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## Women & Domestic Violence: A Study in India

Jayanta Choudhury\*  
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### **Abstract**

*Gender discrimination can be track back to ancient society or civilization. The most common type of violence against women worldwide is “domestic violence” or the physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse of women by their intimate partners or ex-partners (Heise et al., 1999). Research on violence against women raises important ethical and methodological challenges in addition to those posed by any research. According to available statistics from around the world, about 33 per cent of the women have experienced violence in one form or the other in their intimate relationship at some point in their life (WHO, 1997). In India, the actual prevalence of domestic violence against women is scant. For a variety of reasons, women may fail to report violence that takes place in the family .Even today, various forms of violence against women are prevalent in our society, though many cases remain unreported due to cultural norms, apathy or ignorance. Present study try to enlighten the actual scenario of domestic violence in our society. The study is limited to view perception pertaining to domestic violence through schedule survey by purposive random sampling. The study was conducted in the state of Tripura as it ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in National Crime Record Bureau, 2015 regarding Violence against Women. Though, the study is confined to the analysis of socio-cultural and educational background of the victims of domestic violence, however, critical appreciation of pertinent literature and analysis of secondary data on matters related to domestic violence and other related aspects has been ensured in the study.*

**Keywords:** Gender, Violence against Women, Domestic Violence, World Health Organization

### **Introduction**

The status of women in India is a contested terrain as there are protagonist and antagonists of the conditions of women. The women have a significant role in the society as in the contemporary world the women contributes

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considerably in the private and public sphere and also to the country's economy (Smith, Merrill, 2004). There is definitely some progress in the condition of women in modern India compared to the past. Modernization and the development of educational facilities for women have changed the conditions to a large extent. But, the empirical reality seems to be different from what we perceive about the status of women in India.

Status of women is an essential prerequisite for women's liberation from male dominated society and also from other form of control. Cutting across the major religion of India, women treated as Goddess with astonishment and restraint by the humanity. In the boring world women have tremendous commanding regards of respects and regards from the society. But in case of status in family and community they face hardship and humiliation from patriarchal society (Das, 2013).

Violence & crime against women has been a worldwide epidemic. Crime against women is a common evil in Indian society and has deeply rooted traditional in Indian Culture. Crimes have been classified under Indian Penal code as Rape, kidnapping and abduction, homicide for dowry and dowry deaths, torture, molestation, sexual harassment and importation of girls. Violence against women is a serious problem in India.

Violence against women in particular hinders in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (WHO, 2005). The worst part of the problem is that women today are not feeling safe and secured even in the family. The concept of home, sweet home is no more, so far many women, who suffer violence against themselves by the members of the family.

Cutting across the boundaries of caste, class, religion and region, domestic violence is the most common type of VAW prevalent in India (Ghosh, 2007). Violence is not committed by the external agencies but even by husbands against wives. Many dowry deaths have been reported due to harassment by husbands and other family members. According to several research reports, violence against women certainly rise significantly because women has become sex object and she found herself suppressed and subjugated in a patriarchal society.

### **Extent of Domestic Violence against Women**

According to available statistics from around the world, one out of every three women has experienced violence in an intimate relationship at some point in her life. This is an average based on available national surveys across industrialized and developing countries (World Health Organization 1997). The common elements in all these type of violence against women are gender and power. At the core of feminist explanations is the view that all violence is a reflection of unequal power relationships: domestic violence reflects the unequal power of men and women in society and also, therefore, within their personal relationships (Sharma, 1997). Statistical

evidence on the actual prevalence of domestic violence in India is scant however. The few studies available indicate that physical abuse of Indian women is quite high, ranging from 22 percent to 60 percent of women surveyed (Rao 1996 and Mahajan 1990). The NCRB reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. Domestic violence against women is almost universal social problem. As domestic violence mainly takes place behind closed doors, within the family environments, it is very difficult to collect reliable figures on this social problem. Ten thousands domestic violence cases by major states in India are reported against woman during 2006-2007 after implementation of Domestic Violence Act 2005 (After prevention of Domestic violence Act-2006). The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) Report 2003 indicates that 36.1 per cent of the total reported crimes against women pertain to domestic violence. However, various studies highlight the enormity of the problem.

