



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN : A CASE STUDY OF PANCHKULA CITY (HARYANA)**

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### ***Abstract***

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*Women and men are created by the same creator. Their rights and duties are equally divided by him. Gradually, man started taking advantage of his strong physical power. As a result the position of women was reduced to the mercy of men due to imposition of unreasonable restrictions upon women. With the progress of civilization, people started realizing this fact and law came to the rescue of women. In India also, traditional custom and usage were declared unconstitutional but there is still a need for improvement. At present, men are still under the impression that their position is very strong in the society. Women's struggle for equality in the society is backed by people with the right kind of thinking in the society. This study confirms the high prevalence of all forms of violence against women across all socio-economic settings of India. However, urban residence, older age, lower education and lower family income are somewhat associated with occurrence of domestic violence. Women are at risk of violence from the husband/partner than any other type of perpetrator. Keeping in view these considerations and reasons the present research project has been taken up.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Violence against women is an obstacle in the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, categorically declaring it to be a platform for action. It has been

further asserted that “In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, woman and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that acts across lines of income, class and culture. The social and economic status of women can be both a cause and consequence of violence against women”.

Violence against women has been recognized by the international community as the most fundamental violation of women’s human rights. The United Nations General Assembly adopting the declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women had affirmed that, “Violence against women constitutes the violation of rights and fundamental freedom of women and it nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms” and expressed its concern about the long- standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedom in the case of violence against women. The Vienna Conference of 1993 also recognized violence against women as a human rights persisting and traces its continued existence to an “inadequate understanding as the root cause of all forms of violence against women”.

Numerous studies at the National and International levels have revealed the widespread nature of violence against women. In September 1998, an NGO working with victims of incest revealed that almost 76 percent of women in India have suffered some form of sexual abuse and 40 percent of them at the hands of men in the extended family setting. Globally one in three women has been raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

Throughout the history, women in various continents of the world have been considered as the physically weaker sex. The gender difference and bias existing globally places women all over the world at a disadvantaged position. Women in Indian Society have been victims of ill-treatment, humiliation, torture or exploitation, since times immemorial. Women, like anyone else, may also be the victims of any of the crimes such as murder, robbery, cheating etc. but the crimes which are directed specifically against women are characterized as crime against women and these are broadly classified under two categories i.e. Crimes under Indian Penal Code; and, Crimes under Special Laws.

The crimes under I.P.C include:

- Rape. (Section. 375,376 IPC). Kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc (Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code)

- Dowry death. (Section 304(b), I.P.C)
- Husband or relatives of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty. (Sec. 498 (a) I.P.C)
- Assault or criminal force to women with intent to outrage her modesty. (Section 354, I.P.C)
- Word, gesture or an act intended to insult the modesty of a woman. (Sec. 509, I.P.C)
- Importation of girl from foreign country. (Sec. 366 (b), I.P.C)

The crimes under special laws include:

- Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1979.
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
- Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987.

The incidence of total crime in the country is increasing over the years, but the rate of increase in crime against women has been higher than the rate of increase in total crime. The growth rate of crime against women has been 2.18 per annum. Honor Killings, female foeticide, preconceived sex selection are some of the crimes against women.

Violence against women takes myriad forms. Domestic violence is the most pervasive, invisible and widespread form of violence on Punjabi women married to NRIs. Vision of Utopia in America or Canada lures many a parent to marry off their daughter to men visiting India in search of a bride without thoroughly verifying their credentials. A lot many of them fly back without taking their wives with them. These deserted women have to suffer various levels of atrocities. Where the women do manage to go abroad, they are exploited in innumerable ways.

Violence not only leads to physical injuries it has significant ramifications on the women's health, physical, mental as well as emotional. The focus is not only on outright physical violence but also neglect and discrimination which a woman faces throughout her life cycle and has equally significant consequences on a woman's health. The determinants of health are categorized into nutritional, biological, social and access to health services. Physical impact apart, violence has severe physiological consequences for women. In the context of increase in different forms of crimes against women, analyzing the cause



consequences and concern at the family, socially as well as Govt. level for eradication of such crimes assumes importance.

