

## **WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: SOME OBSERVATION**

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### **Introduction**

Today, women have to face many challenges in society because violence against women has been recognized as a serious violation of human rights. Gender-based violence signifies the patriarchal central of men and women. Women violence is a very serious social problem and a major maintaining the relation at male dominative. Female subordination is central to the patriarchal social order. The term domestic violence generally includes violence against any member of a has hold and it's attached to all family members. Its most affected are women. 'In India Domestic violence is a wide speared problem, it has been that two-thirds of married Indian women have faced domestic violence in their lives. The rate of violence against women and especially, young girls is very high in India. Many researchers have found that women have been dominated by men in the Indian culture since the very early periods. The status of women in the family and society has been intentionally kept low. The values of Hindus have held that males are superior to females.

Everett Jana Master has studied the low status of women in India and he has identified five specific factors responsible for their lower status in society, which are Hindu religion, caste system, joint family system, Islamic rule and British colonialism. The main problem is that the importance of domestic work has been ignored in Indian society.

Domestic violence is a behavioural problem that is related to the emotional, psychological and physical aspects of Indian society. It is observed that one person who is in an intimate relationship with another, dominate and control the other based on gender. In the Indian patriarchal social system is always the male who dominates the female. In the context of the dominant family structure, it becomes a system in the household where the father dominations the household imparting the women subsidiary status. In such cases, the women often suffer domestic violence which includes harassment, maltreatment, cruelty and even the threat of assault intimidation.

## **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is gender-based violence which is defined in the United Nations declaration in the Elimination of violence against women in 1993. After that, many countries around the world have adopted policies violence against women, especially domestic violence. 'Feminists have shown that in 1970 there was hardly any congestion of the term domestic violence' So Domestic violence is both of cause and a consequence of discrimination against women. Discriminatory are customs and traditions that perpetuate violence against women particularly domestic violence as a private matter that is acceptable by women. This violence refers to the physical, psychological abuse of women by the husband and his family members. We know the majority of sections of society demand giving and accepting dowry. This issue is the most common source of domestic violence in India. Wife beating syndrome is becoming common in Indian society. It is associated with the social pattern of the society where family faces have associated to alcoholism and demands of dowry, its quite common. Generally, in the family, the situation is the women are dependent on the person who physically assaults them. It has been identified as a major social problem.

Domestic violence against women has been increasing but such violence has existed for centuries accepted as part of the patriarchal structure. Domestic violence is the burning of young married women by husbands and in-laws for not satisfying their demands. And rape and sexual abuse are other brutal forms of violence. In the joint family, women are more victims of domestic violence and educated women are facing violence in various forms in their daily life. A woman is never using her own right. Men are consciously taught to be aggressive and tough while women experience greater pain of fear in their domestic life.

## **Human Rights and Domestic Violence Act**

The world Human Rights Conference In Vienna first recognized gender-based violence as a human right violation in 1993 violence against women. It is defined as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual, psychological harm of a woman'. Attempts to turn this tide have been largely legislative. The Violence against Act (VAWA) was passed in 1994 to deal with violence in the home. It is landmark legislation set out to improve criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence.

In any state incidence of violence against women for sexual violence by husbands, physical violence by others and physical violence by the husband. Indeed violence against women is often tolerated and justified by men as well as women. 'Social relationship in India, particularly marriage involves the subjugation of women Acceptance of patriarchal norms

accepted by men and women.

The feminist movement in India is to struggle against violence and legal change. 'There are certain rights guaranteed to women under articles 14,15 and 21 of Indian constitution based on which an act was introduced titled protection of Domestic Violence Act 2005', Domestic violence was realized as a universal problem. International women's organization to realize the systemic and widespread nature, it makes India at par with 60 other countries which has legal provision for domestic violence. As the impact of such policies on the incidences of domestic violence still continues.

'The protection of women from domestic violence Act 2005, is an act of parliament of India enacted to protect women from domestic violence.' It was brought into force by the Indian Government on 26 Oct. 2006. The Act provides for the first time in Indian law a definition of domestic violence. The law which provides women protection from this systemic form of violence provides women protection previously considered a private matter.

