

A RESEARCH STUDY REPORT

“A Study of Nature, Extent, Incidence and Impact of Domestic Violence Against Women in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.”

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A STUDY ON NATURE, INCIDENCE, EXTENT AND IMPACT OFF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE STATES OF ANDHRA PRADESH, CHHATTISGARH, GUJRAT, MADHYA PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present study on “ The Nature, Incidence, Extent and Impact of domestic Violence against Women in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra was undertaken in the backdrop of the reports appearing in visual and written media depicting inhuman treatment to the women metted to them by their own family members. A research study proposal was submitted to the Planning commission, Government of India for grant-in-aid for conducting the study, which was approved.

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives –

1. To study the nature, extent and incidence of domestic violence against women.
2. To identify the correlates of domestic violence against women.
3. To find out the relationship between traditional sex-based roles and the domestic violence.
4. To examine whether dependency objective or subjective or both is the cause, condition or instigating factor of domestic violence.
5. To find out whether the abused women seek the help of informal or formal agencies and to what extent these agencies are successful in solving the problems of the abused women.
6. To trace the reasons for which abused women continue to stay in abusive relationship.
7. To examine the impact of domestic violence on the abused women, their children and intra-family relations.
8. To suggest measures to control, minimize and, if possible, eliminate domestic violence against women.

The present study was conducted in urban and rural areas of the five adjoining states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

A random sample of 1250 families was drawn from the universe, selecting 250 families (125 from urban and 125 from rural areas) from each state. The sample drawn from urban and rural areas represented the families from upper class, middle class and lower class, middle class and lower class. While drawing sample from each state, the geographical area of the state was divided into five zones i.e. East, West, North, south and Central. The selection of districts and places was also done on random sampling basis. A sample of 50 families (25 from urban and 25 from rural areas) was also drawn on purposive random sampling basis to give proper representation to families belonging to different socio-economic groups and religions.

For collecting primary and secondary data from different sources the following tools and techniques were used -

1. Interview Schedule for women respondents.
2. Observation Schedule for Investigators.
3. Informal discussion with family members and neighbors.
4. Informal interview with social activists, officials of police department and officers of social welfare department in each state.

Primary data was collected by the teams of investigators deputed in each state and the secondary data was collected by coordinator and the research officer. The collected data was processed and statistical analysis carried with the help of computers..

The respondents (women) covered by the study were equally spread over the urban and rural areas of the five states in which the study was conducted. Data relating to their demographic and social background was collected for proper analysis and interpretation of their responses.

Out of 1250 respondents in five states a large majority of about 78 percent was in the age range of 18 to 40 years. Statewise analysis disclosed that out of 250 respondents in each state the percentage of respondents in 18 to 40 age group was 88 in Andhra Pradesh, 84 in Chhattisgarh, 52 in Gujrat, 87 in Madhya Pradesh and 78 in Maharashtra. Out of 625 respondents from urban and rural areas each the respondents in the age group of 18 to 40 years were 63 percent and 79 percent respectively. The statewise analysis of present age of respondents also disclosed that in all the states except Gujrat maximum number of respondents were in the age group of 25-30 years, whereas in Gujrat the maximum number of respondents were in the age group of 41-45 years.

The analysis of data relating to the age at marriage disclosed that out of 1250 respondents a large majority of about 89 percent was married at the age of 16 to 24 years. The statewise analysis revealed that about 96 percent of the respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 71 percent from Chhattisgarh, 94 percent from Gujrat, 89 percent from Madhya Pradesh and 96 percent from Maharashtra were married when they were in the age range of 16-24 years.

Out of 1250 respondents from all the five states about 82 percent were married, about 9 percent separated, about 3 percent divorced and about 6 percent widows.

Out of 1250 respondents from the five states taken together about 61 percent were from nuclear families and 39 percent from joint families. Out of 250 respondents from each of the five states 72 percent of the respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 59 percent from Chhattisgarh, 57 percent from Gujrat, 63 percent from Madhya Pradesh and 52 percent from Maharashtra were living with nuclear families as against 28 percent, 41 percent, 43 percent respectively with joint families. Thus the respondents living with nuclear families were in majority in all the states covered by the study.

About 28 percent of the respondents from all the five states taken together were illiterate, 15 percent each had education up to primary level and middle

school level, 12 percent passed S.S.C. examination and 9 percent H.S.S.C. examination. Only about 15 percent of the respondents were graduates and about 6 percent were post-graduates. The number of illiterate respondents was more (58%) in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (40%) as compared to other states. Thus near about 50 percent of the respondents have reached up to the middle school level.

A large majority of respondents (70 percent) were Hindu by religion. The Muslims, Christians, Boudhas Jains and Parsis constituted about 8 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent, 3 percent and 0.5 percent respectively. Similar trend was observed in all the states except Chhattisgarh where Hindu respondents were only 54 percent and Christians and Boudhas were 12 and 16 percent respectively. In Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra the Boudhas were 17 and 18 percent respectively.

Nearly half of the respondents (50%) were house –wives by occupation, about 27 percent were working as industrial labour or maidservants. Only 13 percent of them were in service, 7 percent in profession and 3 percent in small business.

The analysis of socio-economics status of families of the respondents revealed that about 42 percent of the total respondents belonged to Middle Class or Lower Middle Class families about 24 percent were from lower class families living below poverty line. Only 11 percent of the respondents were from Higher Middle Class and about 9 percent from Upper Class.

Efforts were made to collect information about the respondents' perception of domestic violence against women. Beating, Touchering, Scolding, Insulting, Sexual Abuse, Suspecting Character, Repeated Quarrels, Mental harassment and Rude Behaviour of Family Members were reported by the respondents as their perception of domestic violence against women.

Domestic violence against women in the family takes place as a result of instigation by someone. The respondents were asked to identify the principal

instigator of violence in their families. Contrary to the general contention a large majority of 39 percent of the respondents identified the husband as principal instigator of violence. Mother-in-law was identified as instigator of violence by about 30 percent of the respondents. About 12 percent of the respondents named sister-in-law whereas about 7 percent identified Brother-in-law as instigators of violence. In about 12 percent of the cases relatives of the husband were involved in instigating violence against the respondents. Father-in-law was reported as principal instigator in about 8 percent of the cases.

For the purpose of the present study physical violence is defined as any action of the perpetrator used against a women with the intention of causing her physical injury. This defilation covers the most common and frequently used forms of physical violence against women in our country i.e. slaps, beating, pushing, kicking, throwing injurious objects, beating with cane, burning with rod, sexual abuse and coercion and so on. With a view to know the nature and extent of physical violence faced by women in the five states covered by the study the respondents were asked to report the nature of physical violence experienced by them.

Out of 1250 respondents 204 (about 16 percent) did not experience any physical violence in the family, but the remaining 84 percent had experienced physical violence in one form or the other. About 59 percent of the total respondents were victims of beating, slapping, pushing and kicking, about 14 percent were torched by beating with cane, burning with rod and throwing injurious objects at them. About 5 percent were assaulted with weapons and about 10 percent were the victims of sexual coercion and abuse. The overall picture of physical violence was nearly the same in all the states covered by the study.

Domestic violence against women also includes placing women in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. This includes threats of violence or any other conduct that would cause substantial emotional distress. The nature and extent of such emotional violence was studied by the research team. The respondents reported that they were insulted repeatedly in the presence of their

children and relatives (28%), were blamed for every thing that went wrong in the family (27%), frequently charged for small and negligible matters (27%), compelled to feel guilty for no faults (20%), given threats of divorce (12%), given treatment like a servant (19%), subjected to strict watch on their movements (15%), prohibited to meet parents, friends and relatives (12%), had no freedom to express views on family matters (12%), subjected to negligence of health (17%), suspected for extra-marital relations (11%), insulting and ugly language was used for them (14%), repeatedly blamed for improper house keeping (17%), harassed by badly criticising family background (17%), criticised for lack of or less intelligence repeatedly (13%), were given threats of suicide by husband (11%) and were given verbal treats to use physical force (13%).

Further analysis of data collected from the states revealed that nearly 90 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 were victims of emotional abuse in one form or the other. Out of these 90 per cent victims 30 per cent were from rural areas and 60 per cent from urban areas. Thus the incidence and extent of emotional violence are at higher rates in urban areas as compared with rural areas. It was also observed that the extent of emotional abuse of women is greater in lower middle class and middle class families as compared to upper class, higher middle class, lower class and below poverty line families.

Economic abuse is yet another form of domestic violence against women. It is the result of dependency, objective, subjective or both. The major forms of economic abuse are preventing a woman from taking a job, forcing her to leave the existing job, collecting full amount of her salary under force, pressurising her for bringing money from her parents' family again and again and prohibiting her from making purchases of her choice. The data analysis disclosed that about 89 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 were victims of economic abuse in one form or the other. The data clearly leads to the conclusion that a sizable number of women are being abused economically in each of the five states covered by the study i.e. Andhra

Pradesh 183, Chhattisgarh 155, Gujrat 187, Madhya Pradesh 122 and Maharashtra 181.

The study of frequency of violence experienced by the women respondents revealed that out of 1250 respondents about 16 per cent each were subjected to violence once or twice in a week and once or twice in a month. In about 15 per cent each of the cases the violence took place practically every day, occasionally and at any time suddenly. It is, however, difficult to catch the exact frequency of violence in terms of periodicity. Hence, the responses should be treated only as a trend.

About 73 per cent of the women respondents were undergoing domestic violence for a period of more than one year as against only 16 per cent who experienced violence for less than a year.

The causes of domestic violence as reported by the women respondents were parents' failure to pay full amount of dowry (11%), refusal to bring money from patriarchal family (13%), parents' failure to keep promises and fulfil commitments made at the time of marriage (8%), pre-marital love affairs suspected (9%), extra marital relations (10%), resistance to sexual abuse (4%), medically unfit for conception (7%), female-child is delivered every time (7%), husband's unemployment (13%), husband had problems at work place (19%) and husband's alcoholism (25%). The alcoholic husband was the cause of domestic violence in one-fourth of the cases. The examination of data relating to causes of domestic violence revealed that a single cause was not at the root of violence in all cases but a mix of causes was observed in sufficiently large number of cases.

The study of immediate reaction to domestic violence disclosed that around 26 per cent of the respondents resisted, 25 per cent each fought back and had a feeling of helplessness, 14 per cent each developed hatred against the abusers and had a feeling of taking revenge, 15 per cent each felt that nobody in the family cares for them and had a feeling of humiliation, and 11 per cent felt ashamed

of themselves. It is to be noted that the respondents were abused by using different forms of violence on different occasions. Hence their reactions to physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse were separately noted and reported. It was observed that some of their reactions were self-directed while others were directed against the abusers.

When the respondents were being abused in majority of the cases (44%) their family members did not intervene. Such an intervention was reported only by 37 per cent of the respondents. On further analysis no significant difference was observed in the attitude of family members in urban and rural areas as well as in families belonging to upper class, middle class and lower class.

A majority of 49 per cent of the respondents reported the incidents of violence to their relatives and friends. However, 33 per cent of them preferred to face the situation singularly and hence did not inform their relatives and friend about the violent situation in which they were living. Further analysis of 49 per cent of the cases (607 respondents) where the incidents of violence were reported to the informal sources of help (relatives, friends and parents) revealed that a majority of about 58 per cent of the respondents out of 607 approached their friends for seeking their advice and help, about 26 per cent approached their parents and about 16 per cent approached their relatives. It is strange to note that more than 50 per cent of the victims of violence preferred to approach their friends and not the parents or relatives for seeking guidance to deal with the abusive situation. Similar trend was observed, in urban and rural areas of all the states covered by the study.

The parents, relatives or friends (informal sources of help) advised the victims to patch up in about 50 per cent of the cases whereas advice to break off was given in about 11 per cent of the cases. In 21 per cent of the cases the victims were guided to report the matter to police. About 14 per cent of the victims were advised to seek the help of NGOs, whereas about 6 per cent were directed to go for legal advice. Further analysis of data revealed that the informal sources in rural areas were more in favour of patch up or break off then seeking help from formal sources.

Out of 1016 cases of domestic violence only 68 (5%) victims had sought the help from outside formal agencies. The statewise distribution of these 68 victims indicated that the highest number of respondents (19) were from Maharashtra, followed by 15 from Andhra Pradesh, 12 each from Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and 10 from Gujarat. The background of these 68 respondents disclosed that 55 out of them were victims of physical violence, 12 of emotional violence and 4 that of economic violence. All the 68 victims were educated, 24 of them were employed, and 13 belonged to upper class families. Thus the results of this study do not support the contention of Gelles (1976) that greater the severity of physical violence, the more likely the victim would seek the intervention from formal agencies.

It is observed that out of 68 victims of domestic violence who sought the help of formal agencies about 72 per cent approached the police, legal advisers or family courts. Only 12 per cent of them took the help of NGOs and other social organisations. It is very clear that the victims had no confidence that the NGOs or other social organisation could provide them substantial help in resolving their redress. The intervention of formal agencies resulted in providing complete relief to the victims in about 34 per cent of the cases and partial relief in about 29 per cent of the cases. However, no relief could be provided in remaining 37 per cent cases. Thus the formal sources of help also failed to give any relief to a large number of victims of domestic violence.

The research team wanted to know the compulsions under which the victims continued to live with violent families. The data analysis revealed that a majority of about 43 per cent of the victims were compelled to continue living with violent families, as they had no other place to go. About 26 per cent did so for the sake of their children and about 16 per cent were under pressure from parents. Nearly 7 per cent of the victims of domestic violence continued to live in abusive conditions for just protecting the reputation of their parental family. The situation will change for better in future was the hope of about 10 per cent of the victims. The data of the present study support the contention of researchers like Gelles (1976), Martin (1979), Roy (1977), Strube and Barbour (1983) and Strube (1998) that a number of

conditions influence the decision of victims of domestic violence to tolerate the violence and they are forced to continue living with abusive families.

The instant reaction to violence is a temporary phase but violence causes a long-term impact on the life of the victims. It also affects the life of their children and intra-family relations. Domestic violence results in long term impact on the life of the victims in the form of stress, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, palpitations, physical fatigue, cronic head-ache, Psychogenic pain and so on. The data collected in this reference revealed that 34 per cent of the victims of domestic violence suffered from mental tress, 29 per cent had depression, 22 per cent had disturbed sleep, 15 per cent suffered from cronic head-ache, 14 per cent had physical fatigue and 8 per cent were victims of psychogenic pain. It was observed that psychological disorders are more rampant as compared with physical health problems. No significant difference was noticed between victims from rural areas and those from urban areas.

In addition to physical and mental disorders the domestic violence also exerts long-term impact on personal and social life of the victims. It is observed that about 38 per cent of the victims of violence got mentally disturbed and disorganised, 23 per cent each restricted their social contacts and were ashamed of mixing with friends and relatives and about one-fourth of the victims suffered from constant impaired health conditions.

The domestic violence against married women perpetrated by their husbands or other family members spoiled the cordial intra-family relations. About 39 percent of the victims reported husbands or other family members that their conjugal relations were strained and were under tension, in about 29 per cent of the cases quarrels took place on minor issues frequently, mutual trust between husband and wife was lost in 23 per cent of the cases, communication gap giving rise to misunderstanding widened in 21 per cent of the cases and family did not remain a place to live in for about 16 per cent of the victims.

The maltreatment given to the mother had an adverse effect on the life of the children in considerably large number of families covered by the study. About 20 per cent of the respondents in each case reported that the children lost respect for parents and other elderly persons in the family, they were not properly looked after by their abused mothers, and they always remained under tension due to which they could not concentrate on their studies. In 16 per cent of the cases, personality development of the children was blocked and in 10 per cent of the cases the mothers feared that their children might become abusers in their life.

Sex in Indian Society is a matter of private life and as such not to be discussed openly. It was, therefore, very difficult for the investigating team to collect information about the impact of domestic violence on the sex-life of the victims. However, the required information was collected through indirect questions. The collected data revealed that the sex-life of women was affected in one form or the other as a result of domestic violence meted to them. About 23 per cent of the respondents who were victims of violence reported that they have lost interest in sex as well as love for husband, about 16 per cent developed irritation for their husbands and hence did not enjoy the pleasure during sex, 13 per cent reported that they never get satisfied during and after sex due to memories of inhuman treatment given to them and 17 per cent had to surrender for sex against their will. Thus, the sex life of majority of the victims of domestic violence was adversely affected.

The opinion of 1250 women respondents spread over five states covered by the study was sought on the effectiveness of reliefs available to the victims of domestic violence under the law of the country and those provided by other formal agencies like NGOs. The data collected in this reference disclosed that a very large majority of the respondents (81%) except those who had no knowledge of any such reliefs (19%) expressed their dissatisfaction over the effectiveness of available reliefs. In their opinion the reliefs were ineffective, complicated, insufficient, not guaranteed and provided only temporary relief to the victims.

The respondents also suggested a number of measures for reducing the incidence and extent of domestic violence. Majority of 47 per cent of the respondents suggested that awareness against the evil of domestic violence should be created on family and community level, 31 per cent suggested enactment of a very strict and effective law to protect the victims and to punish the abusers, about 30 per cent were of the opinion that the NGOs should organise family orientation programmes for cordial intra-personal relations among the family members on mass scale both in urban and rural areas and around 25 per cent suggested that the progressive social activists in the country should launch a drive against domestic violence.

On the basis of data analysis and major findings the following conclusions are drawn in respect of the nature, incidence, extent and impact of domestic violence against women.

The women of younger age and particularly those who were married at a lower age are at higher risk of being physically abused as compared with those who are in higher age group and were married at a later age. As against this women of upper age group are more likely to be abused emotionally as compared with those in lower age group.

Women who are illiterate or have little education as well as those who are highly educated are more prone to domestic violence as compared with those who are moderately educated. Similarly women engaged in paid work of low social status (maid-servants, Construction Workers, farm labour, factory labour etc.) are at higher risk of domestic violence in contrast with those who are house-wives or engaged in occupations of higher social status. Thus the general contention that the women engaged in paid work outside their homes are relatively free from the risk of domestic violence is negated by the findings of the present study.

The social class background of the women is one of the indicators of presence or absence of domestic violence. Women from lower class families and from families living below poverty line are more prone to physical violence as

compared with those from middle class and upper class families. As against this women from middle class and upper class families are more likely to suffer from emotional abuse.

The incidence and extent of domestic violence is at higher rate in nuclear families as compared to joint families. The size of family has no relation with the incidence or extent of domestic violence.

There is no significant difference in the percentage of victims of domestic violence between families belonging to different religious groups. Thus, no association is found in the incidence and extent of domestic in the families and their religious background.

The perceptions of domestic violence against women are different in different states covered by the study. This may be due to the different level of education, family value orientation, socio-economic status and cultural and religious background of the families in different states.