### **Domestic Violence Against Women**

#### **Industrialized Countries**

##### **Canada**

29% of women (a nationally representative sample of 12,300 women) reported being physically assaulted by a current or former partner since the age of 16.

##### **Japan**

59% of 796 women surveyed in 1993 reported being physically abused by their partner.

##### **New Zealand**

20% of 314 women surveyed reported being hit or physically abused by a male partner.

##### **Switzerland**

20% of 1,500 women reported being physically assaulted according to a 1997 survey.

##### **United Kingdom**

25% of women (a random sample of women from one district) had been punched or slapped by a partner or ex-partner in their lifetime.

##### **United States**

28% of women (a nationally representative sample of women) reported at least one episode of physical violence from their partner.

#### **Asia and the Pacific Cambodia**

16% of women (a nationally representative sample of women) reported being physically abused by a spouse; 8% report being injured.

##### **India**

Up to 45% of married men acknowledged physically abusing their wives, according to a 1996 survey of 6,902 men in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

##### **Korea**

38% of wives reported being physically abused by their spouse based on a survey of a random sample of women.

##### **Thailand**

|  |
|--|
| 20% of husbands (a representative sample of 619 husbands) acknowledged physically abusing their wives at least once in their marriage.   |
| <p><b>Middle East Egypt</b><br/>35% of women (a nationally representative sample of women) reported being beaten by their husband at some point in their marriage.</p> <p><b>Israel</b><br/>32% of women reported at least one episode of physics by their partner and 30% report sexual coercion by their husbands in the previous year, according to a 1997 survey of 1,826 Arab women.</p>  |
| <p><b>Africa</b></p> <p><b>Kenya</b><br/>42% of 612 women surveyed in one district reported having been beaten by a partner; of those 58% reported that they were beaten often or sometimes.</p> <p><b>Uganda</b><br/>41% of women reported being beaten or physically harmed by a partner; 41% of men reported beating their partner (representative sample of women and their partners in two districts).</p> <p><b>Zimbabwe</b><br/>32% of 966 women in one province reported physical abuse by a family or household member since the age of 16, according to a 1996 survey.</p> |

*Source: Women's Aid – the national domestic violence charity in England*

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) carried out in 29 states during 2005-2006 and released in 2007 reveals over 37 per cent married women in the country are victims of physical or sexual abuse by their husbands. Over 40 per cent of Indian women have experienced domestic violence at some point in their married lives, and nearly 55 per cent think that spousal abuse is warranted in several circumstances. The survey showed that countrywide more women face violence in rural areas (40.2) as compared to those in the urban areas (30.4). NFHS-III found that over a third of women who had been married at any point in their lives said they had been pushed, slapped, shaken or otherwise attacked by their husband at least once. Slapping was the most common act of physical violence by husbands. More than 34 per cent of women said their husbands slapped them, while 15 per cent said their husbands pulled their hair or twisted their arm. Around 14 per cent of the women had things thrown at them. The survey also found that one in six wives had been emotionally abused by their husbands, while one in 10, have experienced sexual violence like marital rape on at least one occasion. Experience of different forms of violence by women in the age group of 15-49 is shown in below.

**Experience of Different Forms of Violence**

| State | Physical violence only | Sexual violence only | Physical and sexual violence | Physical or sexual violence |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| India | 26.9                   | 1.8                  | 6.7                          | 35.4                        |

