domestic violence among rural and urban population of district Hamirpur (H.P.). From table 5.1 it is clear that the main effect of Locality was found $F(1,76)=61.43, p<.01$ as statistically significant. The average score of rural people on the measure of domestic violence was 21.15 as compare to their urban counterparts as 59.37. It is clear that the main effect of Gender was found $F(1,76)=45.72, p<.01$ as statistically significant it shows that there is significant difference between men and women of Hamirpur district. On the measure of domestic violence more appropriately average score of men on the measure of domestic violence was 23.77 whereas the average score of women was 56.75. The two way interaction between gender and area was found $F(1,76) = 36.53, p<.01$ as statistically significant, which shows the efficacy of Locality and Gender on the domestic violence. Low socio economic status is also one of the reasons of domestic violence. There are the chances of forge cases of dowry and violence by women which shows the other side of violence where men are the victims not the perpetrators.

Table 1.2: Average Score of Rural and Urban Men

GROUPS	MEN	WOMEN	AVERAGE
RURAL	19.4	22.9	21.15
URBAN	28.15	90.6	59.37
AVERAGE	23.77	56.75	

and Women on the Measure of Domestic Violence in district Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)

The average score of rural people in the measure of domestic violence was 21.15 as compare to their urban counterparts as 59.37. From the average score it is quite clear that urban people score more on the measure of domestic violence as compare to rural people. According to my opinion the reason for domestic violence among urban people was orthodox mentality. They are educated enough but have the same orthodox mentality that there is a difference between men and women status. The average score of rural men in the measure of domestic violence was 19.4 whereas the average score of urban men in the measure of domestic violence was 28.15 and the total average score was 23.77. The reason behind this might be the demands of women that include the psychological violence. They are pressurized because women are educated enough and they do not compromise nowadays. The reason for domestic violence might be the interference of family members or in laws. The culture difference also comes under the reason of domestic violence. Today use of cell phone and social media is also the reason of intimate

partner violence. Jealousy is one of the reasons of violence especially among urban people because both men and women are working and there is a big reason for suspiciousness (which includes different timing for work). Lack of understanding or mutual understanding also creates problem which leads to conflict.

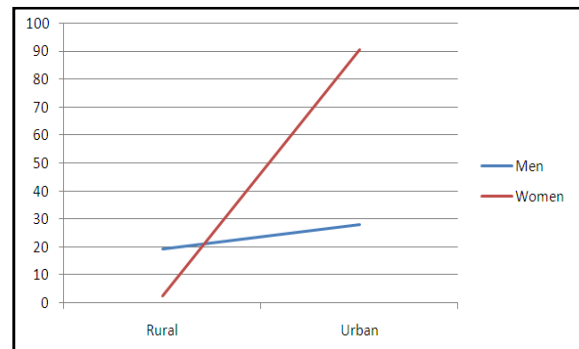


Fig. 1.1: Average score of rural and urban population of district Hamirpur on the measure of domestic violence

Apart from my investigation Violence against women is globally prevalent and harmful to women's health and wellbeing. Younger women are at higher risk of abuse, especially those from non-urban areas who may face specific barriers to disclosure and support (Hooker, Theobald & Anderson, 2017) and the survey conducted by National Family and Health (2005-2006) showed that all women who reported physical and sexual violence and never sought for help were higher in the rural area of India however, scant difference was observed among rural and urban domestic violence victims of India. Among studies surveying at least two forms of abuse, a median 41% of women reported experiencing domestic violence during their lifetime and 30% in the past year. The past 10 years have been an incredible period of growth in domestic violence research in India and South Asia. This systematic review contributes to the growing body of evidence by providing an important summary of the epidemiologic studies during this critical period and draws attention to the magnitude and severity of the ongoing epidemic in India. Comprehensively, the reviewed literature estimates that 4 in 10 Indian women (when surveyed about multiple forms of abuse) report experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime and 3 in 10 report experiencing domestic violence in the past year. This is concordant with the WHO lifetime estimate of 37.7% in South-East Asia (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Timor-Leste) and is higher than the regional estimates provided by the WHO for the Europe, the Western Pacific, and potentially the Americas. The domestic violence takes on the lives of many Indian women through its impact on mental, physical, sexual, and reproductive