The most common forms of domestic violence as reported by the victims are slaps, beating, pushing, kicking, sexual coercion and assaults. The perpetrators are mostly husbands. Physical violence is mostly reported from rural areas in lower class families and also from urban areas in lower, middle class families. As against this the cases of emotional violence are mainly found in urban areas and that too in middle class and upper class families. The economic abuse is executed along with other forms of domestic violence and is observed more in rural areas and lower class families of urban areas.

No uniform trend of frequency and periodicity of violence is observed in the present study. However, the data analysis disclosed that violence was more frequent in nuclear families, lower class families and families in rural areas.

The respondents from urban and rural areas reported a number of precipitating factor for domestic violence. Alcoholism of husband is reported as a

major cause of violence by victims from rural areas and those belonging to lower class families in urban areas. Respondents from upper class and higher middle class families in urban areas reported suspected love affairs before marriage and extra-marital relations as causes of domestic violence. Dowry is not reported as a major cause of domestic violence. In some cases unemployment of husband and repeated demand for money by husband from the parental family also resulted in domestic violence against women.

It is observed that the victims of domestic violence from upper class and upper middle class families do not fight back or resist the violence but their counterparts from lower middle class and lower class do resist or fight back the attempts of physical violence.

It is observed that only 49 per cent of the victims had approached parents, relatives and friends for seeking their help and advise to deal with abusive situation. Therefore, the general contention that the victims of violence do report their to their parents, nearest relatives and friends is not supported by the findings of this study.

The study team, on the basis of data from five states, observed that the NGOs and Women's Organizations working in the states for the welfare and empowerment of women have largely failed to attract the victims of domestic violence in all the five states. Moreover, the work of these organisations is mostly in urban areas. There were some exemptions in Gujrat and Maharashtra where the NGOs were also doing some work in rural areas too.

As far as the impact of domestic violence on personal life of the victims is concerned it is observed that the violence adversely affected the physical and mental health of the victims. In addition, in the long run, the victims developed permanent mental disorders, leading to disorganised personality, permanent physical disorders and lost social contacts. In sufficiently large number of cases the domestic violence also disturbed their family life, sex-life and the life of their children.

It is observed that a significantly large number of women in all the five states covered by the study are totally unaware of the laws providing protection and relief to women in distress. They were also confused in suggesting measures for preventing and reducing domestic violence.

In the light of the objectives and on the basis of the findings of the study the research team would like to make the following recommendations to prevent the incidence and to reduce the extent of domestic violence against women.

A massive awareness campaign involving the community, religions leaders, priests, non-government – organisations, N.S.S., N.V.S., NYKS, women's organisations, social activists and opinion makers at all levels should be organised to counter the present trend of domestic violence against women.

The provisions of law for protection of women and punishment to perpetrators of domestic violence should be strictly enforced and no one should be left without punishment. Moreover, the entire gamut of laws related to abuse and harassment of women should be completely reviewed in the light of the present trends and requirements.

It is the most urgent need of the day to have a separate law on domestic violence against women. The draft bill on the subject was presented in Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002 but due to certain contradictions it was referred to Standing Committee. This Bill is presently pending with Rajya Sabha since Dec., 2002. The study team feels that the Bill should be urgently cleared and enforced immediately.

The Government of India is likely to introduce a new scheme for women in difficult circumstances during the 10th Plan period. We would like to suggest that women who are victims of domestic violence should also be covered under the proposed scheme.

A carefully planned mass media strategy is of critical importance for women's empowerment in general and domestic violence against women in particular. This can be done through media intervention. Issues related to domestic violence against women and awareness of family members on the tragic and painful effects of violence should be packaged in interesting, viewer-friendly programmes for assimilation and absorption in social psyche. It is, therefore, suggested that for bringing a massive awareness and giving education on the issue of domestic violence against women an effective media strategy should be planned and implemented as early as possible. The Government of India should provide adequate resources for implementation of such a comprehensive media strategy for social change.

The Central and State Governments should conduct regular training programmes for law enforcement officers, judges, other Court personnel and prosecutors to identify and respond more effectively to the cases of domestic violence against women in particular and crimes against women in general.

The units of law enforcement officers specially targeting domestic violence against women should be created, developed, trained and expanded. Similarly, data collection and communication systems linking police, prosecutors and courts for the purpose of identifying domestic violence against women, should be introduced at the earliest.

The Central and State Governments should develop, enlarge and strengthen social support services programmes for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The State Governments should implement comprehensive strategies addressing domestic violence against women that are sensitive to the needs and safety of the victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

A large number of NGOs have emerged in different states of the country. They have to their credit significant contribution, expertise and experience at

grass-root level in projecting and addressing problems faced by women. The services of these NGOs should be encouraged, availed of and supported financially.

The research team feels that the ultimate solution of the problem lies in removing dependency of women and by bringing change in the value system.

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Chapter – I

INTRODUCTION

The statistics on education, life expectancies and participation in paid employment indicate seeming progress in the overall situation of women. In spite of this, for the majority of the women in India, the overall picture of progress is bleak and is getting bleaker. The sex-disaggregated data on education levels, work force participation and life expectancies show male-female gaps. However, they hide more than what they show. The type of paid work open to women, contemporary versions of technology use that convert female infanticide to foeticide, the overwhelming burden of birth control on women, rampant spread of dowry among new communities, the kind of operation of Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha, a wide range in types of and reasons for violence, codification of customary laws going against women's rights etc. are some of the examples.

It is pitiable to report that independence has not brought freedom for a majority of women. Even today patriarchy continues to inhibit women's canvases as it did during the colonial period, of course in new ways. New problems have replaced old and new versions of old problems have surfaced during the last 55 years of independence. It is painful to note that in spite of theoretical constitutional equality for all (men & women), separate personal laws ensure that men and women are not equal. Male guardianship prevails even today and 'marriedness' for women translates into subordination in ways it does not for men. Such paradoxes in the formal and informal areas continue to exclude women from an equal footing with men in free India.

According to available statistics from around the world about 33.33 percent of the women have experienced violence in one form or the other, in an intimate relationship at some point in their life. This is just an average based on available national surveys across industrialised and developed countries, published in the report of the W.H.O. in 1997. In India, statistical evidence available about the

actual prevalence of domestic violence is scant and the only large scale survey carried out by the National Crimes Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India relating to the crimes against women reveals that a record 71.5 per cent increase in cases of toucher and dowry deaths during 1991 to 1995. Surveys conducted by independent social scientists indicate that physical abuse of Indian Women is quite high. Thus in India the problem of domestic violence against women has become serious and has assumed the form of a social problem.

It is a fact that domestic violence against women is universal across the culture, religion, class and ethnicity. Despite this widespread nature of domestic violence, it is not customarily acknowledged and has remained invisible. This hidden nature of domestic violence against women remains so due to the social construction of the divide between public and private affairs. The law has historically considered the domain of the house to be within the control and unquestionable authority of the male-head of the household.

Definition of Domestic Violence

It is necessary to clarify the concept of Domestic Violence against Women. Violence against women in general is defined as a force, whether overt or covert, used to wrest from a woman something that she does not want to give of her own free will and which causes her either physical injury or emotional trauma or both. Thus rape, kidnapping, wife-beating, sexual abuse, eve teasing, mental harassment, physical toucher are all examples of violence against women. However, the present project is concerned with Domestic Violence and hence we shall restrict our study to the concept of Domestic Violence only.

Definition of Domestic Violence may be broad or focussed. It is very important to define domestic violence from the viewpoint of responses. For shaped by a particular understanding of what constitutes domestic violence, whether it be

legal reform or the provision of support services and whether it is to be conceptualised as an intra-family conflict or a criminal violation of rights.

The definition of Domestic Violence as implied by law is especially critical as it defines standards and thus impacts broader social perception of the problem. Elements of the definition that need to be considered are, then, the boundaries of relationship between the perpetrator and the abused, the norms of acceptable behaviour and the specific acts that constitute violence. The frequent understanding of domestic violence against women is that it is limited to physical harm perpetrated on adult women within a marital relationship. While this conception may capture a large universe of the experience of women, it is predicated on the assumption that women primarily live in nuclear families. However, there are varieties of living arrangements ranging from joint families to nuclear families, to single parent families. Women may also be found in an established relationship or in the process of divorce or separation. Violence may not always be restricted to current husband but may extend to boyfriends, former husbands and other family members, such as parents-in-law and in-laws. A definition of Domestic Violence that covers these multiple dimensions would lead to intervention that are more inclusive of the experiences of the women.

The Definition of Domestic Violence rests upon both the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, as well as, the norms of acceptable differences of opinion regarding which behaviour should be considered violent and also the intensity and frequency required to table a relationship as violent.

Another related issue is how to evaluate the intent of the act – why the act was initiated and whose view should determine this. This is further complicated by a common belief that violent acts are expression of love and merely a desire to help the subject to be a better person.

The core of definition of domestic violence consists of all the acts that constitute violence. Some definitions are narrow and focus on specific acts of violence, while others are broader and incorporate the full range of acts. A further

critical element in the definition is as to whether it is framed as an exclusively interpersonal act or seen more broadly as an expression of power that perpetuates the subordination of women. If it is the former, the definition would include those acts which might be seen as crimes and thus focus only on acts which result in physical injury or violence. If it is the latter, it would include all acts of physical, verbal, visual, mental or sexual abuse that are experienced by a woman, threats, invasion, or assaults and that have the effect of hurting her, or degrading her and/or taking away her ability to control contact with another individual. This type of definition covers more fully all the different processes by which women undergo subordination within intimate relations and fits more rightly in human rights perspective.

In the present research study we have adopted the definition of domestic violence which reflects the view that the process of subordination becomes manifest in a wide range of violent acts. Hence, for the purpose of this study the definition of domestic violence attempts to be as broad as possible and includes physical, mental, financial and sexual abuse inflicted upon a woman by any member of the family directly or indirectly. Hence, domestic violence is defined as physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse experienced by an adult woman within her home.

COVERAGE OF THE STUDY

The study covers the women in urban and rural settings of the five states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It provides an understanding of the degree of domestic violence suffered by women in India, the possible protective factors and the existing options open to women outside the family and friends. The study also provides and points out the new directions for strategies to reduce and gradually eliminate domestic violence against women in India. The study covers the nature, extent, forms and correlates of domestic violence.

REVIEW OF EXISTING LITERATURE

The social scientists were not very serious about the problem of domestic violence against women till the third quarter of 20th century. It was only in 1970 that scientist in the west started undertaking studies to find out the nature and extent of violence against women within the family. They also conducted research to identify the precipitating factors, which led to domestic violence against women. Based on the findings of these studies, the social scientists could work out the coping mechanism adopted by the victims of domestic violence and the different treatment programmes for the abuser and the abused. A few of them had also developed the conflict tactics scale for identifying the violence prone families. In India, however, very few research studies have been conducted in this area and a large majority of these studies are related to the dowry related violence. It was only from 1980's that isolated attempts were made to identify the nature of domestic violence against women. The studies conducted in India and other countries are grouped together for proper understanding.

“Wife beating is the most common form of domestic violence around the world” observed David Levinson (1989) after going through the records of human relations records at Yale University. He studied a sample of 90 societies for his research and found that in 74.5 per cent of the societies wife beating occurred occasionally and it very rarely occurred in 15.5 per cent of the societies covered by the study.

The social scientists in United States conducted a number of studies to find out the incidence of domestic violence against women. The results of these studies vary significantly and the incidence of violence ranges from 12 per cent to 60 per cent. Straus (1978 & 1980), Gelles and Steinmentz (1980), Walker (1979), Nisonoff & Bitman (1979), Szinovacz (1983) are the major contributors in this area. In 1980 a representative United States Survey was specifically conducted to measure the incidence of domestic violence with a sample of 3300 families. This survey

disclosed that there occurred around 309 million instances of domestic violence annually. Two other surveys also reported alarming results. The data collected during Second National Family Violence Survey conducted, also in United States, revealed that in 16 per cent of the families some kind of the violence occurred during the year prior to the survey in 1986.

Levinson (1989) reported that a wide range of studies has been conducted around the world and all of them show the presence of domestic violence against women in different societies. Baldus (1937) reported such violence in Bororo society of Brazil, Erchak (1984) in Kpelle of Liberia, Erlich (1966) in Serbs of Yugoslavia, Evans (1937) in Azande of Central Africa, Hammond (1964) in Moosi of Mali, Lewis (1962) Somali of Somalia, Mair (1940) Ganda of Uganda and Savishinsky (1976) Hare of Canada.

In United Kingdom also a number of studies were conducted in the area of domestic violence. The social scientists namely Hammer (1989), Johnson (1985), Maidment (1985), Saunders (1984), Radford (1987), Chambers and Tombs (1984), Hough and Mathew (1983), Bains (1987) and Hall (1986) made significant contribution to the literature on domestic violence against women. Hammer (1989) studied the police reports of West Yorkshire in England and concluded that around 67 per cent of violence incidence against wives by their husbands within a period of one year.

Ferguson (1986) studied about 1000 families in New Zealand. He reported that the wife-assault rate ranged between 8.5 per cent and 35 per cent over a period of six years of family life. Zoomer (1983) conducted another study in Netherlands, which indicated that domestic violence against women had become a common feature. This study is, however, silent about the frequency and extent of such violence. In Australia, Hatty (1989) reported that domestic violence against women had been most prolific. Ferguson (1986) conducted a survey of 1000 families in New Zealand and found that over a span of 6 years of family life the rate of wife

assault ranged between 8.5 per cent and 33 per cent. Another study conducted by Zoomer (1983) in Netherlands indicated that violence against women was a common feature. The study does not, however, indicate the extent and frequency with which the violence takes place. In Russia about 14,500 women died as a result of domestic violence in 1994 alone as reported by Khatking (1995) on the basis of research studies conducted by Sociologists and Human Rights Groups.

A number of studies have been conducted to identify the precipitating factors which lead to domestic violence against women, specially wife abuse. Some of the scholars have attributed abuse to the personality disorders either of the batterer or battered or of the both. Most of the sociologists have tried to identify the social variables, which are responsible for differential behaviour pattern. Many scholars assume that identifiable psychopathology exists among the battering husbands and they may suffer from various personality disorders. (Ptacek 1988). They have been described as passive aggressive (Faulk 1977), obsessive compulsive (Gleason, 1993), paranoid (Shainess, 1977) sadistic and addiction prone (Snell 1964) or suffering from neurological or biochemical disorders (Elliot, IQTT, Schauss, 1982) These personality disorders directly involve abusive behaviour. These are sever and carry a negative prognosis. Similarly, the abused women are described as aggressive, masculine, frigid and masochistic (Ball 1977, Snell 1964) while others find them as unassertive, shy and reserved (Dreen 1982). Staus (1980), however, disagreed with this view and stated that it is a myth that violence is used only by mentally disturbed people. Similar views are expressed by Browning (1983), Dvoskin (1981), Stark (1988) and Fliteraft.

Boyd (1978), Coleman (1980), Gaylord (1975), Gelles (1980), Straus (1982), Kaplan (1972), Labile (1979), Martin (1976) and Walker (1981) indicated in their studies that batterers have low self-esteem and they use violence to compensate the feelings of inadequacy and to prove masculinity. The abused women have also been described having low esteem and feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. The presence of stress, both internal and external, has been found to

be strongly related to the risk of domestic violence against women. A number of studies have disclosed that the aggressors do not accept the responsibility of violent behaviour towards victims. Abusers rarely define their violence as deviant behaviour and attempt to rationalise their behaviour through projection of blame on to the women. (Adams 1982, Bhatti 1985, Dobash 1979) Mahajan 1989, Shah 1989, Saunders 1982 and Straus 1980). Blaming the victim is frequently used to justify the use of coercive power (Cantos 1993, Kipnis 1976).

Several studies have revealed that women experienced violence at unusually high rate during pregnancy (Gelles 1972, Helton 1985, Kalpan 1972, Stark 1981 and Walker 1979). Some other studies have disclosed a number of other factors responsible for wife beating like sexual jealousy. The battered women have endorsed that jealousy in one form or other was the main reason of their husbands' violent behaviour. (Bhatti 1989, Dobash 1979, Munson 1978, Mahajan 1989, Daly 1982, and Whitehurst 1971). Still some other studies indicated that violence was negatively correlated with marital satisfaction (Hoffman 1994, Kratcoski 1984, Lystad 1982 and Martin 1987.) However, some of the studies showed the existence of violence in satisfied couples (Bylaws 1982 and Dutton 1988). Use of alcohol on the part of husband was found to be an important factor of wife abuse. (Ahuja 1987, Bordin 1981, Coleman 1980 and Grewal 1982).

A number of studies highlight that domestic violence against women is more common in the lower classes. This may be due to the poor economic conditions of the families. It has been observed that physical violence against women is normal and socially transmitted behaviour pattern in the lower class families (Davis 1963, Whitehurst 1974). However, several studies show that domestic violence against women cuts across the class boundaries (Berketal 1983, Dobash 1979, Giles-Sims 1983, Hilberman 1980). Dowry related violence against women in the Indian Society is a phenomenon of middle class families. However, women in upper class families are also facing dowry-related violence (Morgolin 1988, Cornell 1990).

Violence against women is found to be associated with employment status of the husbands. In families where the husbands are unemployed the wives are abused not only by their husbands but also by their mother-in-laws and father-in-laws. Husbands who are working in unskilled occupations are more likely to be abusive than those working in skilled occupations. Domestic Violence against women is also associated with their employment status. Women who stay at home and do not work outside the home as paid worker are at greater risk of being abused. When women have few personal resources severity of violence against them also increases. However, in some studies the situation is differently reported that housewives had a lower risk of violence than employed women. (Fitch and Popantonio 1983, Gaguin 1978, Hornung 1981, Stark 1988, Levinson 1989).

A large number of studies indicated that dependency was considered to be positively related with domestic violence against women. Those women who do not have independent source of income run greater risk of being abused as compared to those who are not dependent on their husbands. Lack of any alternative support forces them to continue in the abusive relationship (Levinson 1989, Hodson 1984, Roy 1977, Mahahan 1989, Walker 1978).

The studies as reported above highlight one or the other factor responsible for domestic violence against women. However, we have not come across any study which takes into account holistic approach and accounts for different precipitating factors.

The sociologists in America have started working out the coping mechanisms to deal with the problem of domestic violence against women. They not only look at the reactions of the victims but also the strategies adopted by them. Different studies report that victims experience a variety of reactions as a consequence of domestic violence inflicted upon them. Terror, shame, degradation, guilt, humiliation, constant anxiety, apprehension and depression are generally reported reactions of victims of domestic violence. (Ownes 1975, Harrop 1989,

Munson 1981, and Staret 1979). Domestic Violence against women has negative consequences not only for the victims but also for the whole family. The victims are always isolated from outside source of social support. It also leads to low self-esteem of mother in the eyes of her children some of the studies also revealed that domestic violence may directly lead to suicide or suicidal attempts (Straus 1980, Ponzetti 1982, Back 1982, Pagelow 1984 and Counts 1988).