| <b>Age</b>            |      |     |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|------|
| 15 – 19               | 18.0 | 1.8 | 2.7  | 22.5 |
| 15 – 17               | 18.6 | 1.4 | 1.6  | 21.6 |
| 18 – 19               | 17.2 | 2.4 | 4.2  | 23.8 |
| 20 – 24               | 24.7 | 2.4 | 6.2  | 33.2 |
| 25 – 29               | 29.7 | 1.9 | 8.4  | 39.9 |
| 30 – 39               | 30.8 | 1.7 | 8.5  | 41.1 |
| 40 – 49               | 30.5 | 1.3 | 7.2  | 39.0 |
| <b>Residence</b>      |      |     |      |      |
| Urban                 | 23.5 | 1.1 | 4.8  | 29.4 |
| Rural                 | 28.5 | 2.1 | 7.6  | 38.3 |
| <b>Marital Status</b> |      |     |      |      |
| Ever married          | 29.7 | 2.1 | 8.3  | 40.1 |
| Never married         | 15.7 | 0.8 | 0.3  | 16.9 |
| <b>States</b>         |      |     |      |      |
| Delhi                 | 14.9 | 0.2 | 1.4  | 16.5 |
| Haryana               | 23.4 | 1.4 | 4.3  | 29.0 |
| Himachal Pradesh      | 4.1  | 0.3 | 1.1  | 5.6  |
| Jammu & Kashmir       | 10.1 | 0.9 | 1.9  | 12.9 |
| Punjab                | 25.0 | 1.0 | 4.9  | 30.9 |
| Rajasthan             | 27.5 | 4.6 | 12.6 | 44.6 |
| Uttaranchal           | 22.1 | 0.4 | 4.2  | 26.8 |
| Chhatisgarh           | 24.0 | 0.8 | 5.3  | 30.1 |
| Madhya Pradesh        | 37.0 | 1.4 | 8.4  | 46.8 |
| Uttar Pradesh         | 30.3 | 1.1 | 6.7  | 38.1 |
| Bihar                 | 38.9 | 2.9 | 13.8 | 55.6 |
| Jharkhand             | 23.5 | 2.1 | 9.2  | 34.8 |
| Orissa                | 24.5 | 3.5 | 8.2  | 36.2 |
| West Bengal           | 19.9 | 6.2 | 12.2 | 38.3 |
| Arunachal Pradesh     | 25.1 | 2.8 | 7.5  | 35.5 |
| Assam                 | 24.7 | 2.2 | 9.6  | 36.5 |
| Manipur               | 28.8 | 2.1 | 7.9  | 38.9 |
| Meghalaya             | 14.6 | 0.4 | 1.0  | 16.0 |
| Mizoram               | 22.9 | 0.5 | 2.1  | 25.5 |
| Nagaland              | 12.9 | 3.1 | 3.0  | 19.0 |
| Sikkim                | 16.8 | 1.6 | 2.4  | 20.9 |
| Tripura               | 28.9 | 2.5 | 13.2 | 44.7 |
| Goa                   | 12.5 | 0.6 | 1.8  | 15.0 |
| Gujarat               | 20.7 | 2.2 | 4.8  | 27.8 |
| Maharashtra           | 27.2 | 0.3 | 1.7  | 29.2 |
| Andhra Pradesh        | 29.9 | 0.5 | 3.4  | 33.8 |
| Karnataka             | 16.7 | 0.2 | 2.9  | 19.9 |
| Kerala                | 12.6 | 1.3 | 3.4  | 17.3 |
| Tamil Nadu            | 36.1 | 0.0 | 2.5  | 38.7 |

*Source: NFHS-III, 2006-07*

Domestic Violence knows no bound like age, socio-economic, religious, racial, gender or educational barriers. Kothari (2005) reviewed the criminal law on domestic violence. He is of the view that policing reforms and policy framework is required for prevention of domestic violence against women. Saha & Dutta (2004) presented an overview of domestic violence against women in India. They also discussed about the various consequences of domestic violence.

According to the Department of Justice of the United States of America 95 percent of the victims of domestic violence are women. The National Crime Victimization Survey in the U.S.A. consistently finds that no matter who initiates the violence, women are 7 to 10 times more likely to be injured than are men. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the U.S.A. about 2 million men per year beat their partners. The Council of Europe - Europe's leading human rights organization-has shown that 12-15 percent women in Europe face violence in the home every day.

UNESCO (1993) presented the case studies of domestic violence in India and Korea. The report also presented the review of legal enactments on violence against women during 1980 – 89. GTZ (2002) presented the theoretical perspective of domestic violence against women and girls. Nigam (2008) presented the detailed analysis of domestic violence in India. She also critically reviewed the legal and policy framework for the prevention of domestic violence against women. Uma Devi (2005) edited a volume on violence against women in human rights perspectives. S.C. Singh (2005) examined some contextual issues pertaining to gender violence.