### **Factors Affecting Domestic Violence Against Women:**

These would include:

#### ***Psychological:***

- Girl has to perform household chores even if she is working.
- If a girl gets higher qualification, there will be difficulties in searching a bride groom.
- A highly qualified girl cannot adjust in her matrimonial house.

The dominant nature of the male in our society is one of the major factors to be sublimated to the spirit of equality. Women are given lesser opportunities for education, applied science, professional courses and training. Women are discouraged from taking up entrepreneurship in the socio-economic, individual and commercial spheres. She is taken as an object of liability, property, a sex symbol and not as an equal human being. A large no. of women are still suffering from a severe male oppression, which is an unhealthy trend for a balanced society.

Society has not recognized the contributions of women. The contradictions inherent in our society are where goddesses and cows are worshipped but living girls and women are bereft of a respectable existence. Men in our society do not consider woman as their equals, and when a woman tries to assert their equality in family, there is tremendous backlash. This is a basic factor behind all crime against women.

Crime against women have historically had complex causes. But these crimes are also function of the ideological positioning of women in particular society. In traditional societies, women are often vulnerable to crime because they are not acknowledged to have equal moral standing as right-bearing individuals and can, therefore, be treated with impunity. To be sure, there are various social restraints and conventions that were designed to protect women, but these for the most part were within a paradigm that affirmed their subordinate status and confined them to particular roles.

#### ***Social :***

The social causes of crime against women include causes like inferior status of women due to social conditioning, patriarchal structure of society, unwholesome family atmosphere, lack of proper training, broken homes, overcrowding in one room family, too much interference by the parents, too slack a discipline, lack of love of parents, imprisonment, drunkenness, immorality, cruelty, addiction to drugs, sickness, and modern permissive atmosphere, etc.

Indian society is male dominated. Man occupies a superior status and the woman is considered merely his appendage. A woman is never an entity in her own right, she is “first the daughter, next the wife, and last mother of a man”. Men are consciously taught to be aggressive and tough while women are conditioned to be submissive and docile.

Discrimination against girls starts the moment a child is born and continues to be maintained and reinforced throughout her life. Sex role distinctions are evident in the terms of occupation and education. It convinces every woman about her subordinate status. It is difficult to combat crime against women because they are not committed by criminals, but by the so-called law abiding persons of the society. Moreover, they are mostly one-sided i.e. without any provocation from the victims. They do not depend on any quality of the victim or lack of it, but other factors which are beyond her control e.g. Greed is the reason for dowry deaths. It is immaterial how much dowry was given or how rich is husband's family. Suspicion is the main reasons of cruelty against the wife, even though it is baseless. Whenever a crime against women is committed the judgment is predetermined that the woman must be at fault. The society will always have an excuse to blame the woman and absolve the man. The arguments put forward show social tolerance of crime against women. Our senses have become so used to seeing men committing these crimes that we are not alarmed and crimes like eve-teasing and sexual harassment of females are considered mainly acts. They mostly pass off as trivial incidents too insignificant even to be noticed.

***Unemployment:***

Unemployment and poverty is a major cause of crimes against women. Some men just cannot see women doing well while they themselves are unemployed or underemployed. They find such women to be the cause of their failures. They nurture a grudge against them and commit crimes against them to take out their frustration

***Alcoholism:***

Many crimes are committed under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The use of alcohol in the course of time cause a great and irresistible craving for it. To retain the so-called satisfaction level the drug addicts has to go on increasing the quantities from time to time. The ill effects of alcohol are that it affects mind and the body and results in susceptibility to crimes. Excessive drinking results in starvation for the family members, assaults and quarrels between husband and wife, between father and child, desertion, beating, cruelty etc. alcohol related crimes illustrate a reckless disregard of time and circumstances.

Lack of religiousness and substitution of religious belief and spirituality by enlightened rationalism is also regarded as a factor for causation of crime against women.