Some sociologists tried to study different coping mechanism used by the abused women to deal with abusive situations. Many studies report that victims of domestic violence resist the notion of leaving the house of the husband and seek separation because they value their marriages over and above other aspects of life due to psychological entrapment and because they suffer from learned helplessness. In addition to this there are different factors like lack of alternative support system, self-image, social stigma, dependency, presence of small children, fear of living alone and so on. (Andersen 1985, Munshi 1994, Bhatti 1989, Edgell 1980 and Mahajan 1989). However, many abused women cope with violence by leaving the abusive relationship. The women who are employed, who get support from their family of orientation or friends and who do not have children are more likely to leave the abusive relationship (Moore 1979, Okun 1978, Gelles 1976 and Strube 1988).

Scientific studies of any social problem are undertaken with a view to find out the causes and to suggest measures to control the problem by finding out the factors responsible for the situation. Most of the research Scholars admit that the root cause of domestic violence against women is the societal values favoring use of violence and women's objective or subjective dependency. Therefore the solution of the problem lies in removing dependency of women and by bringing change in the value system.

The review of the existing literature on domestic violence against women helps in guiding future research on the subject. However, these research studies in no way could be used as a model for the present study for a number of reasons as given below-

- (i) There is no agreement among the researchers on the definition of domestic violence against women.
- (ii) Many of the research scholars have taken a very limited aspect of domestic violence against women.
- (iii) In almost all the research studies the holistic approach to domestic violence against women is missing.
- (iv) The precipitating factors of domestic violence are to be seen in the cultural context. Hence, the findings of studies conducted in U.K. and U.S.A. may not be applicable to cultural conditions prevailing in India.

Theories of Domestic Violence Against Women

To understand the nature and extent of domestic violence against women, to identify the major social factors associated with domestic violence and to suggest measures to control and minimise the occurrence of violence against women different theoretical models have been developed and used by the social scientists and the psychologists. However, since the present study is concerned more with sociological aspect of the problem, we would restrict our analysis to the sociological perspective only. The sociological perspective deals with both microscopic as well as macroscopic levels of analysis. It is for this reason that different theoretical frameworks used by domestic violence researchers are mentioned here selectively.

Resource Theory rests on the notion that decision-making power in family relationships depends to a large extent on the value of resources each person brings to the relationship. Violence is used as a last resort to regain status quo ante. Resource theory has been revised and it has come to be called as Status Inconsistency Theory. It suggests that violence is more likely to occur when a man perceives his status inconsistent with his traditional power in the family, which has been eroded due to increased power of women. However, when used in empirical research it produced inconsistent results.

Social Control Theory of domestic violence proposes social control model of domestic violence. According to this theory interfamilial relations cannot be broken off easily. Consequently, when family members perceive injustice in daily interaction they resort to violence. Symbolic Interaction Theory of Domestic Violence explores the different meanings of violence people hold and consequences of such meanings in situational setting. This theory has not been used by the researchers for understanding the phenomenon of domestic violence against women. The Subculture of Violence Theory suggests that some subcultural groups develop norms and values that emphasize the use of physical violence to a greater extent than is seemed appropriate by dominant culture. Patriarchal Perspective of Domestic Violence states that domestic violence against women tends to occur more often in either wife-dominant or husband-dominant families but occurs more frequently when husband controls the family decision making. General Systems Theory explains the domestic violence as a product of system rather than of individual pathology. It is now clear that the sociologists are seriously addressing themselves to the problem of domestic violence in general and such violence against women in particular. Unfortunately, no theoretical framework mentioned above adopts a holistic approach with the help of which the problem of domestic violence against women at individual level and at the socio-cultural level could be explicated. However, recently a new conceptual framework known as Dependency Framework has been evolved and is being used to understand the phenomenon of domestic violence against women. In the present study we have used dependency framework for understanding domestic violence against women in the Indian context.

Different authors have defined dependency differently. Some of them have taken into account economic, social or physical dependency while others have identified three degrees of dependency i.e. inter-dependency, survival dependency and excessive dependency. Dependency designates certain conditions over which the victim of domestic violence has no control. These conditions may be her economic dependency or social dependency which forces her to trace out her identity through her husbands which makes her more committed to marriage. The

dependency approach has been used to explain domestic violence against women in another way also. Marital dependency is not treated as a cause of wife abuse but as a condition which forces abused women to continue living in abusive and violent conditions. Lack of alternative support system and habitual tolerance of violence force the victims to remain in the spouse's family. Thus dependency framework suggests that domestic violence against women is rooted in many factors.

Causes of Domestic Violence

There are a number of causes of domestic violence against women. These causes range from the trivial to bizarre and include mainly the following –

1. Not doing house-work properly
2. Dressing fashionably
3. Jealousy of husband
4. Husband's alcoholism
5. Dowry Demands
6. Husband's mistress
7. Laughing without reason
8. Combing hairs a number of times during day
9. High tone during dialogue
10. Free and Social nature
11. Close relations with friends
12. Boy friends
13. Disrespectful behaviour with elders in the family
14. Refusal to bring money from parent's house
15. Partial fulfillment or non-fulfillment of promises made at the time of marriage.
16. Doubt of love affairs before marriage.
17. Doubt of extra-marital relations
18. Resistance for abnormal sexual behaviour of the husband
19. No child bearing capability
20. Birth of girl child repeatedly

21. Husband economically dependent on parents
22. Husband has problems at work place.
23. Sexual difficulties
24. Low job satisfaction
25. Single personality factor
26. Antisocial personality disorders

In addition to the reasons listed above there may also be a long list of reasons which are not identified or reported by the victims of domestic violence. In conclusion it can be said that anything can serve as an excuse for inflicting violence against a woman.

No single factor explains the phenomenon of domestic violence against women.

Nature and Forms of Domestic Violence ;

The domestic violence against women may be classified as under –

- (a) Physical Violence
- (b) Emotional Abuse
- (c) Economic Abuse

Each of the above may take different forms and only the most common forms which are frequently used by the perpetrators may be described as under –

(a)Physical Violence

The most common and frequently used forms of physical violence used against women are-

- (i) Slaps (ii) beating (iii) pulsing (iv) Kicking (v) throwing objects (vi) beating with cane (vii) Burning with rod (viii) holding with rope (ix) Sexual coercion or assault.

(b) Emotional Abuse :

The mental or emotional abuse of a woman may take the following forms –

(i) Using abusive language (ii) Insulting her in the presence of children, other member of the family and relatives (iii) Blaming her for everything that goes wrong in the family (iv) Charging her frequently on small and negligible issues (v) Making her feel guilty for no fault of her (vi) Calling her names (vii) Giving her threat of divorce (viii) Treating her like a servant (ix) Keeping a strict watch on her movements (x) Prohibiting her from meeting her friends and relatives (xi) Prohibiting her from expression of her view on family matters (xii) Suspecting her for extra-marital relations (xiv) Using ugly and insulting language for her parents (xv) Insulting her for house-keeping (xvi) Demeaning her family background (xvii) Criticising her for lacking intelligence (xviii) Threatening her to commit suicide (xviii) Giving her verbal threats to use physical force (xv) Threats to kill or burn.

(C) Economic Abuse

Following are the most frequently used forms of economic abuse against women –

(i) Preventing her from taking a job (ii) Forcing her to leave present job (iii) Not allowing her to purchase things of her liking and choice (iv) Stopping her from access to resources or money (v) Pressurising her to bring money from her parents and so on.

Extent of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a widespread problem. However, its actual extent is difficult to measure. It may be very much higher than what 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, respondents may fail to report violence that takes place in the family.

According to available statistics from around the world, around 33.33 percent of the women have experienced violence in one form or the other, in their intimate relationship at some point in their life. This is an average based on available national surveys across industrialised and developing countries published in the report of the World Health Organisation in 1997. Statistical evidence available about the actual prevalence of domestic violence against women in India is scant. The only large scale survey conducted by the National Crimes Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India relating to crimes against women, reveals a record 71.5 per cent increase in cases of toucher and dowry deaths during 1991 to 1995. The studies conducted by Mahajan (1990) and Rao (1996) indicate that physical abuse of Indian Women is quite high, ranging from 22 percent to 60 per cent of women surveyed. Narayan (1996) reported that the rate of physical violence against women was 18 to 45 per cent in different communities. In a study conducted by Ranjana Kumari (1989) it was reported that about 25 per cent of dowry victims in India were driven to suicide.

It is observed that Domestic Violence against Women is universal across culture, religion, class and ethnicity. Despite this widespread nature of domestic violence remains so due to social construction of the divide between public and private affairs.

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Chapter – II

METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is undertaken with the following principal objectives –

1. To study the nature, extent and incidence of domestic violence against women.
2. To identify the correlates of domestic violence against women.
3. To find out the relationship between the traditional sex-based roles and the domestic violence.
4. To examine whether dependency, objective or subjective or both is the cause, condition or instigating factor for domestic violence.
5. To find out whether the abused women seek the help of informal or formal agencies and to what extent these agencies are successful in solving the problems of the abused women.
6. To trace the reasons for which abused women continue to stay in abusive relationships.
7. To examine the impact of domestic violence on the abused women, their children and intra-family relations.
8. To suggest measures to control, minimize and, if possible, eliminate domestic violence against women.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Social scientist in India has remained indifferent to the phenomenon of domestic violence against women in particular and intra-family violence in general. Consequently, no theoretical frame-work has been developed for empirical verification suitable for Indian conditions. Under these circumstances the present study has to be dependent on exploratory and descriptive designs of research.

Sampling Design

The present study has been conducted in the urban and rural areas of the five adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. A random sample of 1250 families is drawn from the universe at the rate of 250 families from each state. While drawing a sample of 250 families from each state 50% sample was drawn from rural area and 50 per cent from urban area. The samples drawn from rural and urban areas represented the families from upper class, middle class and lower class.

While drawing a sample of 250 families from each state, the geographical area of the state was divided into five zones, i.e. East, West, North, South and Central. The districts and places were selected by using random sampling method A sample of 50 families (25 from urban and 25 from rural areas) from each zone of each state was also drawn on purposive random sample basis thus giving proper representation to families belonging to different socio-economic groups and religions.

The following tables show the entire picture of sampling design of the study –

(A) Table showing distribution of families statewise, area –wise (Urban & Rural) and socio-economic status-wise.

State	(A) Urban				(B) Rural				Total
	UC	MC	LC	Total	UC	MC	LC	Total	(A)+(B)
Andhra Pradesh	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250
Chhattisgarh	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250
Gujrat	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250
Madhya Pradesh	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250
Maharashtra	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250
Total	125	250	250	625	125	250	250	625	1250

UC = Upper Class ; MC = Middle Class LC = Lower Class

(B)Table showing distribution of families Zone-wise in each state.

Zone of the State	(A) Urban				(B) Rural				Total
	UC	MC	LC	Total	UC	MC	LC	Total	(A)+(B)
East	5	10	10	25	5	10	10	25	50
West	5	10	10	25	5	10	10	25	50
North	5	10	10	25	5	10	10	25	50
South	5	10	10	25	5	10	10	25	50
Central	5	10	10	25	5	10	10	25	50
	25	50	50	125	25	50	50	125	250

Tools & Techniques of Data Collection

For collecting primary and secondary data from different sources the following tools and techniques were used –

1. Interview Schedule for women respondents.
2. Observation by Investigators
3. Informal discussion with other family members and neighbors.
4. Collection of information from social activists and officials of the social welfare and police departments.

An Interview Schedule was the principal instrument of the data collection from the women respondents. Keeping in view the basic objectives of the study and based on the major variables and parameters an Interview Schedule was designed and extensively discussed by the research team. The items of interview schedule were pre-coded requiring respondents only to check one of them. The interview schedule was divided in four sections i.e. personal profile, family profile, nature, and incidence of domestic violence and the impact of domestic violence on the victims, children in the family and the intra-family relations. Supportive data like precipitating factors of domestic violence was also collected by inserting some questions in the interview schedule.

A pilot study was carried out on 50 women respondents (10 each of 5 states) with a view to know the gaps in and limitations of the interview schedule. On the basis of the findings of the study and the difficulties faces by the respondents and investigators necessary changes and modifications were carried out in the text of the interview schedule.

In addition to the interview schedule, which was specifically used for women respondents, a response sheet was used for recording the views of the adult family members and the next-door neighbors. The investigators also contacted the social activists in the locality to seek information about the known cases of domestic violence and their views on the problem. The social welfare officers and the police department was also contacted to know about the extent of domestic violence within the localities in their jurisdiction.

Data Collection & Processing

Teams of investigators in the five states did the work of data collection. They were given necessary training before they were sent in the field for collecting data. The coordinator and research officer duly supervised the work of investigators. The work of data collection was over by the end of August, 2003.

The work of data processing was then taken up and on the basis of filled in interview schedules the master charts were prepared.

The data analysis plan was designed in such a way that all possible errors during data processing would be excluded. The entire 1250 interview schedules were edited and checked for ambiguities and inconsistencies.

Numerical symbols were assigned to the responses in the interview schedule yielding a total of 70 variables. The codes were verified and rechecked for each and every case during processing of data.

Computers were used for statistical analysis of the data. In the first instance sorting was done to generate frequency table for each independent variable. The significance of the frequency of variable was checked by assuming 5 per cent error.

The report that follows incorporates the data, the analysis, the interpretation and the inference drawn therefrom. The inferences thus drawn are compared with the inferences drawn by other researchers who had undertaken similar studies in India and also in other countries.

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Chapter III

Personal Profile & Family Background of Women Respondents

The present chapter deals with personal profile and family background of the women respondents in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This information will help the research team to analyse and interpret the responses on the basis of different variables like educational status, the type of family and the composition and Socio-economic status of the family of respondents.

The respondents covered by the study are equally spread over the urban and rural areas of the five states in which the study was conducted. The following table shows the statewise distribution of women respondents drawn from urban and rural areas of the respective states.

Table No. 3.1

Statewise Distribution of Respondents

Sr. No.	States	Number of Respondents		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh (A.P.)	125	125	250
2.	Chhattisgarh (C.G.)	125	125	250
3.	Gujarat (G.R.T.)	125	125	250
4.	Madhya Pradesh (M.P.)	125	125	250
5.	Maharashtra (MAH)	125	125	250
	Total	625	625	1250

The variables considered for collection of data pertaining to personal profile of the women respondents in five states are – Present Age, Education, Religion, Marital Status, Age at Marriage, Occupation and those related to family of

the respondents are – Type of Family, Number of Members in the family, the Socio-economic Status of the family, the status of the respondents in their families and their relations with other members of the family specially with their husbands and in-laws.

Demographic Variables

It is essential to understand the demographic background of the respondents to assess the nature of social grouping as well as the inter-relationship that exists among the members in the family. To find out the correlates of domestic violence against women, the demographic variables which have been considered for the present study are: present age, age at marriage, type of family, number of members in the family etc.

Present Age of Respondents

Women of younger age group are at higher risk of domestic violence as compared with those of elder age group because elder women are not prone to file assault charges either because of traditional attitude or because of possibility of divorce. The National Family Violence Survey conducted in America indicated that all forms of domestic violence against women occur most frequently among those under 30 years of age. The rate of domestic violence against those under 30 years of age was found to be more than double the rate for the age for 31 to 50 years. The present study will examine this contention and will assess the extent of such a contention in the cases of respondents covered by the study.

The following table shows the age-wise classification of respondents in five states covered by the study –

Table No. 3.2

Present Age of Respondents

Number of Respondents						
Age in Years	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL
18 – 24 (%)	70 (28.0)	41 (16.4)	09 (3.6)	53 (21.2)	40 (16.0)	213 (17.04)
25 – 30 (%)	83 (33.2)	87 (34.8)	31 (12.4)	108 (43.2)	78 (31.2)	387 (30.96)

31 – 35 (%)	33 (13.2)	53 (21.2)	41 (16.4)	31 (12.4)	37 (14.8)	195 (15.60)
36 – 40 (%)	34 (13.6)	30 (12.0)	49 (19.6)	26 (10.4)	39 (15.6)	178 (14.24)
41 – 45 (%)	14 (5.6)	20 (8.0)	51 (20.4)	16 (6.4)	21 (8.4)	122 (9.76)
46 – 50 (%)	08 (3.2)	08 (3.2)	19 (7.6)	03 (3.2)	17 (6.8)	55 (4.40)
51 – 55 (%)	04 (1.6)	08 (3.2)	23 (9.2)	03 (1.2)	10 (4.0)	48 (3.84)
56 – 60 (%)	03 (1.2)	01 (0.4)	18 (7.2)	07 (2.8)	05 (2.0)	34 (2.72)
61 & Above (%)	01 (0.4)	02 (0.8)	09 (3.6)	03 (1.2)	03 (1.2)	18 (1.44)
Total (%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	1250 (100%)

The data presented in the above table shows that out of 1250 respondents in five States 387 (about 31 per cent) are in the age group of 25 – 30 years, followed by 17 per cent (213) in the age group of 18 – 24 years and about 16 per cent in the age group of 31 to 35 years respectively. About 14 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 36 – 40 years and about 10 per cent in the age group of 41 to 45 years. To conclude a very large majority of 87.6 per cent respondents in all the five states taken together are in the age range of 18 to 45 years.

The rural – urban analysis of 1250 respondents shows that –

- (a) Out of 625 respondents from urban area a majority of respondents (about 33 per cent) was found in the age group of 25 -30 years, followed by about 15 per cent in each case in the age group of 31 – 35 years and 36 – 40 years. About 14 per cent were in 18 – 25 age group while those between 41 and 60 years constituted around 128 respondents (about 20%). There are only 10 respondents out of 625 who are found to be over 60 years of age.

- (b) The tabulation of 625 respondents in rural areas of the five states under study disclosed that a majority of about 30 per cent was in the age group of 25 – 30 years, followed by about 20 per cent in the age group of 18-24 years. Around 16 per cent of the respondents were found in the age group of 31-35 years and about 13 per cent in the group of 36-40 years. Those who were between 41 and 60 years of age constituted around 131 respondents (about 21 per cent) and there were only 8 cases reporting the age above 60 years.

The statewise analysis of the present age of respondents indicates that –

- (a) In Andhra Pradesh out of 250 respondents 220 (about 88%) were between 18 and 40 years of age, 14 (about 6 per cent) in the age range of 41 to 45 years and the rest 6 per cent are between 46 and 61 years.
- (b) In Chhattisgarh it is observed that about 35 per cent of the respondents out of 250 were placed in the age – bracket of 25 to 30 years, followed by about 21 per cent in 31 to 35 years age group and about 16 per cent in the age group of 18 – 24 years. Exactly 12 per cent of the respondents were in the age – range of 36 to 40 years and those between 41 and 60 years of age were about 16 per cent. Only 2 cases of women above 61 years were reported from the state.
- (c) In Gujarat majority of respondents (20.4 percent) were found in the age group of 41-45 years, followed by 19.6 per cent in 36-40 years age group. The peculiar feature of this state is that in the age group of 18-24 years the number of women respondents was the lowest (3.6 per cent) as compared with other states covered by the study. About 12 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 25-30 years, about 16 per cent in the age group of 31-35 years and 9 per cent in the age range of 51 to 55 years. Those in the age group of 41 years to 60 years were about 24 per cent of the total respondents from the state.