An Act No.43 of 2005 provides for more effective protection of the right of women guaranteed under the constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring in the family and for matters connected therewith any relief available under this act protection of women from domestic violence. Further mentioned that domestic violence includes actual abuse threat of abuse whether physical sexual, emotional or economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the women. Those women are relationship like marriage in addition relationship with husband family members living together on a joint family.

Her relatives and other family members demand money, don't talking her pain of fear and beating in their domestic life. All women were victims of different forms of violence in their daily life. While talking about the whole scenario some important questions are what is the prevalence and nature of domestic violence? and How women react to the situation?

### **The Problem**

The problem of violence against women is prevalent in all cultural societies. Societies undergoing modernisation and through drastic socio-economic changes have been experiencing increased domestic violence. Indian society is a mixture of traditional and modern values. Women are must getting education employment and more access in any field. But Indian socio-cultural values are not changing in the patriarchies values. Domestic violence is any harm, injury inflicted on women physical and mental occasional would amount to domestic violence. In this way, this is a violation of a woman's personhood in her conjugal relationship.

### The objective of the study

1. To study the nature of domestic violence against women.
2. To examine the socio-Economic profile of respondents.
3. To study the causes of domestic violence against women.
4. To find out gender disparity in domestic violence.

### Methodology

The researcher has selected 70 respondents those have under the jurisdiction of the family court in the Sangli district. And researcher has used the census study method. In this family court, the total cases are 820. Out of 820 cases, 405 cases are having pending and 415 judgments have been given by the family court. The researcher has selected 70 (17 present) declared cases out of 405 cases and the researcher has used the purposing sampling method.

### Type of domestic Violence

**Table No.1**

**Type Domestic Violence against women**

<b>Violence on women</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Physical violence	48	68.57
Mentally violence	10	14.29
Family Irritation	06	8.57
Don't talk of any family member	06	8.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Table No.1 shows the type of domestic violence against women. In this table out of 70 respondents, 48 (68.57%) respondents have related physical violence, 10 (14.29%) respondents have suffered from mental violence and 06 (8.57%) respondents are family irritation and they don't talk with any family member respectively.

As per this table, the rate of physical violence is more than others because of Indian tradition which is forwarding the patriarchy system and no socio-economical status of women therefore the women have depended on their family members, especially males. The majority of women have dominated by males. In this way, men did physical violence against women.

**Table No.2**  
**Forms of Violence against women**

Forms of Violence against women	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Wife battering	40	57.15
Use of an abusive language	18	25.71
Harassed for Dowry	06	08.57
Torture by in-law	06	8.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Table No.2 shows that out of 70 respondents relates to forms of violence against women, the majority of the respondents 40 (57.15%) respondents were battered, 18 ( 25.71%) respondents were used abusive language and 06 (8.57%) respondents were harassed for dowry and torture by their in-laws. Was fond during the wife battering and use of abuse were main forms of violence against women respectively because all women have economical depended on their husbands. This is the main cause of domestic violence by their husband

**Type of family and domestic violence against women**

**Table No.3**  
**Type of Family and Domestic Violence against women**

Type of family	Total	Percentage
Joint	44	62.85
Nuclear	26	37.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Table No.3 shows the type of family and pattern of domestic violence against women and this table shows out of 70 respondents 44(62.85%) respondents were belonging to a joint family. And 26 (37.15%) respondents have related to nuclear family structure. It is observed that the majority of the women who are living with a joint family have victims of domestic violence means we can say that the nuclear family is more freedom for women meanwhile the joint family system is more related to domestic violence.