Lack of proper education is a potent cause of moral depravity. It is through the molding of propensities and potentialities that the formation of good habits and sound character can be developed. Both school and the home should train the child for being a worthy citizen. Properly trained mind in the correct values of life can combat the situational urge which so often result in heinous crimes like rape and outraging the modesty of women. Marital maladjustment is the cause of a large number of crimes against women in matrimonial homes as well as outside. This maladjustment may arise both because of the personality characteristics of the husband as well as that of the wife and the environmental conditions in which the marriage functions. Temperamental maladjustments and incompatibility in ways of thinking, working, dressing up and behaving go a long way in making the husband and wife maladjusted. The husband reacts by neglecting the wife or picks up a quarrel on trivial issues.

***Legal:***

The law enacted for the protection of women suffer form various shortcomings. The attitude of court in interpreting these laws is conservative, rigid and traditional. The enforcement of these laws is so poor that the offenders seem to have lost all fear of authority. They grow bolder because they are not caught. Tthey think that they can indulge in crime with impunity.

In India, police inefficiency, corruption, connivance with the guilty and the police-politician nexus has been major cause of crime against women. The police either evade their responsibility through indifference and callousness or they indulge in unlawful and corrupt practices. The record of the police in preventing crimes has been very poor. Police mostly fail to protect women from being attacked, assaulted, humiliated, dishonored and otherwise, victimized. The behaviour of police towards the victims are objectionable which discourages the victims to report against criminals.

Institutions like crime (women) cell, family courts, Legal Aid cell etc. have not been able to convince men that it is most obnoxious and inhumane to ill-treat a woman. They have not been able to change the outlook of society. Woman is forced to accept that it is better to suffer in silence like many other women than to revolt.

Violence against women is an age old phenomenon. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to a woman. The changing social structure in India has only perpetuated violence and crime against women. Education too has not brought an increase in awareness. The fact that India has often legislated for women's right before several western nations is cold comfort, when we look at how little the law is known and practiced.

***Other Factors:***

The incidents of domestic violence is higher amongst the lower socio-economic classes. There are various instances of an inebriated husband beating up the wife often leading to severe injuries. Domestic violence is also seen in the form of physical abuse. The protection of women from domestic violence through Domestic Violence Act, 2005 came into force on October 26, 2006

***Trafficking:***

The Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act was passed in 1956. However, many cases of trafficking of young girls and women have been reported.

***Health Concerns:***

The average Indian woman has little control over her own fertility and reproductive health. Women, particularly in rural areas, do not have access to safe and self-controlled



methods of contraception. The public health system emphasize permanent methods like sterilization or long-term methods.

***Exploitation of Women:***

Economic constraints necessitate the family income, especially of the middle class family, be supplemented by the wife's earnings. Thus, we find these women taking on this additional responsibility, lower class women have of course, always been working. In this area, too, women do not have the freedom to regulate their lives. Research by Dr. Pramila kapur indicates that earning of women from the middle and upper middle classes have no control over it and women give all their rights over their salary to their in-laws and to abandon all their rights over it. The problems of managing both the employment situation and the home, alcoholic husbands squandering away their 'wives' earnings. The male dominance is all-pervading and there are implicit assumptions that the wife should have a lesser designation at the workplace and earn a lower salary than her husband. The gender bias at work expects a woman executive to be like a woman, behave like a lady, think like a man and work like a dog.

***Selection of Career:***

Most of our young women have no freedom to select their career. Elders in the family, neighbors and friends influence young woman to take up stereotype jobs such as nursing and teaching. In the cities, the scenario is different, we do observe women gradually coming out of their isolated existence. And yet, they have to work twice as hard to prove their efficiency to keep their status. In an interview on women executives on TV three years ago, it was stated that in order to keep their positions and climb up the ladder of career, they need consistence, perseverance, confidence, analytical attitude and being objective in interpersonal relationships, patient and continuously strive for knowledge and efficiency. The demands from male executives are not so numerous nor so strong.