There were 9 cases (3.6 per cent) of respondents who are above 60 years in age.

- (d) In Madhya Pradesh majority of respondents (43.2 per cent) were from the age group 25-30 years, followed by 21 per cent in the age range of 18 to 24 years. Out of 50 respondents from the state about 12 per cent were in the age group of 31-35 years and about 10 per cent in 36-40 years. Those who were between 41 and 60 years of age were 11.6 per cent and only 3 respondents were above 60 years of age.
- (e) In Maharashtra majority (31 per cent) respondents were from 25 to 30 years age group. About 16 per cent, each were in the age group of 18-24 years and 36-40 years and 15 per cent in 31-35 years. About 20 per cent respondents were between 41 years and 60 years of age. There were three cases (1.2 per cent) where the age of respondents exceeded 60 years.

From the above analysis of data relating to age of respondents it is observed that in all the states except Gujarat, majority of the respondents were from the age-group of 25-30 years. In Gujarat the number of respondents was highest from the age group of 41-45 years. Gujarat leads in higher number of respondents who were 61 or more than 61 years in age.

Age at Marriage

Age at marriage is an important variable in the study of domestic violence against women. Younger age at marriage puts a lot of stress for adjustment which may result in use of violence on the part of young husbands. It can therefore, be presumed that women who are married at an early age are at higher risk of being abused by the husbands and/or in-laws. The data pertaining to age of respondents at marriage will be used in this study to find out any correlation between the extent of violence and the age at marriage. The following table shows the age of respondents at the time of their marriage -

Table No. 3.3**Respondent's Age at Marriage**

Statewise Number of Respondents						
Age in Years	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL All States
16 - 20	198 (79.2)	98 (39.2)	100 (40.0)	167 (66.8)	163 (65.2)	726 (58.08)
21 - 24	41 (16.4)	79 (31.6)	134 (53.6)	55 (22.0)	76 (30.4)	385 (30.80)
25 – 30	08 (3.2)	58 (23.2)	12 (4.8)	10 (4.0)	08 (3.2)	96 (7.68)
31 & Above	03 (1.2)	15 (6.0)	04 (1.6)	18 (7.2)	03 (1.2)	43 (3.44)
Total	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	250 (100%)	1250 (100%)

The data relating to the age of respondents at marriage presented in the table No. 3.3 clearly indicates that out of 1250 respondents from all the states taken together a very large majority of respondents (about 58 percent) were married when they were between 16 and 20 years of age. In Andhra Pradesh about 79 percent of the respondents out of 250 were married when they were in this age group. Out of 250 respondents from each of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra States about 67 percent and 65 percent respondents respectively were married at the age of 16 to 20 years. In Chhattisgarh and Gujrat a slightly different picture is observed as the percentages of respondents who married at 16 to 20 years of age dropped down to about 39 and 40 percent respectively.

Out of 1250 respondents from all the states covered by the study about 31 percent were married at the age of 21 to 24 years. The statewise picture shows that out of 250 respondents from each state about 54 percent respondents from

Gujrat, 32 percent from Chhattisgarh, 30 percent from Maharashtra, 22 percent from Madhya Pradesh and 16 percent from Andhra Pradesh were married when they were in the age group of 21-24 years.

Only about 8 percent respondents out of 1250 taken together were married at the age of 25 to 30 years whereas only about 3 percent were married after 30 years of age. The statewise analysis shows that out of 250 respondents from each state, about 23 percent from Chhattisgarh, 5 percent from Gujrat, 4 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 3 percent each from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra were married when they were in the age group of 25 to 30 years. Those married at 31 years or more were reported at 7 percent in Madhya Pradesh, 6 percent in Chhattisgarh, and about 1 to 2 percent in Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat and Maharashtra.

To conclude a very large majority of about 88 percent of the respondents out of 1250 from all states taken together were married at the age of 16 to 20 years. However in the states of Chhattisgarh and Gujrat only about 40 percent of the respondents were married when they were in this age group.

Marital Status of Respondents :

It is generally assumed that domestic Violence is a peculiar phenomenon in which only married women are involved. However, in reality, any woman who is dependent, whether married, unmarried, divorced, separated or widow may fall pray to domestic violence exerted by persons on whom she is dependent. There are cases where women who could not get married and hence living in the family of their fathers or brothers are torched by the brothers and their wives. Hence for the purpose of this study the information about the marital status of the respondents was collected. The same is presented in the following table –

Table No 3.4

MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Marital Status	Number of Respondents					Total
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	

Married %	231 (92.4)	170 (68.0)	212 (84.8)	206 (82.4)	205 (82.0)	1024 (81.92)
Separated %	09 (3.6)	59 (23.6)	11 (4.4)	11 (4.4)	20 (8.0)	110 (8.8)
Divorced %	04 (1.6)	06 (2.4)	07 (2.8)	07 (2.8)	09 (3.6)	33 (2.64)
Widow %	06 (2.4)	15 (6.0)	20 (8.0)	26 (10.4)	16 (6.4)	83 (6.64)
Total %	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

The tabulation of data relating to marital status of respondents show that out of 1250 respondents from the five states a very large majority (about 82 percent) of respondents were reported as married. No case of unmarried respondent was reported. About 9 percent of the respondents were living separately and not with their husbands as against nearly 3 percent of the respondents who have taken divorce. About 7 percent of the respondents were reported to be widows. -

The statewise data-analysis (except that of the state of Chhattisgarh) also confirms the overall picture of marital status as out of 250 respondents from each states about 92 percent from Andhra Pradesh , about 85 percent from Gujrat, about 82 percent each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra reported their marital status as married. In Chhattisgarh, however, the percentage of married respondents was 62 only.

In the state of Chhattisgarh the percentage of respondents separated from their families was the highest (about 24 percent) as compared with other states. The percentage of respondents living separately was about 4 each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat, and Madhya Pradesh and 8 in Maharashtra.

The divorcees among the respondents constituted 3.6 percent (highest) in Maharashtra, 2.8 percent each in Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh 2.4 per in Chhattisgarh and 1.6 percent (lowest) in Andhra Pradesh.

Highest number of respondents who were reported as widows were from Madhya Pradesh (10.4 percent) followed by 8 percent in Gujrat, about 6 percent each from Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra and 2.4 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

In conclusion it can be said that the number of married respondents is the highest in each state as well as for all the states taken together.

Type of Family :

The household composition is an important variable for understanding the phenomenon of domestic violence against women. Women living in extended and joint families are required to make adjustments with a large number of family members as compared with those living in nuclear families. The patrilocal residence and patriarchal structure of the family places women into subservient position. The men are more likely to act as sons rather than husbands. The parents-in-law and other kinsmen continue to have greater affiliation with sons as compared with daughters-in-law. This gives rise to maltreatment of wives by their husbands. Hence, presence of a large number of members in the family not only creates the problem of adjustment but they also act as instigators for domestic violence against women.

The following table show the type of family in which the respondents were living -

Table No. 3.5

Type of Families to which Respondents Belong

Family Type	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL All States

Nuclear (%)	180 (72.0%)	147 (58.8)	142 (56.8)	158 (63.2)	130 (52.0)	757 (60.56)
Joint (%)	70 (28.0)	103 (41.2)	108 (43.2)	92 (36.8)	120 (48.0)	493 (39.44)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

It is very clear from the data given in the above table that out of 1250 respondents from all the states covered by the study about 61 per cent were living with nuclear families and the rest 39 per cent with joint families.

The statewise data also indicates near about the same trend. In Andhra Pradesh out of 250 respondents 180 (72 per cent) had nuclear families and the rest 28 per cent had joint families. In the cases of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra the percentage of respondents having nuclear families is about 59, 57, 63 and 52 respectively as against 41, 43, 37 and 48 per cent for those living with joint families.

In short, the respondents living with nuclear families were in majority in all the states.

Social Variables

The social milieu of an individual influences social position, network of relationships, content of learning and social behaviour pattern. Social, behaviour is a function of life situations, which may be physical, economic, social or cultural, or interplay of these elements. Persons having differential life situations would react differently to the same stimule. It is, therefore, necessary to explicate the role of these Social Variables to understand the quality of conjugal and family relationship.

The social variables considered for the present study are educational and occupational status of the respondents, their social-class background and their religious background.

Educational Level of Respondents

Educational plays a significant role in the life of any individual. Higher the level of education, higher is the potential for resisting any action of injustice, exploitation and toucher. As far as women are concerned, education gives them a voice against all types of evils effected on them and empowers them to fight for justice. It is generally presumed that the extent of domestic violence is less in cases where the subject of violence is educated.

Formal education helps a woman to know what is happening outside her immediate surroundings. It also facilitates her to develop rational outlook towards life. Education widens the horizon and makes the woman more knowledgeable. Education also helps a woman to get jobs and economic returns. It also enhances social prestige of a woman.

The data relating to educational level of women respondents were collected to examine the association, if any, between the level of education of women and the quality of interpersonal relations in relation to domestic violence against them.

The following table indicates the educational levels of respondents.

Table No. 3.6

Educational Level of Respondents

Education Level	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL All States
Illiterate (%)	100 (40.0%)	33 (13.2)	27 (10.8)	146 (58.4)	39 (15.6)	345 (27.6)
Primary (%)	37 (14.8)	36 (14.4)	33 (13.2)	35 (14.0)	48 (19.2)	189 (15.12)
Middle School	28	41	16	46	50	181

(%)	(11.2)	(16.4)	(6.4)	(18.4)	(20.0)	(14.48)
S.S.C.	41	23	45	06	33	148
(%)	(16.4)	(9.2)	(18.0)	(2.4)	(13.2)	(11.84)
H.S.S.C.	14	32	27	09	35	117
(%)	(5.6)	(12.8)	(10.8)	(3.6)	(14.0)	(9.36)
Graduate	21	63	72	07	30	193
(%)	(8.4)	(25.2)	(28.8)	(2.8)	(12.0)	(15.44)
Post Graduate	08	18	27	01	14	68
(%)	(3.2)	(7.2)	(10.8)	(0.4)	(5.6)	(5.44)
Any Other	01	04	03	00	01	09
(%)	(0.4)	(1.6)	(1.2)	(.00)	(0.4)	(0.72)
Total	250	250	250	250	250	1250
(%)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

The statistical data exhibited in the table throws light on details of educational qualifications of the respondents from the five states covered by the present study.

Out of 1250 respondents drawn from the five states more than a half (about 57 per cent) were either illiterate (27.6 per cent) or educated up to primary school level (15.12 per cent) or upto middle school level (14.48 per cent), as against about 21 per cent who were educated up to either S.S.C. (11.8 per cent) or H.S.S.C. (9.36 per cent) level. Respondents who were graduates constitute about 15 per cent and those who had postgraduate qualifications were about 5 per cent only.

Statewise analysis disclosed that out of 250 respondents in each of the states covered by the study, majority of the respondents in Madhya Pradesh (about 58 per cent) were illiterate followed by 40 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. The

percentage of illiterate respondents was comparatively less in Chhattisgarh (13.2 per cent), Gujrat (10.8 per cent) and Maharashtra (15.6 per cent).

About 11 per cent respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 16 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 6 per cent from Gujarat, 18 per cent from Madhya Pradesh and 20 per cent from Maharashtra have reached educational level up to middle school and those who could pass S.S.C. are reported at about 18, 16, 13, 9 and 2 per cent in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

As far as H.S.S.C. qualification is concerned about 14 per cent respondents from Maharashtra, 13 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 11 per cent from Gujrat, 6 per cent from Andhra Pradesh and 4 per cent from Madhya Pradesh could reach the level of HSSC qualification.

Except in Gujrat and Chhattisgarh where about 25 percent and 29 percent of the respondents were graduates the picture in other states is gloomy. From Andhra Pradesh only about 8 percent and from Maharashtra only 12 percent respondents could acquire first degree whereas the percentage of respondents who were graduates is as low as about 3 percent in Madhya Pradesh.

As regards acquiring Post-Graduate qualification about 11 per cent respondents from Gujrat, 7 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 6 per cent from Maharashtra and 3 per cent from Andhra Pradesh could reach the post-graduation level of education.

To conclude as far as education is concerned nearly 50 per cent of the respondents are either illiterate or have reached up to the primary level.

Religious Background of Respondents

The classification of women respondents on the basis of religion is done with a view to find out whether there is any impact of religion on the nature and extent of violence exerted on women belonging to different religions. Religion is an

Out of 1250 respondents from the five states a large majority of about 70 per cent were Hindu by religion. Boudhas constituted about 10 per cent as against Muslims who were around 8 per cent. About 5 per cent respondents were Christians and about 3 per cent Jains. Parsis were less than 0.5 per cent and those belonging to other religions were around 3 per cent of the total respondents.

Religion-based analysis of respondents drawn from the states shows that –

- (i) In Andhra Pradesh out of 250 respondents about 88 per cent were followers of Hindu religion and only about 6 per cent each were Muslims and Christians respectively. No one from the respondent was Boudhas, Jain or Parsi.
- (ii) Around 54 per cent of the respondents from Chhattisgarh were Hindus, 16 percent were Boudhas, 12 per cent were Christians, 9 per cent Muslims, 7 per cent Jains and 2 per cent were followers of Tribal Religions.
- (iii) Out of 250 respondents drawn from the State of Gujrat about 77 per cent were found to be the followers of Hindu religion and about 6 per cent that of Jainnism. Muslim respondents were around 7 per cent and Christians only 2 per cent. Those belonging to Tribal Religions were 6 per cent and Parsis 2 per cent.
- (iv) In the State of Madhya Pradesh out of 250 respondents 64 per cent were Hindus, 17 per cent Boudhas, 10 per cent Muslims and 7 percent were followers of Tribal Religions. Jains were only about 3 per cent and Christians less than 0.5 per cent.
- (v) The religion wise distribution of 250 respondents from Maharashtra shows that 67 per cent of them were Hindus, 18 per cent were Boudhas, 7 per cent were Muslims an 2 per cent each were Jains and

followers of other Tribal Religions. To conclude we can say that a large majority of respondents belonged to Hindu religion.

Occupational Background of Respondents

Occupational background of the women is an important indicator of their social status. Good occupational background provides higher prestige to the women in their families and in the society. Studies indicate that women engaged in occupations of lower prestige are more likely to be abused. Similarly, it is also a common understanding that women who stay at home and are not engaged in paid work outside their homes are at somewhat greater risk of being abused as compared with those engaged in paid work outside the home. With a view to examine the association between the presence or absence of occupation and the extent of domestic violence the information about the occupational background of the respondents is collected and presented in the following table -

TABLE NO. 3.8

Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL
Housewife (%)	134 (53.6)	141 (56.4)	112 (44.8)	112 (44.8)	115 (46.0)	614 (51.20)
Service (%)	30 (12.0)	36 (14.4)	49 (19.6)	08 (3.2)	44 (17.6)	167 (13.36)
Labour (%)	59 (23.6)	09 (3.6)	14 (5.6)	25 (10.0)	38 (15.2)	145 (11.60)
Farm Labour (%)	09 (3.6)	18 (7.5)	10 (4.0)	42 (16.8)	26 (10.4)	105 (8.40)
Maid Servant (%)	01 (0.4)	18 (7.5)	36 (14.4)	26 (10.4)	18 (7.5)	99 (7.92)

Business (%)	04 (1.6)	20 (8.0)	06 (2.4)	02 (0.8)	02 (0.8)	34 (2.92)
Profession (%)	13 (5.2)	08 (3.2)	23 (9.2)	35 (14.0)	07 (2.8)	86 (6.88)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

It can be clearly viewed from the data presented in the table given above that more than 50 per cent of the respondents out of a total of 1250 are housewives engaged in domestic duties. A slightly less than 50 percent of them are engaged in occupation outside the home. Occupation wise classification of 1250 respondent shows that about 51 percent were housewives, 13 percent were in service, about 12 percent were working as casual labourers, about 8 percent were agricultural labourers, about 8 percent were maid-servants and about 7 percent were engaged in different professional activities. Only about 3 percent of the respondents were looking after the business of their own.

Statewise picture depicts the overall trend. Out of 250 respondents in Andhra Pradesh about 54 percent were housewives, 12 percent were in service, 24 percent were casual labourers, 4 percent were farm labourers, less than 1 percent were maid-servants, about 2 percent were in small business and about 5 percent in business. Thus, maximum numbers of respondents from Andhra Pradesh were housewives.

The scenario in Chhattisgarh was similar to that of Andhra Pradesh, as majority of respondents were housewives (about 56 percent), around 14 percent were in service, 4 percent were casual labourers, about 8 percent each were agricultural labourers, maid servants and in private business and about 3 percent were in profession.

In Gujrat also a majority (about 45 percent) of respondents were housewives. About 20 percent respondents were in service, 6 percent were casual

labourers, 4 percent were farm labourers and about 14 percent were maidservants, about 2 percent in business and 9 percent were professionals.

As far as the state of Madhya Pradesh is concerned it is observed that out of 250 respondents 45 percent were house-wives, 3 percent were in service, 10 percent were working as casual labourers and 17 percent as farm labourers, 10 percent as maid servants, less than 1 percent were in business and about 14 percent were professionals.

In the state of Maharashtra the housewives constituted 46 percent of the respondents. Those in service were about 18 percent. About 15 percent of the respondents were working as casual labourers and 10 percent as agricultural labour, 8 percent were maid servants, less than 1 percent were in business and about 3 percent were professionals.

Thus nearly half of the total respondents were found to be housewives and one-fourth were in occupations of lower status i.e. casual labour, farm labour or maidservants. Only one-fifth of the respondents were in private or Government service whereas only one-tenth were in business or profession.

Social Class Background of Respondents

Several sociologists like Marx, Weber, Warner and Dahrendorf have defined the concept of social class giving prominence to different attributes. However, one common element in their different definitions is that members of a class group have common style of living and value orientation. A number of sociologists have tried to find out association between social class background and domestic violence against women. It is, therefore, that the data pertaining to socio-economic status of the family is collected. In the present study, efforts will be made to find out the association between socio-economic status of the family and the incidence and extent of domestic violence against women.