The aforesaid studies by different authors in different time period pinpointed that domestic as well as gender based violence is a common phenomena in women daily lives. The form and magnitude of the violence may differ from period to period, nation to nation, country to country, society to society but the object may retain as same as earlier, the women. So the present study had tried to find the very causes of violence against women specially domestic violence.

The findings of this study are expected to enlighten individuals and the community on the causes and consequences of gender based violence in Tripura. In addition, the study is likely to sensitize regarding domestic violence and offer support services where necessary. It is also expected that the findings of this study should expose community-derived methods of managing and resolving the problem of domestic violence.

### **Objective of the Study**

The study mainly focuses on the following objectives considering the need of the research topic:

*To find out the causes of domestic violence in rural Tripura.*

## Research Methodology

The present study will explore the status and causes of violence against women. The study will be based on mainly primary data collected through field survey. Besides, the study will be analytical in its approach as it envisages reviewing critically the present status, causes of violence.

In order to collect data in grass root level purposive sampling had been adopted for selection of Village named as Noagaon Gram Panchayat under Jirania R.D block. Snowball sampling method was carried out with the help of key informant like ASHA worker, ASHA Facilitator of that area. Total 50 nos household had been surveyed where 24nos were Hindu household and rest were from Minority. In each household ever married, 15-49 years age group, aged single women was surveyed and tried to collect the data regarding their last 12 months experience.

## Mode of Data Collection

### *Primary Data*

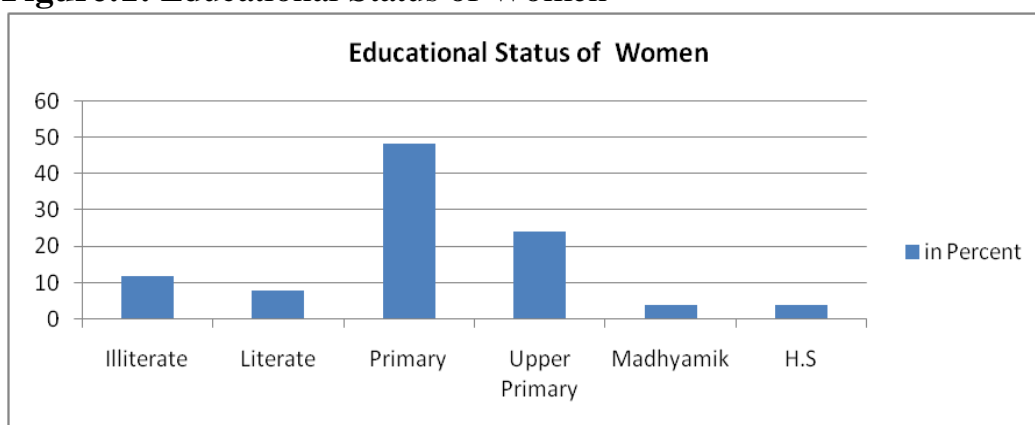
The primary data were collected from the survey of women population. The field survey will be conducted with the help of structured interview schedules, group discussion. Interview schedules were contain questions pertain to the objective of the study.

### *Secondary Data*

The secondary data and pertinent literature will be compiled from published, documented and internet sources, survey reports like NFHS report, Census report, NCRB report etc.

## Result & Discussion

**Figure:1:** Educational Status of Women

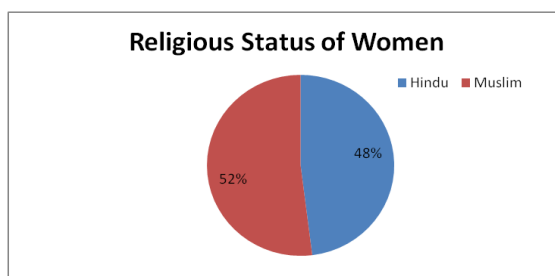


### *Field Survey, 2015*

The above mention graph highlighted the educational qualification of the respondents. The maximum number of the respondent were educated upto primary level (48%) and then 24% were educated up to upper primary level, where as 12% were illiterate and only 4% in each level were educated up to Madhyamik and H.S level.