***Choice of Partner in Marriage:***

In the matter of marriage too, women have no choice, most marriages are arranged by the families of the bride and the groom. In the cities, parents of a few communities in upper middle class and upper classes give the freedom to their daughter to select their marriage partners. Even so, there are restrictions based on religion, caste and community.



Despite the Child Marriage Restraint Act Passed in the early part of this century, infants are married in their cradles. In India, the mean age of marriage for men is 23.3 years and 18.3 years for women. In Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar 50% of the girls are married before the age of 16. Early marriage, frequent pregnancies and deliveries take their toll and 13% of deaths before the women reaches her 25<sup>th</sup> year are due to the complications in child birth.

***Right to Decision-Making:***

“We have mouths but we use them only for crying “said a young woman. This shows that women are told and ordered to behave in accordance with the norms of the family community and society. The average Indian woman has no choice in relation to the important events in her life such as marriage, parenthood, family planning, participation in community activities and divorce. The in-laws play a strong part in the matter of the number of children that the couple should have. The eldest male in the family is still the decision-maker in relation to family issues. It is only in minor matters such as those relating to the kitchen that the women can have their say.

***Awareness of Legal Rights:***

Women are not aware of their legal rights nor are they aware of the political situation and its effect on the masses. In a research study conducted in four districts of Bihar, it was found that most women knew about the right of inheritance to parental property. The least known rights were the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), Minimum Wages Act, Child Marriage Restraint Act and Widow Remarriage Act. Women are largely ignorant of laws passed in their interest. The question of assertion of their rights in respect of these laws does not arise.

**Literature Review:**

UN Declaration defined Violence Against Women as “any act mission, controlling behavior, threat in any sphere which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological injury to women”. In the life cycle of women, they are subjected to the violence like Sati, Rape, Sexual assault domestic violence, abduction, forced confinement,

communal caste riots, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization etc. the recent trend of increased crime against women is a concern for all.

The UNIFEM Report, “A life free of violence: Its our right” (1998) reveals that women are battered each year worldwide; one in six women are the victims of rape in industrialized countries and 52% of women surveyed were assaulted by intimate partners.

Progress of South Asian Women, 2005 categorises violence against women into various categories which include: Overt physical abuse (battering, sexual assault, at home, and in the workplace) and psychological abuse. Exploitation of women’s labourer (non-payment or under payment for labour and denial of benefit in the formal sector; sexual division of labour in the home leading to multiple binder on women). Deprivation of access to control of resources for physical, social and economic development (health/nutrition, education, means of production etc.) to keep women dependent. Oppression through cultural and religious practices (Sati, honor killings, etc.) Commodification of Women (Trafficking, prostitution pornography).

“The status of women indicates the character of the country, said Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. The social standing of any society is determined by the social status of the women. It rises and falls with them. Women have played a key role in the evolution of mankind and with a unique quality to shoulder the highest family responsibility throughout their life. This capability to impart training and teaching others is an important virtue of women. It was recognized from ancient period that mother is the first and the best teacher which a person can have. The status of women in the society depends on the role played by them and how others look at their role. Social structures, cultural norms and value system are important determinants of women’s role and their status in the society. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had said “to awaken people it is the woman who must be awakened. Once she is on the move the family moves & and the nation moves. After independence the Constitution gave equal status to men and women on paper yet women remain secondary to men”.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “Intellectually, mentally and spiritually women is equivalent to men and she can participate in every activity with equal competence as a man. She, therefore, deserves an equal status with the man in the society”. But every where in the world, women are accorded a lower status than men. To have a better understanding we have to look at the status of women in the different periods and in India. In the male

dominated society, the mind set of the male is still that the female is a commodity for by the male.

Beyond the personal impact on specific women, the community as a whole suffers. Govind Kelkar cites a number of studies to show the economic costs of violence against women. One of his study showed that “Domestic violence can push economically fragile households into economic crisis.”