TABLE NO. 3.9**Socio-Economic Status of Family**

Status	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C. G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	TOTAL
Upper Class (%)	18 (7.2)	41 (16.4)	46 (18.4)	01 (0.4)	07 (2.8)	113 (9.04)
Higher Middle Class (%)	32 (12.8)	11 (4.4)	45 (18.0)	14 (5.6)	32 (12.8)	134 (10.72)
Middle Class (%)	90 (36.0)	74 (29.6)	58 (23.2)	29 (11.6)	68 (27.2)	319 (25.52)
Lower Middle Class (%)	43 (17.2)	36 (14.4)	46 (18.4)	28 (11.2)	56 (22.4)	209 (16.72)
Lower Class (%)	39 (15.6)	85 (34.0)	38 (15.2)	89 (35.6)	46 (18.4)	297 (23.76)
Below Poverty Line (%)	28 (11.2)	03 (1.2)	17 (6.8)	89 (35.6)	41 (16.4)	178 (14.24)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

The overall tabulation of socio-economic status of families to which respondents belong shows that out of 1250 about 26 per cent of respondents belong to middle class families whereas about 24 per cent belong to lower class families. About 17 per cent respondents have lower middle class family background as against about 14 per cent whose families are ranked below poverty line. Only 9 per cent of the respondents belong to upper class families and about 11 per cent are from upper middle class families.

The state percentage of respondents belonging to upper class families indicate a variation of (-) 1.84 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, (-) 7.36 per cent in Chhattisgarh, (+) 9.36 per cent in Gujrat, (-) 8.64 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and (-)

6.24 per cent in Maharashtra from the overall percentage of 9.04 for all the states taken together. In Cases of respondents from higher middle class families the variation from overall percentage of 10.72 per cent is (+) 2.08, (-) 6.32, (+) 7.28, (-) 5.12 and (+) 2.08 in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively. The respondents belonging to middle class families represent 25.25 per cent of the total respondents but the state percentages show a variation of (+) 10.48 (+) 4.08, (-) 2.32, (-) 13.92 and (+) 1.68 respectively in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The respondents from lower middle class families constituted 16.72 per cent of the total respondents from all states. However, a slight variation is observed in states. The variation in states from the overall percentage of respondents is (+) 0.48 in Andhra Pradesh, (-) 2.32 in Chhattisgarh, (+) 1.68 in Gujrat, (-) 5.52 in Madhya Pradesh and (+) 5.68 in Maharashtra.

The overall percentage of respondents belonging to lower class is 23.76 per cent for all the states taken together. However in case of Andhra Pradesh it is 15.6 per cent, in Chhattisgarh 34 per cent, in Gujrat 15.2 per cent, in Maharashtra 18.4 percent. Thus there appears a variation of (-) 8.16, (+) 10.24, (-) 8.56, (+) 11.84 and (-) 5.36 in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively.

The respondents belonging to families living below poverty line were found to be 11.2 per cent in Andhra Pradesh indicating a variation of (-) 3.04 per cent from the overall percentage of 14.24 for all states taken together. The variation of state percentage from the overall percentage of 14.24 is very high at (-) 13.04 in Chhattisgarh and at (-) 7.44 in Gujrat. Highest variation is recorded in the case of Madhya Pradesh i.e. (+) 19.4.

In conclusion it can be said that the respondents are distributed over families having different socio-economic status. This information about the socio-economic background of the respondents will be used for examining the association

of socio-economic status of the families of the respondents and the nature, incidence and extent of domestic violence against women.

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Chapter IV

Nature, Incidence & Extent of Domestic Violence Against Women

The domestic violence against women is a common phenomenon the world over. However, no official data are available on the various aspects of domestic violence against women in most of the countries. There are a few surveys conducted on family violence in different countries. These empirical studies indicate that violence against women is quite widespread.

The United State Bureau of Justice has published two reports on domestic violence against women based on the data collected by National Crime Survey. The major findings revealed that there were about 3.8 million incidences of violence against women within the family. Gelles and Straus (1987), in a nationwide sample of about 6000 individuals, found that in 16 percent of the homes, some kind of violence has occurred against the women in the family in the year prior to the survey and more than one in four of the couples reported marital violence at some point in their married life. David Levinson examined the Human Relations Area files at Yale University in 1989. These files contained statistical and descriptive information on a wide range of societies over time and around the world. He reported that wife beating was most common and frequent form of domestic violence. In 1986 Seager and Olson also reported that wife –beating was quite widespread and they further stated that some cultures encouraged wife-beating as a man's right whereas in other cultures the problem was hidden away as a ' Private ' matter.

In India a few isolated studies have been conducted by researchers like Greval(1982), Mahajan (1989), Mahajan and Madhurima (1995), Singh(1985), Saheli(1986). These studies endorses the fact that domestic violence against women is quite common in one form or the other and that it transgresses the boundaries of caste, class, race and religion.

In the present Chapter an attempt will be made to find out the presence or absence of domestic violence against women as well as the nature and extent of such violence in day-to-day life of the respondents covered by the study.

For the purpose of this study violence has been defined as an act carried out by any elder member of the family against any female member. Thus broader view of violence is taken for the purpose of the study. Further, for the purpose of analysis violence against women in the family has been divided into different categories like I) Verbal II) Physical iii) Emotional or Mental iv) Economic. While describing the nature, incidence and extent of domestic violence different forms of violence used by the perpetrators will be considered.

There are other types of violence like withdrawal and verbal abuse.. Withdrawal as a form of violence indicates that the abuser withdraws from normal interactions with the victim. Such behaviour is intended with the object of harming or making the victim uneasy. In other words withdrawal means stopping normal communication, refusing to eat food served by the victim, going out of house at odd times and drinking. Verbal violence stands for use of abusive language or calling names or giving verbal threats of resorting to physical violence.

These different forms of violence do not and may not occur in a given order. It also does not mean that one type of violence is less harmful than the other. A perpetrator or abuser may use one type of violence at one time and another type at another moment. A perpetrator may use a combination of different types of violence simultaneously. The division of violence in different categories is done only for the purpose of analytical study.

The nature of the present study is such that it was difficult to start with direct questions on the issue of domestic violence. Hence to find out the incidence of domestic violence the interview schedule started with most trivial aspect of daily life. Moreover, since the questions are directly linked with the private life of the

respondents, it was not proper to ask questions in the presence of other members of the family. The respondents were, therefore, interviewed at the residence of their relatives or friends or at their work place.

Respondent's Perception of Domestic Violence

The perceptions of domestic violence by respondents who were victims and had to suffer on that account and those who did not experience any violence so far are likely to be different. Such a perception depends upon their life situations, values and availability or non-availability of alternatives. Further, their reactions are likely to be coloured by presence or absence of other family members. Those who are abused in the presence of others are more likely to feel humiliated as they may develop a feeling of having been let down in the eyes of others.

To understand the perception of domestic violence the respondents were asked as to what in their opinion constituted domestic violence against women. This was a multiple-choice question and the respondents were provided different alternatives as under –

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Beating | 2. Tourchering |
| 3. Scolding | 4. Insulting |
| 5. Sexual abuse | 6. Suspecting Morality (Character) |
| 7. Repeated Quarrels | 8. Mental Harassment |
| 9. Rude Behaviour of husband, Father-in-law, Mother-in-law | |
| 10. Any other | |

The responses are recorded in the following table. Since multiple choice was given to the respondents out of 250 at state level and 1250 in all states taken together. The percentages are also separately drawn for each item at state and at overall level.

Table No. 4.1

Respondents' Perception of Domestic Violence

FORM OF Violence	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
1. Beating %	85 (34.0)	154 (61.6)	163 (65.2)	197 (78.8)	158 (63.2)	757 (60.56)
2. Touchering %	52 (20.8)	82 (32.8)	157 (62.8)	111 (44.4)	138 (55.2)	540 (43.2)
3. Scolding %	46 (18.4)	32 (12.8)	138 (55.2)	128 (51.2)	99 (39.6)	443 (35.44)
4. Insulting Repeatedly %	39 (15.6)	64 (25.6)	160 (64.0)	95 (38.0)	108 (43.2)	466 (37.28)
5. Sexual Abuse %	07 (2.8)	22 (8.8)	146 (58.4)	96 (38.4)	45 (18.0)	316 (25.28)
6. Suspecting Character %	32 (12.8)	50 (20.0)	137 (54.8)	71 (28.4)	50 (20.0)	340 (27.2)
7. Repeated Quarrels %	44 (17.6)	118 (47.2)	129 (51.6)	115 (46.0)	80 (32.0)	486 (38.88)
8. Mental Harassment %	15 (6.00)	152 (60.8)	128 (51.2)	114 (45.6)	66 (26.4)	475 (38.00)
9. Rude Behaviour %	09 (3.6)	114 (45.6)	141 (56.4)	113 (45.2)	70 28.0	447 (37.92)
10. Any Other %	08 (3.2)	06 (2.4)	20 (8.0)	02 (0.8)	6 (2.4)	42 (3.36)
Total %	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

The data presented in the above table helps us to understand how the women respondents treat one type of violence less important than the other in their perception. A number of permutations and combinations could be formed out of their responses. But, then the main object of understanding their perceptions would be set aside. Hence each form of violence is separately exhibited and the number of

respondents agreeing to call it as a form of violence is taken as frequency of that variable.

A very large percentage of respondents (about 61 percent) out of 1250 from all states taken together have pointed out beating as their perception of domestic violence. In rural as well as urban area beating appears to be the most common mode of violence used by the perpetrators against the victims. Analysis of data also shows that respondents from upper class, middle class and lower class families expressed nearly the similar views regarding beating as a form of violence exerted upon them. Except in the state of Andhra Pradesh where only 34 percent of 250 respondents perceived beating as a form of violence, respondents in all other states covered by the study ranged between 60 percent and 80 percent i.e. about 62 percent in Chhattisgarh, 65 percent in Gujrat, 63 percent in Maharashtra and around 79 percent in Madhya Pradesh. Respondents carrying this perception were equally spread over rural and urban areas.

Tourchering was perceived as a form of violence by about 43 percent of the total respondents from all the states taken together as against 63 percent from Gujrat, 55 percent from Maharashtra, 44 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 32 percent from Chhattisgarh and 21 percent from Andhra Pradesh. Urban–Rural analysis showed that 22 percent respondents from rural areas and 20 percent from urban areas perceived tourchering a form of violence.

Around 35 percent of respondents from all the states taken together perceived scolding as a form of verbal violence. Scolding was reported more frequently in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Similarly, respondents from lower class and below poverty line families were found more in number in describing scolding as a form of violence. The statewise analysis indicated more variation in the number of respondents stating scolding as their perception of violence. Thus, the lowest percentage of respondents (about 13 percent) was from Chhattisgarh and highest (55 percent) were from Gujrat. In Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya

Pradesh about 18 percent, 39 percent and 51 percent respondents respectively perceived scolding as a form of violence.

Another perception of violence as reported by respondents was repeated insulting in the presence of others. Out of 1250 respondents nearly 37 percent confirmed that they perceived repeated insulting as domestic violence. There was a difference of only 1 per cent in respondents from rural and urban areas who treated repeated insulting as domestic violence. The women from upper class and middle class families were more sensitive on this issue as compared with those from lower class and below poverty line families. The statewise examination of data disclosed a large majority of respondents from Gujarat who constituted 64 per cent of the respondents from that state, around 43 per cent respondents from Maharashtra, 38 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 25 per cent from Chhattisgarh and about 16 per cent from Andhra Pradesh were among those who perceived repeated insulting as their perception of domestic violence against women.

Only about one-fourth of the total 1250 respondents openly spoke about Sexual Abuse being perceived by them as domestic violence. Respondents from Gujarat (58 per cent) were more frank in their responses as compared to respondents from other states. About 38 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh and 18 per cent from Maharashtra confessed that sexual abuse was a sort of violence. The respondents from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were found hesitant to speak on this issue as only about 3 per cent and 9 per cent of the respondents respectively perceived sexual abuse as a form of domestic violence. Respondents from rural area, as compared to urban area, were more hesitant to express their opinion on this aspect of domestic violence. Similarly respondents from families living below poverty line and those from middle class families were not free in giving their views on sexual abuse.

Suspecting one's character was perceived as a most derogatory form of domestic violence against women and large majority of women perceived this as the most dangerous act of the perpetrators of domestic violence. In all the five states taken together about 27 per cent of the respondents perceived suspecting character

of a woman as domestic violence. With the exception of Gujarat where about 59 per cent respondent and Andhra Pradesh where only about 13 per cent of the respondents carried this opinion, in other states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra the percentage of respondents carrying this perception was in line with the overall trend. Women from rural areas and those from middle class families were touchy about the quality of character.

Ordinarily, quarrels do take place in all families irrespective of their socio-economic status. However, when quarrels between the husband and wife take place frequently and particularly when there is no major cause for such quarrels they are perceived as violence against women. Repeated quarrels were perceived as domestic violence by about 39 per cent of the respondents from all the states taken together. The number of respondents from rural areas was more as compared with respondents from urban areas. The statewise percentage of respondents treating quarrels as violence was Andhra Pradesh about 18 per cent, Chhattisgarh about 47 per cent, Gujarat 52 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 46 per cent and Maharashtra 32 per cent. The number of respondents carrying this perception was more in upper class families and upper middle class families as compared to lower class families.

Mental Harassment was also perceived as domestic violence by about 30 per cent of 1250 respondents from all states together. Statewise, the highest number of respondents supporting this view was from Chhattisgarh (60.8 per cent) and the lowest from Andhra Pradesh (about 6 per cent). About 51 per cent respondents from Gujarat, 46 per cent from Madhya Pradesh and 26 per cent from Maharashtra perceived mental harassment as violence against women. Rude behaviour was also perceived as domestic violence by about 38 per cent of the respondents from five states together. Only 4 per cent respondents from Andhra Pradesh are reported to have treated rude behaviour as violence. The perception of respondents from other states was in line with the general perception.

In conclusion we can say that respondents did not have uniform perception about the domestic violence.

Instigators of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is the immediate effect of instigation. It is observed that some-one in the family plays the role of instigator of violence. The instigation may come from any one or more of the major members of the family. Such members may be husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law and other relatives of the husband. The women were asked as to who instigates the violence against them. They were given multiple choice to record their responses. These responses are singularly presented in the following table. The combinations are avoided for maintaining simplicity in analysis.

Table No. 4.2

Instigators of Domestic Violence

Instigators	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
Mother-in-Law (%)	63 (25.2)	57 (22.8)	80 (32.0)	69 (27.6)	100 (40.0)	369 (29.52)
Father-in-law (%)	16 (6.4)	14 (5.6)	18 (7.2)	16 (6.4)	29 (11.6)	93 (7.44)
Husband (%)	122 (48.8)	54 (21.6)	68 (27.2)	117 (46.8)	127 (50.8)	488 (39.04)
Sister-in-Law (%)	12 (4.8)	36 (14.4)	41 (16.4)	30 (12.0)	33 (13.2)	152 (12.16)
Brother-in-Law (%)	07 (2.8)	36 (14.4)	19 (7.6)	18 (7.2)	07 (2.8)	87 (6.96)
Relatives of Husband (%)	12 (4.8)	27 (10.8)	48 (19.2)	35 (14.0)	26 (10.4)	148 (11.84)
Not Applicable (%)	35 (14.0)	58 (23.2)	49 (19.6)	15 (6.0)	25 (10.0)	182 (14.56)
Total (%)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Contrary to the general understanding that mother-in-law and sister-in-law are the main provokers of domestic violence against women, the data tabulated in the above table indicates that husband was the frequent instigator of domestic violence as reported by about 39 per cent of the total respondents from all the states taken together. In about 30 per cent of the 1250 cases, the respondents blamed mother-in-law for encouraging violence in the family. About 12 per cent of the respondents held sister-in-law and other relatives of the husband responsible for

instigating violence against them. It was only in about 7 per cent of the cases that father-in-law and brother-in-law were reported to be instigators of violence against the respondents.

Responses from rural areas disclosed that mother-in-law was the main instigator of violence in majority of the cases. Respondents from urban areas, in majority of the cases, reported husband as the principal instigator of violence.

The statewise picture is as under –

(i) Husband was reported to be mainly responsible for domestic violence against the respondents in majority of the families from Maharashtra (about 51 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (about 49 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (about 47 per cent). About 22 per cent and 27 per cent of the respondents from Chhattisgarh and Gujrat blamed their husbands as instigators of violence against them.

(ii) The respondents from Gujrat who were found in majority (32 per cent) held their mother-in-law as provocator of violence. In the State of Maharashtra 40 per cent of the respondents named mother-in-law for instigating violence against them. About 25 per cent respondents from Andhra Pradesh, about 23 per cent from Chhattisgarh and about 28 per cent from Madhya Pradesh also told that mother-in-law was mainly instigating violence against them.

(iii) Father-in-law in the family was reported as instigator of violence by only a small number of respondents i.e. 6 per cent each from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and 7 per cent from Gujrat, only with the exception of Maharashtra where about 12 per cent respondent charged father-in-law responsible for violence against them..

(iv) The number of cases reporting Sister-in-law as instigator of violence was less in Andhra Pradesh i.e. only about 5 per cent as against 12 to 16 per cent in the remaining states.

(v) Except in the State of Gujrat where about 14 per cent of the respondent pin pointed brother-in-law for provoking violence against them, the reports from other states showed that only a small number of respondents (2 to 8 per cent) targeted brother-in-law as instigator of violence.

(vi) Relatives of husband were also pin-pointed as instigators of violence against respondents in all the states. About 19 per cent respondents from Gujrat, 14 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 11 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 10 per cent from Maharashtra and 5 per cent from Andhra Pradesh were of the opinion that relatives of husband do instigate violence against them.

In short if ranking is to be done on the basis of instigating the violence the husband is at the top followed by mother-in-law, sister-in-law, relatives of husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Physical violence, for the purpose of the present study, is defined as any action of the perpetrator used against a woman with intent to cause her a physical injury. The most common and frequently used forms of physical violence against women in our country are –

(i) Slaps (ii) beating, (iii) pushing (iv) Kicking (v) throwing objects (vi) beating with cane (vii) burning with rod (viii) holding with rope (ix) Sexual coercion or assault.

The respondents were asked to state the nature of physical violence faced by them. They were given a number of alternatives of which they were required to select one or more depending upon their personal experience and life situation. The following table gives the details of responses for each of the alternative from each of the five states and for all the states together. A respondent might have experienced more than one form of physical violence and therefore is counted

separately for each form. The respondents from each state are 250 and the total respondents are 1250.