## Age and domestic violence against women

**Table No.4**

### Age-wise distribution of domestic violence against women

Age Group	Total	Percentage
20.24	19	27.15
25.29	16	22.85
30.34	18	25.72
35.40	09	12.85
40abouv	08	11.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Table No.4 shows that, Out of 70 respondents, the majority of 56(80%) respondents related to the first three categories. And the total number of respondents is 53 (75.71) respondents have related to the aged 20 to 34 years old of the respondents. And of these, all respondents have been victims of domestic violence after 69 years of independence of India. Therefore we can say that we have completed one and half decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is mostly close with science and equality of men and women. But in this century women are also insecure in their homes and men are enjoying and domain to women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Caste and domestic violence against women

**Table No.5**

### Caste-wise distribution and domestic violence against women

Caste	Total	Percentage
Brahmin	05	7.14
Marawadi	01	11.42
Maratha	24	34.28
Jain	05	7.14
Lingayat	04	5.74
Muslim	15	21.42
Buddhist	10	14.28
Dhangar	05	7.14
Koli	01	11.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>99.99</b>

Table No.5 indicates the caste-wise association of domestic violence against women. Out of the 70 respondents, the major proportion of sample 24(34.28%) respondents belonged to the Maratha community and many of the researchers observed that most women who belonged to the Maratha community were harassed for dowry in the Hindu religion because they have so many restrictions. In this community related to women. Therefore women have victims in this community compared with other communities. And women's voice is the marginal voice in this community even educated women also. Another thing is that 15

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(21.42%) Muslim women also related domestic violence already we know about the literacy rate of Muslims is very low compared with other religions. This community is forwarding rules and regulations related to religion and so many restrictions with Muslim women therefore they are suffering from domestic violence

**Occupation and domestic violence against women**

**Table No. 6**

**Occupation-wise distribution and domestic violence against women**

Distribution of Occupation	Total	Percentage
Agriculture	21	30%
Service in the private sector	20	28.57%
Business	17	24.28%
Labour	12	17.14%
Total	70	99.99%

Table No. 6 Shows the association between occupation-wise and violence against women. Out of 70 respondents, the majority of 21 (30%), 20 (28.57%) and 12 (17.14%) respondents engaged in agriculture, service in the private sector and labour respectively. This means these respondents doing work in an unorganized sector and their family economic position is very low therefore they are doing work in the unorganized sector for the improvement of the economic positions of their family. Their efforts for improvement of economical position meanwhile they are facing the problem of domestic violence.

**Education and violence against women**

**Education-wise and domestic violence against women**

**Table No. 7**

Educational level	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	06	8.59
Primary / Secondary Education	22	31.42
Higher Education	16	22.85
Graduate	24	34.28
Post Graduate	02	2.85
Total	70	99.99

Table No. 7 related the educational level of respondents and domestic violence this table indicates that out of the 70 respondents, the majority part of the 24 (34.28%) respondents have a graduate level. And we know about many social reformers, educational planners said that education is a basic tool for social change. But our data says that well-educated women also faced the problem of domestic violence. Hence the educational rate of women is behind males and the result is women have dominated by males. And the women

have faced the problems of domestic violence. Therefore in the present study also the majority of the women under the category of the primary and secondary education level of women have victims of domestic violence, meanwhile highly educated women also a victim of domestic violence then the question is emerging here How we can say education is a basic tool for social change and which type education which excepted by the social reformer.

The data revealed that most of the women married women younger and middle are were at higher of physical violence and demand of dowry and due of abusive language is a common phenomenon. The educational background of the victims is related to domestic violence. The study revealed that most cast women were violent by their demand dowry and violence by their husband and their relatives and the majority of women lived with joint families. The study also indicates that agriculture, service business and labour are at higher risk of violence in their family life.

### **Conclusion**

In India domestic violence is a social problem it has related to married women and they have faced domestic violence in their family life. Women have been given a very subordinate role and socio-economic status in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Even they have faced the problems of domestic violence perpetrated by their family members. Generally, an important part of the power relationship is their family's relatives demand dowry and physical, mentally harassment. The Government and NGO's organizations are taking efforts towards minimizing violence against women. The government has been giving shape to enacting relevant legislation and launching various women welfare schemes but it is needed to spread the awareness of domestic violence against women in our society.

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