Law plays a significant role in eradicating crime against women; questioning the subordinate status of women and reconstructing their identities as persons, human beings entitled to equal rights. As martin states, the legal edifice effectively affirms and promotes the principles of equity and equality of women. India, it is significant to note, has the distinction of having the largest number of laws relating to women. Sangeeta elucidates the concept of rape and how it has been taken up by Indian as well as the international law. Referring to numerous cases, she asserts that the judiciary has declared rape as violation of a woman’s right to dignified life. Nevertheless, the law against rape in India has numerous loopholes. Moreover, the judiciary’s pro-male biases are highlighted in a number of judgments, including the in-famous Mathura Judgment and Bhanwari Devi Case. She concludes, not only definition of rape but also the whole functioning of rape laws needs overhauling.

Sexual Harassment of women at the workplace is a violation of their Fundamental Rights declared by the Supreme Court of India in the Vishakha Judgment. Yet the problem continues with impunity. In this context, Ranbir Kaur focuses upon international covenants and the instruments to prevent sexual harassment and how in the absence of any provision at the national level to deal with the problem, ‘CEDAW’ had been made the basis of its judgment by Supreme Court of India in the Vishakha Case in which it gave detailed definition and guidelines on dealing with sexual harassment at the work place.

Social structures, cultural norms and value system are important determinants of women’s role and their status in the society. The case of Rupan Deol Bajaj , an IAS officer is a glaring example of such molestation. She could not find justice even after knocking the doors of the court. In the case of Monisha Verma, the couple, of passengers that were in the bus watched the molestation unperturbed. They did not make any effort to help the helpless girl.



Paul Valley observes: There are some things that can get a woman killed, wearing make up, going to cinema, having chewing gum, drinking water on the street, chatting to a male neighbour, talking on the phone, talking to someone of a difference race, demanding a divorce, being raped, having an unsuitable boyfriend or getting pregnant. He further asserts that, “Every year, total of 5, 000 women across the world are killed –by their relatives in so called ‘honour killings’ because they are said to have brought shame to their families”.

However, the basic causes of violence against women are not so simple and the cause is deeper and more difficult to pin points, for it is embedded in the very structure of society. So much that the women themselves have become a part of it.

The UN declaration on the elimination of violence against women regards the “unequal power relations” as the cause and core of violence against women.

Women in India are generally viewed as physically weak, morally unreliable, economically a burden and intellectually incompetent. They are denied their religious rights and excluded form serious spiritual pursuits. Men are assumed to be at a dominant position and women at a position of subservience.

There is a wide gap between the ideal and the practical. It is not only due to historical reasons but mainly because of attitude of inferiority and bondage towards women. Women are thus deprived of basic freedom and thereby exposed to easy exploitation.

Keeping in view the above considerations and reasons this study has tried to report the prevalence and related issues of various forms of domestic violence against women from the city of Panchkula. It has studied the ability of women in Decision Making, Equal Status, Economic Independence and socializing.

This study has been delimited in respect of being confined to only one city i.e. Panchkula (Haryana) ,which has been taken as a unit of study. A sample of 30 women belonging to the age group of early thirties and forties was taken.

### **Research Settings:**

Panchkula is a planned city and is a district too. It is surrounded by Himachal Pradesh in the north and east, by Punjab and Chandigarh in the west and by Ambala District in the south as well as in the east. Panchkula District shares its borders with Chandigarh, Mohali, Ambala District and Solan. Hindi language and Punjabi language are the main languages spoken in Panchkula. Haryanvi being the state dialect is widely used here. There are five major towns in the district named Panchkula, Barwala, Pinjore, Kalka and Raipur Rani. The only hill station in Haryana called Morni is also in this district. The present district of Panchkula remained industrially backward particularly till the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Mansa Devi Temple at Panchkula is a symbol of Himalayan culture and faith. The shrine located on the foot hills of Shivalik is an epitome of age old tradition of 'Shakti' worship in northern India. Himalaya being the abode of Shiva and his consort 'Shakti' became centre of 'Shakti' worship. In the vicinity of Panchkula there are numerous 'Shakti' worshipping centers known by their names such as Chandi, Kalika, Mansa, Bhima etc. Hence, mythologically speaking, Chandigarh-Panchkula region undoubtedly continued to be living legends of shaktism where its practices are in vogue. However, the present temple which stands a witness to the exciting past of the Shivalik region is about two hundred years old. The archeological treasures unearthed from Chandigarh-Panchkula region throw eloquent light on the history and culture of the area from the prehistoric to the recent times. Although owing to the onslaught of times and climate many tangible realities of the cultural manifestations of the region have been lost in the oblivion, yet there are certain things which never die out. One such reality is the Mansa Devi Shrine and the tradition of shaktism practised in this part of the country, where the past has been rejuvenated for sustaining one of the living traditions of shaktism in India.