Table No. 4.3
Nature of Physical Violence faced by Respondents

Nature of Violence	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
Beating } Slapping } Pushing } Kicking) (%)	155 (62.0)	147 (58.8)	130 (52.0)	156 (62.4)	146 (58.4)	734 (58.72)
Thowing Objects } Beating with Cane } Burning with rod } (%)	11 (4.4)	31 (12.4)	33 (13.2)	59 (23.6)	45 (18.0)	179 (14.32)
Assault with Weapon (%)	10 (4.0)	09 (3.6)	19 (7.6)	18 (7.2)	12 (4.8)	68 (5.44)
Holding with rope (%)	06 (2.4)	07 (2.8)	08 (3.2)	27 (10.8)	22 (8.8)	70 (5.6)
Sexual Abuse (%)	15 (6.0)	08 (3.2)	29 (11.6)	39 (15.6)	34 (13.6)	125 (10.0)
Any other (%)	13 (5.2)	36 (14.4)	47 (18.8)	53 (21.2)	52 (20.8)	201 (16.08)
Not Applicable (%)	42 (16.8)	40 (16.0)	65 (26.0)	17 (6.8)	40 (16.0)	204 (16.32)
Total (%)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

In all 1250 respondents from five states were selected on random sampling basis with due weightage to rural and urban areas as well as the socio-economic status of families. Information collected from these respondents with regard to physical violence faced by them shows that almost about 84 per cent of respondents had been the victims of physical violence in one form or other. The analysis based on each form of violence discloses the following facts.

Taking all the respondents from all the five states together it was found that about 59 per cent of the respondents were victims of beating, slapping, pushing and kicking. Reports from the states indicated that about 58 per cent respondents from Maharashtra, 52 per cent from Gujrat, 62 per cent each from Madhya Pradesh

and Andhra Pradesh and 59 per cent from Chhattisgarh were victims of these forms of physical violence. Comparison of urban-rural areas disclosed that the extent of beating, slapping, pushing and kicking was more in rural areas as compared with urban areas. Similarly, it is observed from the data analysis that the extent of this type of violence is comparatively more surprisingly enough in upper class families.

Another forms of physical violence reported by the respondent were throwing objects, beating with cane and burning with rods. About 24 percent victims of these forms of physical violence were reported from Madhya Pradesh followed by 18. Per cent from Maharashtra, 13 per cent from Gujrat, 12 per cent from Chhattisgarh and about 4 per cent from Andhra Pradesh. The combined picture of all the states taken together indicates that out of 1250 respondents about 14 per cent were the victims of physical violence in the form of throwing objects or beating with cane or burning with rod. The data collected from rural and urban areas does not indicate any significant deviation from the overall trend. However, was noted that such type of physical violence was reported from the families living below poverty line and only in the cases where both of the victims and perpetrators are culturally backward and uneducated.

Victims of assault with weapons were only about 5 per cent of the total 1250 respondents from all the five states. These cases were reported by the respondents belonging to upper class, upper middle class and below poverty line families. As compared to rural areas the extent of cases of assault with weapons was significantly more in urban areas.

The state level observations are in line with the overall observations as only about 4 per cent of the respondents from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra reported assault with weapons as a form of physical violence used against them, except from the states of Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh where the percentage of such cases was about 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

Physical violence in the form of holding with rope was reported by about 6 per cent of 1250 respondents. However, statewise figures indicate that the extent of this type of violence was more in Madhya Pradesh (about 11 per cent) and Maharashtra (about 9 per cent). In the remaining states it was less than 3 per cent. It was noticed that maximum number of victims in this category were reported from rural areas and from families living below the poverty line.

One-tenth of 1250 respondents from all states together reported sexual abuse by their husbands. The extent of sexual abuse was more in urban areas as compared with rural areas. Similarly, the cases of sexual abuse as reported by respondents were more from upper class, higher middle class and middle class families as compared to lower class and below poverty line families. Statewise reports disclosed that highest number of victims of sexual abuse were from Madhya Pradesh (about 16 per cent) followed by Maharashtra (about 14 per cent) and Gujrat (about 12 per cent). Only 3 per cent respondents from Chhattisgarh and 6 per cent from Andhra Pradesh reported sexual abuse by their husbands.

There were about 16 per cent of the total respondents who were victims of physical violence but who could not exactly describe the nature of physical violence suffered by them.

Nature & Extent of Emotional Violence

Domestic Violence also includes placing a woman in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. This includes threats of violence, or other conduct that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. Psychologists are of the opinion that emotional or psychological violence is more serious than the physical violence because the wounds arising out of physical violence may heal over a period of time but the harmful effects of emotional violence last longer, some times life long.

The respondents were asked to state the nature of emotional violence used against them by the perpetrators. They were provided with the following options and were given freedom to have a multiple choice –

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Alternatives</u>
1.	Insulting in the presence of children and relatives.
2.	Blaming for everything that goes wrong in the family.
3.	Frequently charging on small and negligible matters.
4.	Compelling to feel guilty for no fault.
5.	Calling names.
6.	Threat of divorce.
7.	Treatment as a servant in family.
8.	Keeping strict watch on movements
9.	Prohibiting to meet with parents, friends and relatives.
10.	No freedom to express views on family matters
11.	Neglecting health
12.	Suspecting extra – marital relations
13.	Using insulting and/or ugly language
14.	Blaming for improper house-keeping
15.	Demeaning family background
16.	Criticizing for lack of or less intelligence.
17.	Threat to commit suicide
18.	Giving verbal threats to use physical force.
19.	Not Applicable

The data tabulated in the following table reflects responses from 250 respondents from each state and 1250 respondents from all states together for each form of emotional violence separately.

Table No. 4.4

Nature of Emotional (Psychological) Abuse

Code No.	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
1 (%)	45 (18.0)	32 (12.8)	97 (38.8)	50 (20.0)	127 (50.8)	351 (28.08)
2. (%)	28 (11.2)	40 (16.0)	103 (41.2)	83 (33.2)	85 (34.0)	339 (27.12)
3. (%)	22 (8.8)	107 (42.8)	64 (25.8)	55 (22.0)	87 (34.8)	335 (26.8)
4. (%)	20 (8.0)	44 (17.6)	62 (24.8)	35 (14.0)	81 (32.4)	247 (19.76)
5. (%)	38 (15.2)	43 (11.2)	40 (14.0)	47 (18.8)	90 (36.0)	258 (20.64)
6 (%)	13 (5.2)	28 (11.2)	37 (14.8)	33 (13.2)	42 (16.8)	153 (12.24)
7. (%)	29 (11.6)	48 (19.2)	45 (18.0)	59 (23.6)	62 (24.8)	243 (19.44)
8 (%)	24 (9.6)	36 (14.4)	44 (17.6)	58 (23.2)	30 (12.0)	192 (15.36)
9. (%)	11 (4.4)	30 (12.0)	39 (15.6)	51 (20.4)	21 8.4	152 (12.16)
10. (%)	08 (3.2)	26 (10.4)	49 (19.6)	35 (14.0)	31 (12.4)	149 (11.92)
11. (%)	12 (4.8)	35 (14.6)	41 (16.4)	45 (18.0)''	77 (30.8)	210 (16.8)
12. (%)	07 (2.8)	37 (14.8)	26 (10.4)	36 (14.4)	30 (12.0)	136 (10.88)
13. (%)	08 (3.2)	56 (22.4)	43 (17.2)	25 (10.0)	47 (18.8)	179 (14.32)
14. (%)	05 (2.0)	49 (19.6)	40 (16.0)	34 (13.6)	71 (28.4)	179 (16.72)

15. (%)	09 (3.6)	69 (27.6)	46 (18.4)	40 (16.0)	50 (20.0)	209 (17.12)
16. (%)	11 (4.4)	21 (8.4)	47 (18.8)	48 (18.8)	40 (16.0)	167 (13.36)
17. (%)	04 (1.6)	26 (10.4)	25 (10.0)	47 (18.8)	34 (13.6)	136 (10.88)
18. (%)	06 (2.4)	45 (18.0)	29 (11.6)	44 (17.6)	34 (13.6)	158 (12.64)
19. (%)	62 (24.8)	01 (0.4)	34 (13.6)	04 (1.6)	20 (16.0)	121 (9.68)

The analysis of data collected from the five states indicates that out of 1250 respondents about 90 percent respondents were victims of emotional violence in one form or the other. Out of these 90 percent victims about 30 percent were from rural areas and 60 percent from urban areas. On the basis of socio-economic background these 90 percent victims of emotional violence are distributed over the families having different socio-economic status as under –

Socio-economic Status of Family	Percentage of Victims (Out of 90%)
1. Upper Class	04
2. Higher Middle Class	07
3. Middle Class	28
4. Lower Middle Class	31
5. Lower Class	12
6. Below Poverty Line	08

	Total 90

Thus, it is very clear that the extent of emotional violence is greater in Lower Middle Class and Middle Class Families as compared with upper class, higher middle class, lower class and below poverty line families.

The statewise analysis of victims of psychological violence shows that in Andhra Pradesh out of 250 respondent about 75 percent were victims of emotional violence. The highest percentage of victims (about 99 percent) was reported from Chhattisgarh followed by about 98 percent from Madhya Pradesh. About 86 percent of respondents from Gujrat and 84 percent from Maharashtra were reported to be victims of emotional violence.

(a) Analysis on the basis of each form of emotional violence disclosed that

Out of 1250 respondents from all the states taken together about 28 percent reported that they were insulted in the presence of their children and /or relatives and hence were emotionally disturbed. About 27 percent of the respondents were blamed for everything that went wrong in the family and equal percentage of respondents were frequently charged for small and negligible matters. Around 20 percent of the respondents were compelled to feel guilty for no fault of theirs and about 21 percent were repeatedly harassed by calling names. About 12 percent of the respondents complained that they were kept under constant stress by giving threats of divorce by their husbands and parents-in-law. Servant like treatment was being given to about 19 percent respondents who always felt humiliated. Around 15 percent of the respondents were emotionally abused by keeping a constant watch on their movements, as against 12 percent of them who were prohibited from meeting their parents, relatives and friends. Freedom to express views on matters related to family was continuously denied to about 12 percent of the respondents and in the case of about 17 percent of the respondents the serious problems of health were neglected by the responsible family members including their husbands. About 11 percent of the respondents were being harassed on the suspicion of their extra marital relationships, and thereby emotionally abused. In the cases of about 14 percent of the respondents, ugly and insulting language was used for their parents and relatives causing thereby emotional abuse of respondents. Housekeeping is the responsibility of women. However, it is inhuman to harass them for improper house-keeping or neglect of children every time. The research study disclosed that about 17 percent of the respondents were subject to emotional violence due to constant

blaming for improper housekeeping. The most emotional subject for women is the respect and goodwill of their patriarchal families. Therefore, if their family background is demeaned and dis-respect is shown for their parental families they get emotionally disturbed. About 17 percent respondents were victims of this type of emotional violence. The study also revealed that about 13 percent of the respondents were emotionally abused by criticizing them for the level of intelligence. The women are dependent on the husbands objectively and subjectively. This situation is exploited by the husbands for keeping women under constant stress. About 11 percent of the respondents stated that they were emotionally abused by giving threats of committing suicide by their husbands. In about 13 percent of the cases emotional violence was caused to the respondents by giving them verbal threats of using physical force.

b) In the states the incidence and extent of emotional violence was reported as under –

- i) About 18 percent respondents from Andhra Pradesh reported emotional violence in the form of insulting in the presence of children and relatives. About 13 percent respondents from Chhattisgarh, 39 percent from Gujrat, 20 percent from Madhya Pradesh and the highest 51 percent from Maharashtra reported this form of emotional abuse.
- ii) About 11 percent respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 16 percent from Chhattisgarh, 41 percent (highest) from Gujrat, 33 percent from Madhya Pradesh and 34 percent from Maharashtra reported that they were blamed for every thing that went wrong in the family and as a result they were under constant emotional stress.
- iii) Frequent charges were leveled on small and negligible matters in the family against about 9 percent respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 43 percent (highest) from Chhattisgarh, about 26

percent from Gujrat, about 22 percent from Madhya Pradesh and 35 percent from Maharashtra.

- iv) The respondents reported that they were compelled to feel guilty for no fault of theirs. The percentage of such cases was 8,18,25,24 and 32 in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively.
- v) Calling names was another most common form of emotional abuse reported from all the states under study. The highest number of cases of this type of emotional abuse were reported from Maharashtra i.e. 36 percent followed by 19 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 17 percent from Chhattisgarh, 16 percent from Gujrat and 15 percent from Andhra Pradesh.
- vi) A sizable number of respondents from all the states reported that they remained emotionally disturbed on account of threats of divorce. The statewide percentage of victims of this type of emotional abuse was 17, 15, 13, 11 and 5 in Maharashtra, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh respectively.
- (vii) About one-fourth of the respondents each from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and about 11 to 19 per cent from the remaining three states complained that they were treated like servants in the family and hence felt humiliated.
- (viii) The husband, the mother-in-law, the father-in-law or the sister./brother-in-law were keeping a strict watch on the movements of the respondents and thereby mentally disturbing them. The number of such respondents was 24, 36, 44, 58 and 30

percent respectively from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- (ix) A number of respondents from the five states complained that they were prohibited to meet their friends and relatives. The highest number of cases were reported from Madhya Pradesh (about 20 per cent) followed by about 12 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 8 per cent from Maharashtra and 4 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) Some of the respondents from each state were emotionally abused by not allowing them to express their views on family affairs. They were, thus, neglected in allimportant discussions on family matters. Such respondents were reported at 20, 14, 12 and 10 per cent from Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh respectively. However, only 3 per cent respondents from Andhra Pradesh were reported to be victims of this type of emotional violence.
- (xi) Except in the State of Andhra Pradesh in all other states a sizable number of respondents were emotionally abused by neglecting their health problems. The highest number of respondents whose health problems were neglected were from Maharashtra (about 31 per cent), followed by 18 percent in Madhya Pradesh, 16 per cent in Gujrat and 14 per cent in Chhattisgarh. The lowest (about 5 per cent) number of respondents who suffered emotional abuse on this ground was reported from Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) Women are very sensitive to the matters related to their character and morality. They get emotionally disgusted if they are suspected for extra marital relations. The victims of this form of emotional

violence were reported at about 14 per cent each from Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, 12 per cent from Maharashtra, 10 per cent from Gujrat and only about 3 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.

- (xiii) Use of insulting and ugly language for the parents and relatives of the women also hurts them emotionally. It was observed that about 18 per cent respondents each from Gujrat and Maharashtra and 22 per cent from Chhattisgarh reported this type of emotional abuse from their mother-in-law, father-in-law and husband. About 10 per cent cases were reported from Madhya Pradesh and 3 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.

- (xiv) Traditionally, House Keeping is the responsibility of women in the family. However, the elderly women in the family shift the entire burden of work to the younger women and then find out fault in their work. The husbands also scold the wives for negligence in house keeping without considering the fact that they are over-burdened. As a result, the women remain under psychological pressure throughout the day. The statewide analysis of respondents who were harassed for improper house keeping shows that about 28 per cent respondents from Maharashtra, 20 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 16 per cent from Gujrat, 14 per cent from Madhya Pradesh and only 2 per cent from Andhra Pradesh were ill-treated for deficiencies in house-keeping.

- (xiv) Cases where the family background of the respondents was criticized in an insulting manner were about 28, 20, 18, 17 and 4 per cent respectively from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- (xv) Emotional violence in the form of humiliation of the respondents by demeaning their level of intelligence was reported by about 19 per cent of the respondents each from Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh, 16 per cent from Maharashtra and 8 and 4 per cent respectively from Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.
- (xvi) The respondents who constitute about 19 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 14 per cent from Maharashtra, 10 per cent each from Chhattisgarh and Gujrat and 2 per cent from Andhra Pradesh, were given threats by their husbands to commit suicide and thereby they were kept under constant emotional stress.
- (xvii) Verbal threats to use physical force were given by the perpetrators of violence to about 18 per cent of the respondents each from Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, 14 per cent from Maharashtra, 12 per cent from Gujrat and 2 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.

To conclude a large number of respondents are living with emotional stress.

Economic Abuse

Economic abuse of a woman is yet another form of violence. Such a violence is the result of dependency. Dependency framework has been used in three ways to explain domestic violence against women. In the first approach economic dependency is treated as a cause of wife abuse, whereas in the second approach it is treated as a condition forcing a woman to assume the role of the victim and in the third approach partial non-dependency also results into economic abuse of a woman. Women's access to resources is largely determined by their relationships to men through marriage. This dependency of women is fully exploited by the men and they control the women.

In order to find out the nature, incidence and extent of economic abuse of women respondents they were asked to describe the economic abuse they suffered.

The respondents were given the following options to describe the economic abuse choosing one or more of the options –

- (A) Preventing you from taking a job
- (B) Forcing you to leave the existing job
- (C) Recovering full amount of your salary, leaving nothing with you for personal expenditure
- (D) Pressurising you for bringing money from your parents
- (E) Prohibiting you from making purchases of your choice
- (F) Not applicable

In the following table the above responses are given codes as A, B, C, D, E & F.

Table No. 4.5

Economic Abuse of Respondents

Abuse Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
A (%)	37 (14.8)	30 (12.0)	41 (16.4)	80 (32.0)	72 (28.8)	250 (20.00)
(B) (%)	38 (15.2)	31 (12.4)	43 (13.2)	47 (18.8)	33 (13.2)	192 (15.36)
(C) %	30 (12.0)	43 (17.2)	47 (18.8)	71 (28.4)	29 (11.6)	220 (17.60)
(D) %	42 (16.8)	26 (10.4)	31 (12.4)	46 (18.4)	47 (18.8)	192 (15.36)
(E) %	36 (14.4)	125 (50.0)	85 (34.0)	80 (32.0)	52 (20.8)	378 (30.24)
(F) %	(F) %	34 (13.6)	52 (20.8)	22 (8.8)	82 (32.8)	278 (11.20)

The percentages calculated in the above table are for 250 respondents in state columns and 1250 respondents for total respondents (All states taken together) for each variable separately.

The figures in the table clearly show that out of 1250 respondents about 89 per cent of the respondents were victims of economic violence in one form or the other. Detailed analysis of the data shows that about 20 per cent of the total respondents were not allowed to take any out door job for earning, thereby making them fully dependent on the husband for their economic needs. In Madhya Pradesh 32 per cent of 250 respondents were prohibited from taking a job, followed by about 29 per cent in Maharashtra and 16 per cent in Gujrat. In Andhra Pradesh about 15 per cent and in Chhattisgarh about 12 per cent respondents were forced for not taking a job. There are two reasons for this situation. One that the husband and other seniors in the family intentionally disallow outdoor job so as to exploit the woman for the domestic duties and to make her dependent on them for every thing she needs and second that some families feel that if women take job outside the home the social prestige of the family goes down. This feeling was observed in greater degree in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The respondents also reported another form of economic violence against them i.e. forcing them to leave the existing job. Out of 1250 respondents about 15 per cent were being forced to leave their existing jobs, thereby making them fully dependent on their husbands. When the woman is employed she gets a status in the family and as a result she exercises authority. Husbands who are authoritative in nature may not tolerate this. As a result the husband may force his wife to leave the job.