**Figure.2:** Religious Status of Women



*Field Survey, 2015*

The pie chart shows the religious composition of the respondents. Among the surveyed women 52% were from Muslim religion and rest 48% were Hindu. The surveyed population was mixed culture of Hindu and Muslim habitation.

**Table: 1:** Age Group Composition

| Sl.No | Age Group        | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.    | >18yrs           | 5 (20.83)               | 7(26.92)                |
| 2.    | 18 To 32 Yrs     | 11(45.84)               | 13(50)                  |
| 3.    | 33 To 45 Yrs     | 5(20.83)                | 4(15.39)                |
| 4.    | 45 Yrs And Above | 3(12.5)                 | 2(7.69)                 |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The table reveals the age group composition of the surveyed women of the said study. Mostly are from the age group of 18 to 32 yrs among the both community respectively in Hindu 45.84 percent and in Muslim 50 percent. The second largest age group percentage amongst the surveyed women is >18 yrs.

**Table: 2:** Occupational Structure Of The Household

| Sl.No | Occupation   | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) |
|-------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.    | Agriculture  | 12 (50)                 | 8(30.76)                |
| 2.    | Business     | 2(8.33)                 | 1(3.84)                 |
| 3.    | Service      | 0(0)                    | 1(3.84)                 |
| 4.    | Daily Worker | 7(29.16)                | 11(42.3)                |
| 5.    | Others       | 3(12.5)                 | 5(19.26)                |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The above table pinpointed the main occupational structure of the target population. Among the Hindu households the primary occupation mainly depends on Agriculture (50%), then daily labour (29.16%). Where as in the Muslim community mostly the primary occupation is daily labour (42.3%) and 30.76 percent engaged in agriculture and agriculture based activities. It is surprising that in service sector only 1.92 percent on an averagely engaged.

**Table. 3:** Type of Marriage

| Sl.No | Type of Marriage | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.    | Love             | 3(12.5)                 | 2 (7.69)                |
| 2.    | Arrange          | 20(83.34)               | 21(80.77)               |
| 3.    | Both             | 1(4.16)                 | 3(11.54)                |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The aforesaid table focuses the type of the institution of marriage among the surveyed women. Maximum percentage (88.8) of the target population tied the knot of marriage by socially arrange manner in both religions. Very less percentage (7.7 & 11.5) the surveyed group were marriage both by love and love cum arranging manner.

**Table. 4:** Registration of Marriage

| Sl.No | Registration of Marriage | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim (No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Yes                      | 1(4.17)                 | 0                        | 1 (2%)   |
| 2.    | No                       | 23(95.83)               | 26(100)                  | 49 (98%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The above table demonstrates the legal registration of marriage both in Hindu and Muslim household. It is really, surprising only one victim had their marriage legally registered where as rest 98 percent did not register their marriage still.

**Table. 5:** Demand for Dowry

| Sl.No | Given Dowry | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Yes         | 23 (95.83)              | 24 (92.31)              | 47 (94%) |
| 2.    | No          | 1 (4.17)                | 2 (7.69)                | 3 (6%)   |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The above mentioned table apparently showed the giving and receiving of dowry during the social ritual of marriage. The maximum (92-95%) number of surveyed women accepted that offering and receiving of dowry happened during their marriage. Whereas the very less percent (3%) of the surveyed women answered that dowry was not entitled during the occasion of marriage.

**Table. 6:** Type of Offered Dowry

| .  | Type of Dowry | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) | Total    |
|----|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Cash          | 3 (12.5)                | 4 (19.23)               | 7 (14%)  |
| 2. | Kind          | 1 (8.33)                | 3 (11.54)               | 4 (8%)   |
| 3. | Both          | 19 (79.16)              | 18 (69.23)              | 37 (74%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The present table illustrates the type of dowry received during the marriage ceremony. On an average 74 percent women told that cash and kind both type of dowry had been received by their in-laws during the custom of marriage. On the other hand it seems that rest respondent accepted the fact that dowry was received either in cash or kind during their marriage.