In this historic backdrop where the "Devi's" are worshipped, this study was designed to investigate the prevalence of domestic violence amongst women in Panchkula City. The Nature of the study led to descriptive survey method of research. It was conducted on 30 Women. The data was collected from the Women of Panchkula City. Present study was conducted with the help of self prepared questionnaire. The tool was constructed by investigators in consultation with, colleagues, faculty members, library, earlier researches on the subject, and even with the women counselors working in various women counseling centres. The Questionnaire consisted of 28 statements. Information was drawn from the Women of Panchkula residing in different localities of the city.

The data was collected from the Women after taking permission from their Families. The Women were given the questionnaire and the instructions were explained to them and their doubts were cleared. The questionnaire were left with each respondent, to be filled up in privacy.

**Findings and Conclusions:** The results of the descriptive statistics have been graphically represented and discussed here.

**Table No.1**

**Who has the greater say in deciding about visit to your maternal home?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Myself	20	66.6
Partner	7	23.3
Friends /family members	2	6.7
Uncertain	1	3.3

Table No. 1 shows 66.6% Women responding that they themselves decided when to visit their parents while 23.3% Women depended on the decision of their partner. There were around 6.7% women who looked up to their 'friends or family members' to decide their visit to their maternal homes. Still 3.3% Women were not sure who made the decisions about their visit to their maternal home.

**Table No. 2**

**Who has the greater say in making purchases of daily house hold items?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Myself	20	66.6



Partner	8	26.6
Friends/ family members	2	6.7
Uncertain	0	0

Table No.2 indicates that 66.6% Women themselves made purchases of daily households items. 26.6% Women depended upon their partners for making daily house hold purchases. Only 6.7% Women depended upon their friends or family members for making purchases of daily house hold items.

**Table No. 3**

**Who has the greater say in deciding about the number of children to be born?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Myself	13	43.3
Partner	14	46.7
Friends/ family members	3	10.0
Uncertain	0	0

Table No. 3 presents the views of women about who takes the decisions on the number of children to be born. 43.3% women responded that they themselves decide about the number of children to be born to them while 66.7% women viewed that this decision is taken by their 'Partner'. Their were 10.0% women who depended upon their friends or family members while deciding about the number of children they should have.

**Table No. 4**

**Who has the greater say in what items to cook?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
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Myself	14	46.7
Partner	12	40.0
Friends /family members	4	13.3
Uncertain	0	0

A perusal of table No. 4 shows 46.7% women themselves decided what is to be cooked in their kitchen. In the case of 40% women their 'Partners' made this decision. What items are to be cooked in the kitchens of 13.3% women was decided by their 'friends or family members'.

**Table No.5**

**Decision about obtaining health care for your self.**

Response	Frequency	% ages
Myself	13	43.3
Partner	12	40.0
Friends/family member	3	10.0
Uncertain	2	6.7

Table no.5 indicates that 43.3% women themselves took decisions regarding their health care whereas 40.0% women depended on their 'Partner'. For 10.0% women friends or family members decided whether to obtain health care for themselves. There were 6.7% women who were uncertain regarding this aspect of their lives.

**Table No. 6**

**Decision about your going or staying with parents or siblings.**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Myself	12	40.0
Partner	14	46.7
Friends/ family members	4	13.3
Uncertain	0	0

Table no.6 shows that 40.0% women themselves decided when to visit their parents or siblings and 46.7% Women depended on the decision of their 'Partner'. In case of 13.3% ,the decision of the 'Friends or family members' were also taken into account for their going or staying with their parents or siblings.

