Summary
CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY

The present investigation has been conducted to study the domestic violence in families of school children and its impact on physical growth, psychological behaviour and academic performance of these school children. The data for this cross-sectional study consist of 1074 school children (554 boys and 520 girls) ranging in age from 8 to 16 years from Ludhiana city of Punjab state. Family Violence Scale proposed by Bhati and George (2001) has been used to assess the level of domestic violence in the families of subjects. Physical growth of the children has been studied on the basis of 14 anthropometric measurements viz. weight, linear measurements (height, sitting height and subischial length), circumferences (head, upper arm and calf), diameters (humerus bicondylar and femur bicondylar) and skinfolds (biceps, triceps, suprailiac, subscapular and calf). Problem Behaviour Check-List (PBCL) given by Veeraraghavan and Dogra (2000) has been used to assess the psychological behaviour of children. Results of annual examination have been recorded to study the academic performance of the children.

Statistical Constants viz. arithmetic mean, standard deviation, standard error of mean have been applied to all the parameters. “t” test has been applied to study intergroup differences and sex differences. Results have been illustrated with the help of distance curves and bar diagrams. The results of which have been summarized as under:

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a global phenomenon not restricted to any geographical area though regional variations have been found to exist. The world has entered the new millennium but women in India have been found to face atrocities committed on them by their male counterparts. Punjab is considered to be the most prosperous state of India but as per records the violence against women is alarming. The domestic violence in homes has strong imprints in the minds of children which change their psychological
behaviour. Moreover, the mothers facing violence are not able to attend their children properly which has long lasting effects on physical growth of children. Children who witness violence are not able to concentrate on their studies, which may lead to their poor academic performance. In the present study, also an attempt has been made to study domestic violence and its impact on physical growth, psychological behaviour and academic performance of children ranging in age from 8 to 16 years.

As per domestic violence scale the subjects who scored less than 30 were grouped in as from low domestic violence families, who scored above 40 were grouped in as from high domestic violence families and who scored between 31 to 40 were grouped in as from medium domestic violence families. Therefore, the subjects studied in each age group were further classified into three groups i.e. children from low domestic violence, medium domestic violence and high domestic violence families in both the sexes separately.

The differences in physical growth, psychological behaviour and academic performance between children from low vs. medium and medium vs. high were significant only in few age groups whereas the impact of domestic has become more apparent when the children from low domestic violence families were compared with children from high domestic violence families. Therefore, the physical growth, psychological behaviour and academic performance of children from low domestic violence have been compared with children from high domestic violence families.

**Physical growth**

**Weight (kg)**

- The children from low domestic violence families have been found to be heavier at all age levels than their counterparts from high domestic violence families with significant differences from 11 to 16 years in boys and in all age groups in girls except at 9 years. The adolescent spurt has also occurred earlier in girls from low domestic violence families. In boys it has occurred from 15 to 16 years in both the groups, with significant
differences at 10, 11 and 16 years in children from low domestic violence families and 10 to 12 years and 16 years in high domestic violence families.

**Linear measurements (cm)**

- For all the three linear measurements a continuous increase in height with advancement of age in both boys and girls has been observed. The children from low domestic violence families have been found to be taller than their counterparts from high domestic violence families. The differences have been found to be statistically significant from 11 to 16 years in boys and 10 to 16 years except 12 and 13 years in girls. The adolescent spurt in stature is also earlier in boys from low domestic violence families.

- Like stature the sitting height also has been found to be more in children from low domestic violence families as compared to children from high domestic violence families, reaching a level of significance from 11 years to 15 years except 14 years in boys and from 11 to 15 years in girls.

- The subischial length is greater in children from low domestic violence families as compared to high domestic violence families except at 13 years in girls reaching a level of significance at 16 years in boys and 14 and 16 years in girls. The boys have bigger lower extremity length in both the groups with significant difference at 12,13 and 16 years in low domestic violence families and 11,12,14 and 16 years in high domestic violence families.

**Circumferences (cm)**

- All the circumferences i.e. head, upper arm and calf have been found to increase with age from 8 to 16 years in all children. For all the three parameters children from low domestic violence families have been found to possess more value at all age levels, as compared to children from high domestic violence families.

- In head circumference, the differences are statistically significant at 9 years and from 12 to 14 years in boys and from 10 to 16 years in girls.

- In upper arm circumference, the differences are statistically significant from 12-15 years in boys and from 10 to 16 years of age in girls.
• In calf circumference the differences are statistically significant from 9 to 15 years in boys whereas in girls the differences are statistically significant from 11 to 16 years.

Diameters (cm)
• The humerus and femur bicondylar diameters have been observed to increase with the advancement of age in both the sexes from both the groups. The children from low domestic violence families have broader shoulders of upper and lower extremities as compared to children from high domestic violence families.
• Femur bicondylar diameters also increase with advancement of age. The children from low domestic violence families have broader knees with significant differences at all age levels except 14 years in boys and in girls the differences have been found to be significant at all age levels except 9 and 12 years.

Skinfoolds (mm)
• All the skinfoolds i.e. biceps, triceps, suprailiac, subscapular and calf have shown an increase with age with intermittent fluctuations in some age groups.
• The values of all the skinfoolds have been found to be more in children from low domestic violence families as compared to children from high domestic violence families. In boys the differences are statistically significant between 10-13 years in most of the skinfoold and in girls from 10 to 16 years.

Psychological behaviour
Children from high domestic violence families have shown more psychological disturbances as compared to their counterparts from low domestic violence families with statistically significant differences at 9, 10, 12 and 14 years in boys and from 9 to 15 years in girls

Academic performance
Children from low domestic violence families have good academic performance as compared to their counterparts from high domestic violence families with statistically significant differences at 11 and 15 years in boys and at 11, 12, and 15 years in girls.
Sex differences

- While studying sex differences in anthropometric measurements it has been observed that in children from both low and high domestic violence families, the boys have been found to be taller with broader skeletal frame and have more value of circumference in most of the age groups. The skinfold values have been found to be more in girls in most of the age groups in children from both low and high domestic violence families.

- In psychological behaviour it has been found the girls have more psychological disturbances or behaviour problems reaching a level of significance at 14 years in low domestic violence families and 15 years in high domestic violence families.

- In the academic performance it has been observed that attaining marks in their annual examinations was slightly better in boys as compared to girls although the differences were not statistically significant.

On the basis of findings the present study can be summarized that children from low domestic violence families have been found to be heavier, taller, with broader skeletal frame and have more value of circumference and skinfolds as compared to children from high domestic violence families. It clearly reveals that domestic violence affects the physical growth of children.

Similarly children from high domestic violence families have shown more psychological disturbances as compared to their counterparts from low domestic violence families. The girls have more behaviour problems than boys. The academic performance of children in terms of percentages of marks has been found to be certainly better in children from low domestic violence families.

It is great concern for the government, society, specialists and responsible functionaries to do whatever they can, to control, eliminate and prevent domestic violence.