**Table. 7:** Perpetrator of Violence

| Sl.No | Perpetrator          | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Husband/ Partner     | 17 (70.83)              | 16 (61.54)              | 33 (66%) |
| 2.    | Other Family Members | 1 (4.17)                | 3 (11.54)               | 4 (8%)   |
| 3.    | All                  | 6 (25)                  | 7 (26.92)               | 13 (26%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

Above table pointed out the main perpetrators of the domestic violence on women counter-part. Most (66 percent) of the respondent, identified their male counterpart means their husbands as the main perpetrator and 26 percent argued as the all family members as perpetrator.

**Table. 8:** Type of Violence

| Sl.No | Type Of Violence         | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim (No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Physical                 | 21 (87.5)               | 23 (88.46)               | 44 (88%) |
| 2.    | Sexual                   | 4 (16.67)               | 5 (19.23)                | 9 (18%)  |
| 3.    | Psychological            | 11 (45.83)              | 13 (50)                  | 24 (48%) |
| 4.    | Economic                 | 18 (75)                 | 21 (80.77)               | 39 (78%) |
| 5.    | Physical & Sexual        | 2 (8.33)                | 1 (3.85)                 | 3 (6%)   |
| 6.    | Physical & Psychological | 3 (12.5)                | 7 (26.92)                | 10 (20%) |
| 7.    | Physical & Economic      | 6 (25)                  | 11 (42.31)               | 17 (34%) |
| 8.    | All Of The Above         | 5 (20.83)               | 7 (26.92)                | 12 (24%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

Aforesaid table perpetuated the different types of violence faced the respondent in their married life. Amazingly it was found that majority (88%) of the respondent experienced physical violence, 48 percent suffered from psychological violence, where as 78 percent facing economic violence. Only 6 percent women admitted that they were suffering from physical as well as sexual violence, on the other side 24 percent admitted that more or less they experienced all type of above mentioned violence.

**Table. 9:** Frequency of Violence:

| Sl. No. | Frequency of Violence | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim(No & Percentage) | Total    |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1.      | Daily                 | 8 (33.33)               | 9 (34.62)               | 17 (34%) |
| 2.      | Once A Week           | 2 (8.33)                | 1 (3.85)                | 3(6%)    |

|    |                            |           |           |          |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 3. | Thrice A Week              | 1(4.16)   | 1 (3.85)  | 2 (4%)   |
| 4. | Once A Month               | 1 (4.16)  | 0         | 1 (2%)   |
| 5. | Thrice A Month             | 2 (8.34)  | 2 (7.69)  | 4 (8%)   |
| 6. | Number Of Times In A Month | 5 (20.84) | 6 (23.07) | 11 (22%) |
| 7. | Uncertain                  | 5 (20.84) | 7 (26.92) | 13 (26%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The above mentioned table assumed the frequency of violence perpetrated on the respondent in their daily life. 34 percent women admitted that the occurrence of violence happened daily in their life, where as 26 percent experienced uncertain tortures. Amongst the all respondent 22 percent faced violence many at times in every month.

**Table. 10:** Causes of Violence

| Sl.No | Causes of Violence                             | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim (No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Dowry  | 13 (54.17)              | 11 (42.31)               | 24 (48%) |
| 2.    | Demand To Bring More Money From Maternal House | 9 (37.5)                | 7 (26.92)                | 16 (32%) |
| 3.    | Extra Marital Relation                         | 6 (25)                  | 8 (30.77)                | 14 (28%) |
| 4.    | Alcoholism                                     | 17 (70.83)              | 9 (34.62)                | 26 (52%) |
| 5.    | Poverty / Employment Problem / Unemployment    | 21 (4.17)               | 23 (88.46)               | 44 (88%) |
| 6.    | Any Social Taboo                               | 1 (4.17)                | 4 (15.38)                | 5 (10%)  |
| 7.    | Repeated Birth Of Girl Child                   | 1 (4.17)                | 2 (7.69)                 | 3 (6%)   |
| 8.    | Others   | 1(4.17)                 | 3 (11.53)                | 4 (8%)   |

*Field Survey, 2015*

The present table pinpointed the root causes of domestic violence in rural areas. Nearly 88 percent respondent admitted poverty or unemployment as the root cause of their domestic violence. Secondly, 48 percent chalked out dowry and 32 percent blamed demanding of more dowry or pressure for money from their maternal home as the function cause of domestic violence. Another most uttered cause of violence was addiction of alcohol of the male counterpart about 52 percent.