The statewise analysis of data indicates that in the State of Madhya Pradesh out of 250 respondents around 19 per cent of the respondents were forced to leave the existing jobs as against 17 per cent from Chhattisgarh. About 15 per cent respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 13 percent from Maharashtra and 12 percent from Chhattisgarh also stated that they were being forced to leave the existing jobs.

Still another mode of economic abuse is to forcefully collect the full amount of salary from the women and to keep nothing with them for their personal expenditure. In other words though they are earning members in the family they are not free to spend even a single rupee on them. About 18 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 from all the states together reported that full amount of salary was recovered from them every month by their husbands or heads of the families. Similar responses were received from 28, 19, 17, 12 & 12 percent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively.

About 15 per cent of the respondents from all states taken together complained that they were being harassed and forced continuously to bring money from their patriarchal family. The picture in the state was not very different as about 19 per cent respondents from Maharashtra, 18 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 17 per cent from Andhra Pradesh, 12 per cent from Gujrat and 10 per cent from Chhattisgarh reported economic abuse in this manner.

The respondents were prohibited from making purchases of their choice. This form of economic abuse was reported by majority (30 per cent) of respondents from all the states taken together. Nearly 50 per cent of the respondents from Chhattisgarh, 34 per cent from Gujrat, 32 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 21 per cent from Maharashtra and 14 per cent from Andhra Pradesh also confirmed that they had no freedom to make purchases of their choice.

The analysis of data clearly leads to the conclusion that in every state a sizable number of women are being abused economically.

Frequency of Violence

Violence against women assumes the form of a social problem when it is a repeated action in the family. It was, therefore, that the respondents were asked to

state the frequency of violence subjected to them. The options provided for response were –

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Daily | (ii) Once/ Twice a week |
| (iii) Once/Twice a Month | (iv) A number of times in a month |
| (v) Occasionally | (vi) Uncertain |

The data collected is presented in the following table -

Table No. 4.6
Frequency of Violence

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>					
	<u>A.P.</u>	<u>C.G.</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>M.P.</u>	<u>MAH.</u>	<u>Total</u>
DAILY (%)	21 (8.4)	48 (19.2)	10 (4.0)	47 (18.8)	59 (23.6)	185 (14.80)
Once/Twice a week (%)	29 (11.6)	37 (14.8)	20 (8.0)	66 (26.4)	46 (18.4)	198 (15.89)
Once/Twice in a Month (%)	55 (22.0)	19 (7.6)	23 (9.2)	70 (28.0)	36 (14.4)	203 (16.24)
Number of Times A Month (%)	10 (4.0)	57 (22.8)	40 (16.0)	44 (17.6)	14 (5.6)	165 (13.20)
Occasionally (%)	53 (21.2)	21 (8.4)	46 (18.4)	13 (5.2)	52 (20.8)	185 (14.80)
Uncertain (%)	18 (7.2)	65 (26.0)	72 (28.8)	07 (2.8)	23 (9.2)	185 (14.80)
Not Applicable (%)	64 (25.6)	03 (1.2)	39 (15.6)	03 (1.2)	20 (8.0)	129 (10.32)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

The analysis of data displayed in the above table indicates that the frequency of domestic violence is equitably distributed over different durations. Out of 1250 respondents about 16 per cent each reported that they were facing domestic violence (i) once or twice in a week and (ii) once or twice in a month. The percentage of respondents against whom domestic violence was committed (i) practically every day, (ii) occasionally and (iii) at any time suddenly was 15 in each case. In the cases of 13 per cent of the respondents the violence took place a number of times during a month.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh 8 per cent of the 250 respondents faced domestic violence daily, about 12 per cent once or twice in a week and about 4 per cent a number of times in a month. The highest number of respondents (22 per cent) from this state informed that the frequency of violence in their cases was only once or twice in a month, followed by about 21 per cent of them facing domestic violence occasionally. The frequency of violence was reported as uncertain by 7 per cent of the respondents.

The situation in Chhattisgarh was slightly different from Andhra Pradesh as far as frequency of violence was concerned. Out of 250 respondents from the state the maximum number (26 percent) reported uncertainly in the case of frequency of violence as against about 23 percent of the respondents from the state who faced violence a number of times in a month. Sufficiently large number of respondents (19 per cent) were subjected to violence daily and about 15 per cent once or twice a week. The percentage of respondents who reported frequency of violence as (i) once or twice in a month and (ii) occasionally was about 8 per cent in each case.

Reports from Gujrat indicated that violence was caused to 10 per cent of the respondents daily, to 8 per cent once or twice in a week and to 9 per cent once or twice in a month. In the case of about 29 per cent of the respondents the frequency of violence was uncertain whereas in the case of 18 per cent of them it was occasional as against 16 per cent who faced violence a number of times in a month.

Maximum number of respondents from Madhya Pradesh reported that they had to face violence (i) once or twice in a month (28 per cent) and (ii) once or twice in a week (about 26 per cent). Those who were subjected to violence daily were about 19 per cent and a number of times in a month about 18 per cent. Only about 5 per cent and 3 per cent of the respondents faced violence (i) occasionally and (ii) without certainty respectively.

In the State of Maharashtra it was observed that 9 per cent of the respondents from the state could not tell exactly the frequency of violence as it was uncertain. About 24 per cent of the respondents who were in majority, however, stated that they were undergoing domestic violence on all days as against 21 per cent reporting the incidence of violence taking place occasionally. The percentage of respondents in whose case the frequency of violence was stated to be (i) once or twice a week and (ii) once or twice a month was 18.4 and 14.4 respectively. About 6 per cent of the respondents informed that violence was being committed against them once or twice in a week. In the case of 9 per cent of the respondent there was uncertainty in the frequency of violence faced by them.

The total and statewise analysis of data leads to a conclusion that it is difficult to catch the frequency of violence in terms of periodicity. Therefore, the responses could be interpreted only as a trend. It appears that in maximum cases the respondents were exposed to violence daily or once or twice in a week.

Duration of Domestic Violence

The respondents were asked to state as to how long they were suffering from domestic violence. The object of collecting this information was to understand how long the respondents are coping with abusive situation and further to know why they are not resisting the violence.

The respondents were to select only one of the following alternatives –

For less than one year

One to three years

Four to five years

More than five years

Not applicable

Their responses are tabulated in the following table –

Table No. 4.7
Duration of Domestic Violence

<u>Length of Period</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
LESS THAN ONE YEAR (%)	68 (27.2)	42 (16.8)	26 (10.4)	37 (14.8)	27 (10.8)	200 (16.0)
Once to Three years (%)	44 (17.6)	79 (31.6)	60 (24.0)	46 (18.4)	70 (28.0)	299 (23.92)
Four to Five years (%)	28 (11.2)	37 (14.8)	35 (14.0)	50 (20.0)	26 (10.4)	176 (14.08)
More than 5 years (%)	43 (17.2)	90 (36.0)	88 (35.2)	113 (45.2)	106 (42.4)	440 (35.2)
N.A. (%)	67 (26.8)	02 (0.8)	41 (16.4)	04 (1.6)	21 (8.4)	135 (10.8)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

Careful observation of the statistical information presented in the above table shows that the duration for which the respondents were facing domestic violence is not identical in different states. However, the majority of respondents (about 35 percent) from all the states clubbed together were facing domestic violence for more than 5 years and about 24 percent reported this trouble for the last one to three years. The period of suffering ranged between 4 and 5 years for about 14 percent of the total respondent, whereas 16 percent of respondents were living in abusive condition for less than one year.

The states records show that for 250 respondents from each state the following facts were disclosed -

- i) About 27 percent respondents from Andhra Pradesh informed that they were living in violent condition for less than one year, followed by about 18 percent facing violence for the last one to three years. The number of respondents who stated that the period of suffering was more than 5 years in their case was 43 (17 percent).

- ii) The reports from Chhattisgarh indicated that a high percentage of respondents (about 36 percent) admitted that they are exposed to domestic violence for the last more than five years. About 32 percent of the respondents quoted “ last one to three years” as a period of their sufferings as against about 17 percent who stated” less than one Year” as a period of suffering due to domestic violence.
- iii) The conditions in Gujrat were somewhat similar to that in Chhattisgarh. In this state the highest percentage (35) of respondents were living under violent conditions for the last more than five years, followed by about 24 percent of them who were suffering due to domestic violence since last one or two years. The respondents who were coping with domestic violence I) since last four to five years and ii) since less than one year were 14 percent and 10 percent of the total respondents respectively.
- iv) Highest percentage of respondents (45 percent) who were living in abusive conditions in the family since more than five years , was reported from Madhya Pradesh. From this state respondents who were living with violence in the family I) Since four to five years , ii) Since one to three years and iii) since less than one year was 20 percent, 18 percent and 14 percent respectively. It is to be noted that the highest number of cases of domestic violence was also reported from this state only.
- v) Maharashtra was next to Madhya Pradesh in reporting highest number of cases of domestic violence with long duration. Out of 250 respondents from this state about 42 percent were facing domestic violence since more than five years. The percentage of respondents who were victims of domestic violence I) Since last four to five years, ii) Since last 1 to 3 years and iii) since less than a year was about 10, 28 and 11 respectively.

The analysis of duration of domestic violence indicates that nearly one-third of the women in all the five states are facing domestic violence since last five years or more. The urban –rural comparison does not indicate any significant difference. Similarly, socio-economic status of family also does not indicate any different pattern. When educational and occupational back-ground of the respondents was compared with the duration of violence it was observed that educated and employed women do not cope with abusive condition for a longer period.

Causes of Domestic Violence

The causes of domestic violence range from the trivial to bizarre, as just anything can serve as an excuse to severely beat up a woman who is often clueless about how to avoid it. Some of the trivial causes are dressing fashionably, laughing, combing hair again and again, making logical arguments and difference of opinion. It is difficult to decide which action, behaviour or expression will be taken as a sufficient cause for domestic violence against women. Therefore, the research team restricted its choice to the most common and evident causes of domestic violence. The respondents covered by the study were asked to state one or more of the following causes responsible for use of violence against them.

Cause – Code

Cause – Statement

- | | |
|-----|--|
| (A) | No dowry, less dowry |
| (B) | Refused to bring money from patriarchal family |
| (C) | Partial fulfillment or No fulfillment of Promises given & commitments made at the time of settlement of Marriage |
| (D) | Love affairs before Marriage |
| (E) | Extra Marital Relations. |
| (F) | Resistance for Sexual Abuse |
| (G) | Medically unfit for Child bearing |
| (H) | Giving birth to a girl child repeatedly |

- (I) Unemployed husband
- (J) Husband constantly under tension due to problems at work-place
- (K) Husband's alcoholism

Table No . 4.8**Causes of Domestic Violence**

Cause Code	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
(A)	12	09	16	56	44	137
(%)	(4.8)	(3.6)	(6.4)	(22.4)	(17.6)	(10.96)
(B)	22	19	23	48	45	160
(%)	(8.8)	(7.6)	(9.2)	(19.2)	(18.0)	(12.80)
(C)	20	13	13	34	23	103
(%)	(8.0)	(5.2)	(5.2)	(13.6)	(9.2)	(8.24)
(D)	26	14	14	46	08	108
(%)	(10.4)	(5.6)	(5.6)	(18.4)	(3.2)	(8.64)
(E)	22	27	10	48	20	127
(%)	(8.8)	(10.8)	(4.0)	(19.2)	(8.0)	(10.16)
(F)	07	08	08	17	14	54
(%)	(2.8)	(3.2)	(3.2)	(6.8)	(5.6)	(4.32)
(G)	11	11	13	29	18	82
(%)	(4.4)	(4.4)	(5.2)	(11.6)	(7.2)	(6.56)
(H)	04	09	33	51	11	108
(%)	(1.6)	(3.6)	(13.2)	(20.4)	(4.4)	(6.56)
(I).	09	16	41	66	26	158
(%)	(3.6)	(6.4)	(16.4)	(26.4)	(10.4)	(12.64)
(J)	11	35	78	58	59	241
(%)	(4.4)	(14.0)	(31.2)	(23.2)	(23.6)	(19.28)
(K)	30	72	61	72	83	318
(%)	(12.0)	(28.8)	(24.4)	(28.8)	(33.2)	(25.44)

(L)	110	60	97	55	65	387
(%)	(44.0)	(24.0)	(38.8)	(22.0)	(26.0)	(30.96)

The analysis of data presented in the above table discloses that the phenomenon of domestic violence is not the outcome of any single cause. The violence is caused due to different reasons in different types of families. The personality factors of both the victim and the perpetrators are also responsible for the outbreak of violence.

Taking all the 1250 respondents from all the five states together we find that –

- i) The drug addiction or alcoholism of the husband was the main cause of domestic violence against the women as reported by a majority of about 25 percent of the respondents.
- ii) About 19 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that the main reason for violence caused to them was their husbands had problems at work place and that they (husband) were under tension constantly. Violence was caused during the period of heavy mental pressure.
- iii) Refusal to bring money from parental family and husband's unemployment were stated to be the causes of domestic violence by about 13 percent of the respondents in each case.
- iv) Nearly 11 percent of the respondents reported 'Dowry' and about 10 percent stated doubt of extra marital relations as the principal causes of violence against them.
- v) Doubt of love affairs of the respondents before marriage and failure to fulfil the promises and commitments made at the time of settlement of marriage were also reported as causes of domestic violence by nearly 8 to 9 percent of the respondents in each case.
- vi) A sizable number of respondents also reported other causes of violence against them. About 7 percent of the respondents in each case were victims of domestic violence because they were (i) medically unfit for conception and ii) repeatedly gave birth to a girl –child .

- vii) In about 4 percent of the cases the respondents faced violence due to resistance on their part to sexual abuse.

Thus the overall picture shows that domestic violence against women is caused due to a variety of reasons.

A mixed trend of causes of domestic violence was observed in different states. However, maximum number of respondents reported drug-addiction and alcoholism of husbands as the cause of violence. In the state of Maharashtra about 33 percent husbands were reported alcoholic or drug-addict. In other states the percentage of alcoholic/ drug-addict husbands was Madhya Pradesh 29% , Chhattisgarh 29% , Gujrat 24% and Andhra Pradesh 12%.

The respondents stating husbands remaining under constant tension due to problems at work place as the cause of violence were 31 percent from Gujrat, 24 percent from Maharashtra, 23 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 14 percent from Chhattisgarh and about 4 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

Dowry as a precipitating factor in domestic violence was reported by 22 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh followed by about 18 percent from Maharashtra, 6 percent from Gujrat, 5 percent from Andhra Pradesh and 4 percent from Chhattisgarh.

Refusal to bring money from patriarchal family was the cause of domestic violence for about 18 percent of respondents from Maharashtra, 19 percent from Madhya Pradesh, about 9 percent each from Gujrat and Andhra Pradesh and about 8 percent from Chhattisgarh.

Non-fulfillment or partial fulfillment of promises given and commitments made at the time of settlement of marriage was reported as a cause for domestic violence by about 14 percent of respondents from Madhya Pradesh , 9 percent from

Maharashtra , 8 percent from Andhra Pradesh and 5 percent each from Chhattisgarh and Gujrat.

Doubt about love affairs of the respondents before their marriage was the reason for harassment of about 18 percent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 10 percent from Andhra Pradesh, 6 percent each from Chhattisgarh and Gujrat and 3 percent from Maharashtra.

Suspected extra marital relations of the respondents was also one of the causes of domestic violence as reported by the respondents. Highest percentage of cases of this nature (about 19 percent) was reported from Madhya Pradesh. From the remaining states the percentage of respondents giving this reason for their victimization was about 11 percent from Chhattisgarh 9 percent from Andhra Pradesh , 8 percent from Maharashtra and only 4 percent from Gujrat .

On the grounds of refusal to sexual abuse about 7 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 6 percent from Maharashtra and 3 percent each from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujrat were facing domestic violence.

Some of the respondents who were victims of domestic violence were medically unfit to bear a child. These respondents were mentally and physically harassed by their husbands and in-laws. The percentage of such respondents was about 12 in Madhya Pradesh, 7 in Maharashtra, 5 in Gujrat and 4 each in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The respondents who repeatedly delivered only female babies were abused by family members and even the relatives of the husband. Highest number of cases of harassment of women on this ground was reported from Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat where the percentage was 20 and 13 respectively. In other states the picture was not much alarming.

Unemployed husbands were also a cause of domestic violence against women. Under such condition not only the respondents but also their husbands had to bear the insulting behaviour of other members of the family. About

26 per cent respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 16 per cent from Gujrat, 10 per cent from Maharashtra, 6 per cent from Chhattisgarh and 4 per cent from Andhra Pradesh stated unemployed husbands as the cause of domestic violence against them.

The examination of the data relating to causes of domestic violence reveals that a single cause was not at the root of violence in all cases but a mix of causes was observed in sufficiently large number of cases. As has been already said no perfect list of causes of violence could be prepared and hence those respondents who are suffering from domestic violence due to causes not covered by the study could not be considered for enumeration. To conclude, dowry, repeated demands of money, alcoholic husbands, doubts about love affairs, extra marital relations, and unemployed husbands are the main causes of domestic violence in majority of the cases..

The domestic violence against women emanates from strained relationships within the family. The causes and motivations of violence lie not outside but inside the relationship between men and women in the family. It is within this relationship that we can understand the inter-subjectivity of why domestic violence takes place against women and why women passively accept the rage and abuse that are waged against them. To understand and deal with the nature and scope of domestic violence we need a sort of perspectives that embraces the perspectives of abused women and the perpetrators of violence.

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Chapter V

REACTIONS TO AND IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In the preceding chapter we have studied the nature, incidence and extent of domestic violence including the causes that led to violence against women. It was observed that violence was quite widespread in the five states covered by the present study. The present chapter deals with the steps, if any, taken by the victims to disclose the incidents of violence and sufferings to outsiders for seeking relief, their instant reactions their coping behaviour and the compulsions of living in abusive situations. It is also proposed to study the impact of domestic violence on the victims, their children and the family as a whole.

Violence against women in one form or the other was found to be quite generic, cutting across class boundaries and was also found to be present in all age groups having different attributes. Additionally, domestic violence is not considered seriously unless it involves homicide or physical injury to the victim. However, from the standpoint of the victim violence is a violence whether it is verbal, emotional or physical. Therefore, in this chapter efforts will be made to find out their reactions to violence as well as the steps they take to deal with abusive situation.

The sociologist and psychologist in U.S.A. have conducted research to understand the nature and extent of the problem and it took them a long time in identifying major social factors associated with the problem of domestic violence against women.

The reactions of abuse by the victims are likely to be different depending upon their level of education, family background, life situation and availability or non-availability of alternatives. Further, their reactions are likely to be different by the presence or absence of other family members in the family or outsiders.

Immediate Reaction to Domestic Violence

In the present study an attempt is made to find out the immediate reactions of the victims of domestic violence. It was expected that most of the victims would give their reactions which would be self-directed rather than directed against the abusers. Earlier studies conducted on victims reactions to domestic violence report a high incidence of paralysing terror, terrifying intimidation, shame and degradation, humiliation and isolation.