health. The average score of rural women was 22.9 on the measure of domestic violence and the score of urban women was 90.6. This explains that urban women have more negative feeling, depression and anxiety as compare to the rural women. They suffer from this because they fear of bringing bad name to their family and they do not open up. The rural women agree on every demand what their husbands have but urban women do not agree they have their own point of view which leads to conflicts in family. The average score of rural men in the measure of domestic violence was 19.4 and the average score of urban women on the measure of domestic violence was 90.6. This describes that women of urban area were high on the scale of domestic violence as compare to the rural area men. The reason for this can be anything like wife's earning, unequal power relation between male and female. They never accept this that their wife can prosper more than them and have a better position in the society. Data from a systematic review by the world health organization in the year 2013 suggested that women in South East Asia (defined as India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh) are at higher likelihood for experiencing partner abuse during their lifetime than women from Europe, Western Pacific, and potentially the Americans. The high domestic violence frequencies in India are deep rooted male patriarchal roles (Visaria, 2000). During childhood, less importance is given to the education of female children and early marriage occurs in 45% of young married women, according to 2005-2006 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) data Raj, Saggurti, Balaiah, and Silverman, 2009). Women who give birth to only female children may be more susceptible to abuse (Mahapatro, Gupta, Gupta & Kundu, 2011) and financial, medical and nutritional neglect. Domestic violence has also been linked to numerous bad health behaviors and poor mental and physical health which includes use of alcohol and higher frequencies of depression and post- traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and attempted suicide (Chandra, Satyanarayana, & Carey, 2009; Chowdhury, Brahma, Banerjee, & Biswas, 2009; Maselko & Patel 2008; Shahmanesh, Wayal, Cowan, et al., 2009; Shidhaye & Patel 2010; Verma et al., 2006). Physical or sexual violence is least in H.P. at 6% NFHS 2006. The reason behind this is the education of men and women equally. Women are more aware of rights. We cannot say that domestic violence do not exist here but its prevalence is less. From district Hamirpur the sample size that is taken in the study is very small. The average score of urban men was 28.15 on the measure of neuroticism and the average score of women of rural area was 22.9. This also shows the difference among men and women on the measure of domestic violence. As the result shows urban men feel more anxious, nervous, depressed and have more negative thoughts because of their work environment, they

have to fulfill family demands also which leads to psychological and emotional pressure. The experience of domestic violence is more in urban areas as compare to rural areas and child neglect is very less.

6. CONCLUSION

Hence the study shows urban women suffer more from domestic violence in district Hamirpur of Himachal Pradesh as their rural counterparts. The reason for this can be anything like wife's earning, unequal power relation between men and women. They never accept this that their wife can prosper more than them and have a better position in the society. Family Counseling is very important these days to help married couple deal with anxiety, work pressure and stress. Government Policies are must for the prevention of domestic violence among men and women. (it may include awareness programs, making women economical independent, providing educational facilities and monetary help). For the research of domestic violence the quantitative research method was used which does not include the in depth of the experience of the women and men who suffered from domestic violence. For the research like domestic violence in depth experience of men and women are required to better understand how men and women are affected by this. For the research on domestic violence and child neglect against women and children raises important ethical and methodological challenges in addition to those posed by any research. This includes the issue of safety, confidentiality and interviewer skill and training are even more important than for other areas of research. More than one third of women and one in 12 men have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, according to the national intimate partner and sexual violence survey. Family interaction is must to avoid violence in the family.

Domestic violence against women and men is considered to be very sensitive issue which brings shame, fear, self blame and suffering and prevents men and women to discuss this issue. Lack of law enforcement is also the one of the reason of domestic violence. The sample size in the research was very small which decreases the statistical power. The social setting and personal barrier also act as limitation for the research. The time limit was also one of the limitations of the research.

It is suggested that the government policies are must for the prevention of domestic violence among men and women (it may include awareness programs, making women economical independent, providing educational facilities and monetary help). Counseling men and women for developing the skills to deal with anxiety, stress and depression. Women's education and independence is very important. As a result they can become financially independent and have the knowledge regarding their rights. Regular awareness



programs are required for the rural population regarding domestic violence.

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