**Table No.7**

**Are you free to meet your friends or family?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	25	83.3
No	5	16.7

It is quite obvious from table no.7, where 83.3% women feel free to meet their friends and family members. For 16.7% women this type of freedom is just a dream. They were not free to meet their friends or family members.

**Table No.8**

**Does your Partner cater to your emotional needs?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
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Yes	22	73.4
No	8	26.6

Table no.8. reveals the reality that 73.4% women's emotional needs were catered- to by their partners. Where as 26.6% women were devoid of this pleasure.

**Table No.9**

**Are you being threatened to cause pain to any person in whom you are interested like your brother, sister or anyone else?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	9	30
No	21	70

Table no.9. shows that 30% women were threatened to cause pain to a person in whom they showed interest in like their brother, sister, or anyone else who tried to build relations with her. 70% women were far away from this type of mind-set. They were more independent.

**Table No.10**

**Are you afraid of your partner?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	8	26.6
No	22	73.4

Still in this globalised world the phenomenon in table no 10 is witnessed. From this table we see that 26.6% Women are afraid of their partner, whereas 73.4% women are at ease with their partner.

**Table No.11**

**Has your partner threatened you to harm him self?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	6	20
No	24	80

Table no.11. indicates that 20% women responded in the affirmative that their partners have threatened to harm themselves. The reasons could be too personal. Whereas 80% women were not stuck up in this set up..

**Table No.12**

**Is there any demeaning name calling by your partner?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	5	16.7
No	25	83.3

The perusal of table no.12. indicated 16.7% women agreeing to the fact that their 'Partner' practiced demeaning names-calling with them. Where as 83.3% women were away from this kind of abusive behaviour.

**Table No.13**

**Does your partner insult you in front of friends and family?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
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Yes	7	23.3
No	23	76.7

It is seen from table no.13. that 23.3% women said that they are being insulted by their partners in front of friends and family. While 76.7% women never faced this type of an insult.

**Table No.14**

**Are you being humiliated for not having a male child?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	12	40
No	18	60

The shades of patriarchy are indicated in table no.14 where 40% of the women are still being humiliated for not having a male child. The 60% of Panchkula City women do not face this type of humiliation.

**Table No.15**

**Who mainly decides how the money you earn will be spent?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Myself	7	23.3
Partner	14	46.7
Jointly with Partner	7	23.3
Jointly with friends/ family members	2	6.7

From table no. 15. we observe that only 23.3% women themselves decide how to spend money they earn. Their were 46.7% women whose 'Partner' decided how the money earned by them is to be spent. For 23.3% women the decision was taken 'Jointly with Partner'. In the case of 6.7% women friends or family members took this decision.

**Table No. 16**

**Are you allowed to have some money set aside that you can use as your wish?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	11	36.6
No	19	63.4

Table No.16. shows that 36.6% women are in a position to set aside some money which they can use as an when they wish to. A larger percentage of women ( 63.4%) do not have the liberty to have some money kept aside for them to use as per their wish.

**Table No. 17**

**Generally how much do your earnings contribute to the family earnings?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Almost None	3	23.3
Less than half	2	46.7
About Half	8	23.3
More than half	17	6.7

It is quite evident from table no.17.,where 23.3% women say that none of their earnings contribute to the family earnings. 'Less than half' of their income is contributed by 46.7% women. While 23.3% women contribute 'about half' , 6.7% contribute 'More than half' to the family earnings.

**Table No. 18**



**Since you completed 15 years of the age have you been beaten or maltreated physically by any one?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	13	43.3
No	17	56.7

From table no.18.,it can be seen that 43.3% women agreed that ever since they completed 15 years of age , they have been maltreated physically by their partners. There are 56.7% women who have never been beaten or maltreated physically by any one since the time they completed fifteen years of age.

**Table No.19**

**Has your partner ever assaulted you physically?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	14	46.7
No	16	53.3

The above table no.19 shows that 46.7% women are physically assaulted by their partner whereas 53.3% women have never faced this type of treatment.