**Table. 11:** Economic Dependency

| Sl.No | Economic Dependency of Victim on The Male Counter Part | Hindu (No & Percentage) | Muslim (No & Percentage) | Total    |
|-------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Dependent  | 15 (62.5)               | 19 (73.08)               | 34 (68%) |
| 2.    | Independent (Earner)                                   | 9 (37.5)                | 7 (26.92)                | 16 (32%) |

*Field Survey, 2015*

Presently the aforesaid table focuses on the economic status as well as dependency of the respondent for economic purposes. Surprisingly about 68 percent women were fully dependent on their male counter part for their economic issues. Least but not less nearly 32 percent women were self sufficient and earner in the family. Comparatively among the Muslim households mostly 73 percent women were economically dependent on their male counterpart.

**Table. 12:** Justifying Domestic Violence

| Sl. No | Indicator             | Range            | Religion |        |         |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------|----------|--------|---------|
|        |                       |                  | Hindu    | Muslim | Total   |
| 1.     | Age                   | >18yrs           | 2        | 4      | 6 (12)  |
|        |                       | 18 to 32 yrs     | 9        | 10     | 19 (38) |
|        |                       | 33 to 45 yrs     | 4        | 3      | 7 (14)  |
|        |                       | 45 yrs and above | 3        | 2      | 5 (10)  |
| 2.     | Education             | Illiterate       | 4        | 6      | 10 (20) |
|        |                       | Literate         | 10       | 11     | 21 (42) |
|        |                       | Primary          | 2        | 3      | 5 (10)  |
|        |                       | Upper Primary    | 0        | 1      | 1 (2)   |
|        |                       | Madhyamik        | 0        | 0      | 0 (0)   |
|        |                       | H.S              | 0        | 0      | 0 (0)   |
| 3.     | Type of Marriage      | Love             | 3        | 2      | 5 (10)  |
|        |                       | Arrange          | 13       | 15     | 28 (56) |
|        |                       | Both             | 1        | 3      | 4 (8)   |
| 4.     | Marriage Registration | Yes              | 0        | 0      | 0 (0)   |
|        |                       | No               | 18       | 19     | 37 (74) |
| 5.     | Dowry                 | Yes              | 15       | 19     | 34 (68) |
|        |                       | No               | 1        | 2      | 3 (6)   |

*Field Survey, 2015*

A part from the religion the above table reflects the women respondents who have justifying domestic violence as a part of their married life. Out of total respondents 74 percent had justifying domestic violence as normal phenomenon. The table also highlighted that the composition of 74 percent have justifying domestic violence had less education as with the higher level education did not acknowledge it. Besides that comparatively younger age group of women did not support the fact. Where as majority respondent did not had marriage registration and also gave dowry during their occasion of marriage. But in case of marriage type love (10 percent), arrange (56 percent), both (8 percent) had more or less justifying the occurrence of domestic violence.

### Major Findings

While analyzing the collected primary data some major points had been highlighted depending on the objective of the present study. It may be very

much higher than that the reports indicate because many instances of domestic violence against women are not reported. The research studies and surveys conducted by individuals generally produce higher estimates of violence than official records. However, they are also assumed to underestimate the actual extent of domestic violence against women. For a variety of reasons, women may fail to report violence that takes place in the family.