**Table No.20**

**Has your partner ever used a weapon against you?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	11	36.7
No	19	63.3

Table No.20., shows that the partners of 36.7% women have used weapon against them whereas 63.3% women have responded in the negative.

**Table No.21**

**Who has beaten you physically?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Mother	1	3.3
Father	1	3.3
Step Mother	1	3.3
Step Father	1	3.3
Son	1	3.3
Daughter	0	0
Father in law	1	3.3
Sister in law	1	3.3
Other relative	0	0
Brother/Sister	3	10.0
Boyfriend	1	3.3
Partner	13	43.3
Ex-Husband	0	0
Son in Law	0	0
Daughter in law	1	3.3
Mother in law	1	3.3
Friend/Acquaintance	1	3.3

Teacher	2	6.7
Employer	1	3.3
Stranger	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0

Table No.21 is indicative of 3.3% (each) women have been beaten-up by their Mother, Father, Step-Mother, Step-Father, Son, Father- in-law, Boy-friend, Daughter-in-law, Mother-in-Law, Friend/acquaintance and Employer. Their were 10% women who complained of being beaten by their ‘Brother/Sister. Around 6.7% women complained of being physically abused by their ‘Teachers’. It was 43.3% women who responded of being beaten by their ‘Partner’.

**Table No.22**

**Has anyone including your partner ever sexually abused you?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	12	40
No	18	60

The above table (table no. 22) shows that 40% women admitted being sexually abused even by their partner. Whereas 60% women have never faced sexual abuse.

**Table No. 23**

**Some times you may do things that can bother your partner. Do you think the partner is justified in beating you if he suspected you of being unfaithful?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
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Yes	14	46.7
No	16	53.3

Women sometimes do things which bother their partners. Table no.23., shows the plight of 46.7% women do not mind being beaten by their partner if they are suspected of being unfaithful. But there are 53.3% women who disagree with this type of justification.

**Table No.24**

**Is your partner justified in beating you, if you did not bring dowry?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	11	36.7
No	19	63.3

The trend of dowry seems to be loosing its importance with 63.3% women, as seen in table no.24. At the same time 36.7 % women justified for being beaten by their husbands on account of not bringing dowry.

**Table No 25**

**Is your partner justified in beating you, if you show disrespect for your in laws?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	10	33.3
No	20	66.7

Table no.25 shows 33.3 % women agreeing to being beaten by their partner on showing disrespect to their in-laws. Whereas 66.7% women disagreed to this kind of behavior.



**Table No. 26**

**Is your partner justified in beating you, if you go out without telling him?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	11	36.7
No	19	63.3

Similarly in table no. 26 we observe 36.7 % women responding to the idea of being beaten by partner on going out of the house without informing him. Their were 63.3% women who completely disagreed with this kind of behavior.

**Table No.27**

**As far as you know did your father ever beat your mother?**

Response	Frequency	%ages
Yes	9	30.0
No	19	63.3
Uncertain	2	6.7

A perusal of table no.27 shows that 30% women had witnessed their mother being beaten by their father. Their were 63% who had never come across this kind of scene. Whereas 6.7% women were not certain about the fact.

**Conclusions:**

Thus, the study confirms the high prevalence of all forms of violence against women across all socio-economic settings even in this part of India. This situation has public health implications as public health can have a role in preventing the violence and its health

consequences. The primary healthcare institutions in India should institutionalize the routine screening and treatment for violence related injuries and trauma. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that acts across lines of income, class and culture. The loan and economic status of women can be both a cause and consequence of violence against women.

These results also provide vital information to assess the situation to develop interventions as well as policies and programs towards preventing violence against women. As India has already made Domestic Violence Act 2005, the present results will be useful to sensitize the concerned agencies to strictly implement the law. This will not only help in suggesting the government in framing women /family friendly policies of the country but also make us aware of the actual happenings in the city homes. It is all the more important to educate and empower the women about their rights as well as duties towards the nation.

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