- Majority of the women were found educationally backward as the educational levels were reported to be poor. Overwhelming majority of the domestic victims was reported as married. Most of the respondents reported that they were married in the age group of 16-20 years.
- Most of the women were found belonging to labour and peasant class. They were mainly from joint families. The main occupation of their families was reported to be labour, agriculture.
- In majority of the cases, respondents reported that family matters are being decided by in-laws and elders and their share in decision making is found to be meager. Ever their participation on decision making in family matters is reported to be discouraging by their family members. Thus, their position in family is found to be under the dominance of their husbands and in-laws.
- Most of the respondents reported that their spouses are alcoholic. Even more than half of the respondents reported that their spouses are unemployed, poverty or problem in employment. Around 60 per cent respondents further revealed that their husbands are under mental stress.
- Most of the respondent marked their husband as the main perpetrator where as a number of victims identified the husband and other in laws as the perpetrator of violence.
- Among the all causes of domestic violence, offering of dowry during the occasion of marriage were highest. And it was also seemed that amongst the respondent 48 percent identified dowry as one of the cause of their violence. On the other side 98 percent marriage were not legally registered yet.
- Overall, most of the respondents experience the different types of domestic violence. It was reported high in case of scolding, rude behavior, mental harassment, beating, torturing and repeated quarrels.
- The majority of the women that experience physical violence reported that they have experience of slapping, pushing, beating, kicking and beating with cane, sexual abuse, etc. Similarly, a number of women reported that the main emotional violence are related to blaming for everything that goes wrong in the family, frequently charging on small and negligible matters, compelling to feel guilty for no fault, freedom to express views on family matters, threatening of divorce and desertification. Where as a large number of women reported that due unemployment or employment problem was suffering from economic violence too.

- Two third of the respondent women were fully depend on their counterpart for economic purposes where as one third had some sources of their earning not actually depend on husband and were comparatively less victim of domestic violence.
- The frequency of violence is found to be uncertain in number of cases; however, about 34 percent and 22 percent respondents reported that it is either daily or a number of times in a month. The degree of frequency of violence varies depending upon socio-cultural and economic background characteristics of women.
- The main causes of violence are reported to be refused to bring money from patriarchal society, partial fulfillment or no fulfillment of promises made at the time of settlement of marriage, extra-marital relations, and resistance for sexual abuse, medically unfit for bearing child, dowry, etc. However, the most prominent factors of domestic violence were reported to be alcoholism and drug addiction of husbands and their unemployed status.

### **Policy Recommendations**

In order to bridge the gap between legislations and their implementations, a multi-sectoral approach is needed that tackles various levels concurrently. Improving the legal and institutional framework for the protection of women and girls is crucial to preventing and combating gender-based violence effectively.

- Besides reducing gender-based violence, sustainable poverty reduction is only possible if systematic improvements are made granting women access to education and health care and control over economic resources. This is also prerequisites for equal say in social and economic decision making process.
- There is need to upgrade skills of people working in different organizations. Strengthening capacity of personnel of government and non-government organizations addressing the issue of domestic violence against women is the need of hour. Training and professional development is essential for professionals who come into contract with women subjected to violence.
- Public awareness programmes that are carefully designed and coherently oriented around economic and political initiatives should include gender sensitization components. In order to accomplish this, networks between organizations, between activists, and between state officers need to be strengthened.
- A massive awareness campaign involving the community, religious leaders, women's organizations, civil societies, NGOs and other opinion makers is necessary to counter the present trend of domestic violence against women.

- Women must be made aware about legislations, legal provisions, rights and entitlements while equal social rights of women in at family and community level is suggested. State must actively intervene to protect women's social, political, economic and cultural rights and withdraw restrictive legal and administrative provisions, which tend to weaken their rights in practice.
- Administrative intervention for mass Registration of marriage is needed and in connection with that administrative camps may organize with the help of the VOs, NGOs in the remotest of the remote part of the state.
- Community level worker may engage in identifying the actual victims and the perpetrator too. In this way with the help of Govt. agencies, VOs, NGOs may counsel the matter and also tried to provide some livelihood activities or skill training to break out the vicious cycle of the violence.

### **Conclusion**

Domestic violence against women is an age old phenomena. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. A life cycle approach is useful to examine the situation of domestic violence against women. Due to several economic and social factors, the incidence of domestic violence against women is increasing in many societies. The nature and extent of domestic violence vary depending upon the socio-cultural setup and value system. The research studies and surveys conducted by individuals generally produce higher estimates of violence than official records. However, they are also assumed to underestimate the actual extent of domestic violence against women. For a variety of reasons, women may fail to report violence that takes place in the family. The domestic violence is mainly reported in form of emotional violence; however, nature and frequency of domestic violence vary depending upon the socio-cultural variables. The main reasons of domestic violence are related to economic spheres; however, other social factors also influence the nature and frequency of domestic violence.

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