The immediate reactions to domestic violence were classified as (i) resistance (ii) fighting back (iii) hatred against the abuser (iv) feeling of taking revenge and (v) feeling of helplessness, humiliation and shame.

The responses collected from the victims are presented in the following table. The responses are coded as under for presentation in the table.

	<u>CODE</u>	<u>REACTION</u>
(A)	:	Resistance
(B)	:	Fighting back
(C)	:	Hatred against abuser
(D)	:	Feeling of revenge
(E)	:	Feeling that nobody cares
(F)	:	Feeling of humiliation
(G)	:	Feeling of powerlessness
(H)	:	Feeling of Shame
(I)	:	Any other
(J)	:	Not applicable

Table No. 5.1**Immediate Reaction to Domestic Violence**

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	Total
	250	250	250	250	250	250
(A)	49	25	42	123	91	330
(%)	(19.6)	(10.0)	(16.8)	(49.2)	(36.4)	(26.40)
(B)	26	43	119	65	63	316
(%)	(10.4)	(17.2)	(49.2)	(26.0)	(25.2)	(25.28)
(C)	16	35	34	52	35	172
%	(6.4)	(14.0)	(13.6)	(20.8)	(14.0)	(13.76)
(D)	20	25	42	51	39	177
%	(8.0)	(10.0)	(16.8)	(20.4)	(15.6)	(14.16)
(E)	09	16	34	64	70	193
%	(3.6)	(6.4)	(13.6)	(25.6)	(28.0)	(15.44)
(F)	16	49	25	41	60	191
%	(6.4)	(19.6)	(10.0)	(16.4)	(24.0)	(15.28)
(G)	26	67	40	87	98	318
%	(10.4)	(26.8)	(16.0)	(34.8)	(39.2)	(25.44)
(H)	32	25	13	36	40	146
%	(12.8)	(10.0)	(7.2)	(26.4)	(17.6)	(11.68)
(I)	06	04	02	03	04	19
%	(6.4)	(9.6)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(5.6)	(1.52)
(J)	83	24	47	36	44	234
%	(29.2)	(1.6)	(16.8)	(2.4)	(12.0)	(18.72)
Total %	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

- The question was that of multiple choice.

Every action of violence results in immediate reaction on the part of the victim. The data in the table indicates the reaction of different abusive actions of the perpetrators on the respondents. The analysis of data shows that –

- (i) While reporting the immediate reaction of the violent action of the perpetrator about 26 per cent each of the respondents from all the five states informed that they resisted and fought back. About 14 per cent described their immediate reaction as a feeling of hatred

against the abuser and equal percentage of respondents reported feeling of taking revenge as their immediate reaction. “A feeling that no-body from the family cares for me” was the immediate reaction of about 15 per cent of the respondents; equal percentage of respondents felt humiliated due to abuse caused to them. About 25 per cent of the respondents felt powerless as they could do nothing in the abusive situation as against about 12 per cent who developed a feeling of shame. About 2 per cent of the respondents could not exactly express the nature of reaction they had immediately after the incident of violence.

(B) The Analysis of data reported from the states disclosed that –

- (i) A very large numbers of respondents from M.P. (about 49 per cent out of 250) reported that resistance was their immediate reaction to violence. Resistance was also reported as immediate reaction by about 36 per cent of the respondents from Maharashtra. However, reports from Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat and Chhattisgarh disclosed a reduced percentage of respondents i.e. about 20, 17 and 10 respectively expressing resistance as first reaction.
 - (ii) Fighting back was reported as immediate reaction to violence by about 48 per cent of the respondents from Gujrat followed by 26 per cent of Maharashtra. Less number of cases giving fighting back as the immediate reaction were reported from Andhra Pradesh (10%) and Gujrat (17%).
 - (iii) About 21 per cent of the respondents (out of 250) from Madhya Pradesh had a feeling of hatred against the abuser as first reaction to violence as against 14 per cent each from Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Maharashtra. From the State of Andhra Pradesh, however, only about 6 per cent of the respondents expressed such a reaction.

- (iv) A feeling of taking revenge was the immediate reaction to violence by about 20 per cent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 17 per cent from Gujrat, 16 per cent from Maharashtra, 10 per cent from Chhattisgarh and 8 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) The respondents from Maharashtra who developed a feeling of loneliness and felt neglected in the family were about 28 per cent. Feeling that no-body in the family cares for me was the immediate reaction to abuse reported by about 26 per cent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh and about 14 per cent from Gujrat. However, only 6 per cent and 4 per cent respondents from Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh respectively reported such reaction.
- (vi) About one-fourth of the respondents from Maharashtra felt humiliated immediately after the incident of violence. Such an immediate reaction to abuse was also stated by about 20 per cent respondents from Chhattisgarh, 16 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 10 per cent from Gujrat and 6 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) A feeling of powerlessness was the immediate reaction that followed the violence in the cases of a large majority of 39 per cent of the respondents from Maharashtra, 35 per cent from Madhya Pradesh and 29 per cent from Chhattisgarh. Similar immediate reaction to violence was reported by 16 per cent of the respondents from Gujrat and 10 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) One of the different reactions to abuse reported by the women was the feeling of shame. Such a reaction was reported by 26 per cent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 18 per cent from Maharashtra, 13 per cent from Andhra Pradesh, 10 per cent from Chhattisgarh and 7 per cent from Gujrat.

- (ix) It was not possible for a very small number of respondents from each state to describe in clear terms the exact nature of their immediate reaction to the abuse.

It must be noted that the respondents were abused by using different forms of violence on different occasions. Their reactions to different forms of violence cannot and could not be identical. Hence, their reactions to physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse were separately noted and reported. It is observed that some of their reactions were self-directed while others were directed against other persons. It is interesting to note that nearly 50 per cent of the total 1250 respondents have shown resistance to abuse or fought back to the abuser.

The following part of this chapter deals with coping behaviour pattern which the victims adopt to deal with the violence. The strategy a victims adopts depends upon one's perception of the abusive situation. The analysis of the reactions of the victims to their violence indicated two types of reactions – one 'self-directed' and the other 'directed to others'. Each victim of abuse is likely to work out her own strategies to deal with abusive situation in family relationship. It is only when the violence becomes recurrent and individual strategies fail expected results that the victim feels helpless and is forced to seek some help from other persons. The informal source of help is the members of the parental family. Police were likely to be approached than other formal sources available observed Frize in his research paper in 1980. Pagelow (1981) drew almost similar conclusions with regard to the use of formal sources. Bowker (1983), after indepth interview of the victims came to the conclusion that women use three types of techniques to get rid of violence i.e. (i) personal strategies (ii) use of in formal assistance sources and (iii) formal help sources. It is expected that the victim would first use the informal help sources before approaching the formal help sources in case she fails to check the violence.

It is to be noted that the victim seeks to take the help from informal sources like family member, in-laws, neighbors, friends etc. not with the intention of

asking them to intervene but with the sole object of sharing her experiences with them and seeking their advice for dealing with abusive situation. It was in this contest that the respondents were asked as to (i) whether anyone from her family intervened, (ii) whether she reported the incident of violence to parents, relatives or friends.

Table No. 5.2

Intervention By Family Members

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	Total
YES	71 (28.4)	93 (37.2)	95 (38.0)	124 (49.6)	83 (33.2)	466 (37.28)
NO	72 (28.8)	132 (52.8)	108 (43.2)	109 (43.6)	129 (51.6)	550 (44.00)
N.A.	107 (42.8)	25 (10.0)	47 (18.8)	17 (6.8)	38 (15.2)	234 (18.72)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

The data presented in the above table clearly indicates that in majority of the cases (44 per cent) the family members of the respondents' families did not intervene when the respondents were being abused, as against about 37 per cent of the cases where there was intervention by the family members. This is the overall picture for all the states taken together. The data returned from the individual states discloses that the situation is more serious in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra from where about 53 per cent and 52 per cent of the respondents reported that their family members never intervened when they were put to physical, emotional and verbal violence by other members of the family. More or less similar responses were returned from Andhra Pradesh (29%), Gujrat (42%) and Madhya Pradesh (44%).

On further analysis of data it was observed that there was not much difference in the attitude of family members from rural and urban areas as well as families from upper class, middle class and lower class.

The next question to the respondents was as to whether they have reported the incidents of violence to their parents, guardians, relatives, friends or any other persons. The objective behind this question was to know whether the respondents tried to seek help from informal sources for getting relief from abusive situation. The responses are presented in the following table –

Table No. 5.3

Reporting of Violence to informal sources

Reporting	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	Total
YES	96 (38.4)	123 (49.2)	129 (51.6)	132 (52.8)	127 (50.8)	607 (48.56)
NO	47 (18.8)	102 (40.8)	74 (29.6)	101 (40.4)	85 (34.0)	409 (32.72)
N.A.	107 (42.8)	25 (10.0)	47 (18.8)	17 (6.8)	38 (15.2)	234 (18.72)
Total (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

It is interesting to note that about 33 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 did not report the abusive situations in which they were living even to their relatives and close friends and preferred to rely upon their own strategies to deal with the situation. An independent study is required to find out the reasons as to why they refrained from reporting their woes to their informal sources for seeking their advice to tackle the abusive situation as well as the reason why they are continuing to stay in the abusive relationship.

The data collected from states indicate that more than 50 per cent of the respondents from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat did seek the help from informal sources by reporting their abusive situation to parents, relative and friends. About 49 per cent of the respondents from Chhattisgarh and 38 per cent from Andhra Pradesh also reported the instances of violence to their friends, relatives and parents with a view to seek their advice in dealing with the abusive situation.

The following table shows the informal sources whose help was sought by the respondents to tackle the abusive situation. There were 607 respondents in this category distributed over five states.

Table No. 5.4
Reporting to Informal Sources of Help

Informal Source of help	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	GRT	M. P.	MAH.	Total
1. Parents (%)	16 (16.7)	23 (18.7)	29 (22.5)	42 (31.8)	50 (39.4)	160 (26.36)
2. Relatives (%)	8 (8.3)	17 (13.8)	21 (16.3)	32 (24.2)	17 (13.4)	95 (15.65)
3. Friends (%)	72 (75.0)	83 (87.5)	79 (61.2)	58 (44.0)	60 (47.2)	352 (57.99)
Total (%)	96 (100)	123 (100)	129 (100)	132 (100)	127 (100)	607 (100)

It is obvious from the above table that the general understanding that an abused woman would first approach the parents and guardian for help is disproved as only about one fourth of the 607 respondents have approached the parents to seek their help in tackling abusive situation. Similarly only about 16 per cent of them have taken the help of relatives. It is strange to note that a majority of about 56 per cent of the victims have approached their friends for seeking their guidance to deal with the situation in which they were forced to live. The main reason for this is that one can open one's mind and speak more freely and in details with the friends as compared to parents, guardians and relatives.

Similar trend is observed in all the states as majority of the respondents from all the states have preferred friends as the informal source of help. Out of 96 respondents from Andhra Pradesh 72 (75 per cent) have approached friends and about 17 per cent reported their condition to parents. Remaining 8 per cent sought the help of relatives. In the State of Chhattisgarh about 88 per cent of the respondents approached their friends and only 19 and 14 per cent of them

approached their parents and relatives respectively. Maximum number of respondents (79 out of 129) from Gujrat also reported their distress to friends as against only 29 reporting to parents and 21 to relatives. A slight change in coping behaviour was observed in Madhya Pradesh as the percentage of respondents seeking help from parents and guardians was about 32 per cent and 39 percent respectively. In Maharashtra also about 47per cent of the respondents sought the help of friends as against 39 percent from parents and 13 percent from relatives.

To conclude a large majority of respondents from all the five states preferred to report and seek help from friends as an informal source to tackle the abusive situation in which they were placed.

As observed earlier, the victims approach their informal sources when their own strategies to deal with the violent situation fail. The advice is sought with the hope that they will be better equipped to face the abusive situation. However, in the informal group there will be certain persons who would show sympathy to the victims while others may refrain from any intervention or advice. Depending on the nature of abuse the strategies of the informal group are likely to vary. Further, some members of the informal group may advise the victims to patch up for the purpose of saving their marriage and in the interest of their children, whereas others may simply lend lip-service but would not give any concrete advice. Still others are likely to advise the victims either to seek help from formal agencies or to break off the abusive relationship.

The following table throws light on this situation.

Table No. 5.5

Type of Advice Given By Informal Group

Type of Advice	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
Patch up	51 (53.1)	64 (52.0)	67 (51.9)	68 (51.5)	41 (32.3)	291 (47.9)

Seek help From N.G.O.	15 (15.6)	13 (10.6)	14 (10.9)	12 (9.1)	31 (24.4)	85 (14.0)
Report to Police	20 (20.8)	26 (21.1)	25 (19.4)	30 (22.7)	29 (22.8)	130 (21.4)
BREAK OFF	10 (10.5)	13 (10.6)	16 (12.4)	19 (14.4)	09 (7.1)	67 (11.0)
Go for legal advice	00 (0.0)	07 (5.7)	07 (5.4)	03 (2.3)	17 (13.4)	34 (5.7)
Total (%)	96 (100)	123 (100)	129 (100)	132 (100)	127 (100)	607 (100)

The data presented in the above table reveal that in majority of the cases (about 48) per cent), the members of the informal group advised the victims to patch up with their family members. In other words these informal groups valued the continuation of the victims in the family and advised them to reconcile to the situation for saving their marriage and the future of their children. As against this about 11 per cent of the respondents were even advised for breaking off marital relationship and about 21 per cent were advised to report the problem to police authorities. In all about 14 per cent of the respondents were directed to approach the N.G.O.s to seek their help and about 6 per cent were advised to go for legal remedies available under the law.

The data collected from states and presented in the above table indicate the responses of 250 women from each state. The situation in the states does not show any significant variations from the overall situation. The informal sources at rural level were more in favour of patch up or break off than seeking help from informal sources as compared to their counter parts in the urban areas.

Except in the State of Maharashtra where only 32 per cent of the respondents were advised by the informal sources to patch up, the percentage of respondents who were advised to patch up ranged between 51 per cent and 53 per cent in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh. The percentage of respondents who were advised to seek formal help from NGOs was around 9 to 11 per cent in Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh as against 16

per cent in Andhra Pradesh and about 24 per cent in Maharashtra. It appears that NGOs in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra by their work in the field of womens welfare are successful in winning the confidence of the people. Advice to report the cases to the competent police authorities was also given to about 21 per cent respondents each in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 23 per cent each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and to around 19 per cent respondent in Gujrat. There were cases where the members of informal group recommended break off in marital relations. Such cases in accounted for about 11 percent each in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 14 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 12 per cent in Gujrat and only 7 per cent in Maharashtra. The cases of advice to go for legal relief were negligible in all the five states.

Assistance & Guidance from Informal Sources

After seeking the advise of parents, relatives and friends who constitute informal group, the victims are not likely to translate the advice into practice irrationally and immediately. They would again evaluate their situation and would work out their own strategies to deal with the situation. However, when the situation goes beyond their control, they would venture to seek the assistance and guidance from outside (informal) sources. It does not mean that all the victims of domestic violence will seek intervention from formal sources after having failed to control the abusive situation. It is, however, expected that few victims of violence will seek intervention from formal agencies. It is in this context that the victims were asked “Did you ever seek the help from outside (formal agencies) to prevent your husband or parents-in-law from abusing you” ?. The responses are presented in the following table -

Table No. 5.6
Seeking Out-side Help to Prevent Abuse

Outside Help	<u>Number of Respondents</u>					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total

Yes (%)	15 (6.0)	12 (4.8)	10 (4.0)	12 (4.8)	19 (7.6)	68 (5.44)
No (%)	128 (51.2)	213 (85.2)	193 (77.2)	221 (88.4)	193 (77.2)	948 (75.84)
N.A. (%)	107 (42.8)	25 (10.0)	47 (18.8)	17 (6.8)	38 (15.2)	234 (18.72)
TOTAL (%)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	250 (100)	1250 (100)

We have seen earlier that out of 607 victims of violence approached the informal group to ask their advice in tackling the problem of violence. About 41 per cent of these respondents were advised to seek help from formal sources like N.G.O.s, Police and Judiciary. The table given above shows how many victims of violence (including those who were advised) actually approach the formal sources to seek their help in resolving the problem of domestic violence faced by them.

It is surprising to note that out of 1016 cases of domestic violence only 68 victims had sought the help from outside formal agencies. The statewide distribution of these 68 cases is – 15 from Andhra Pradesh, 12 from Chhattisgarh, 10 from Gujrat, 12 from Madhya Pradesh, and 19 from Maharashtra. Thus out of 1016 victims of domestic violence 128 victims from Andhra Pradesh, 213 from Chhattisgarh, 193 from Gujrat, 221 (highest) from Madhya Pradesh and 193 from Maharashtra abstained from seeking help from outside formal agencies. It would be in the fitness of the thing to explain the background of such victims who have sought help from the formal agencies. Out of 68 victims 55 were the victims of physical violence and the remaining were the victims of other forms of violence. All the victims were educated, 24 of them were employed and 13 belonged to upper class families. The results of this study do not support the contention of Gelles (1976) that greater the severity of physical violence, the more likely the victim would seek intervention from formal agencies.

Those victims who sought the help from outside formal agencies were asked to state the nature of such formal agencies. Their responses are given in the following table -

Table No. 5.7**Types of Formal Agencies**

Formal Agency	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
Police %	2 (13.3)	3 (25.0)	2 (20.0)	4 (33.3)	5 (26.3)	16 (23.5)
Legal Adviser %	6 (40.0)	4 (33.3)	3 (30.3)	2 (16.7)	6 (31.6)	21 (30.9)
Social Organisation %	1 (6.67)	0 (0.0)	2 (20.0)	2 (16.7)	3 (15.8)	8 (11.8)
Panchayat %	1 (6.67)	3 (25.0)	1 (10.0)	3 (25.0)	3 (15.8)	11 (16.2)
Family Court %	5 (33.3)	2 (16.7)	2 (20.0)	1 (8.3)	2 (10.5)	12 (17.6)
Total %	15 (100)	12 (100)	10 (100)	12 (100)	19 (100)	68 (100)

Out of 68 victims of violence 21 (about 40%) had approached legal advisers and 16 (about 24 percent) reported the matter to the police. Only 8 (about 9 percent) had sought the help from NGOs working in the field of welfare of women and 11 (16 percent) had taken their cases to community Panchayat. The number of victims approaching the family courts for help was 12(about18 percent). Thus majority of the respondents had taken the help of police, family courts and legal advisers. It clearly shows that the N.G.O.'s and the community panchayats, inspite of their best efforts to resolve conflicts at local level failed to attract more victims of violence in their fold.

Statewise analysis of data also shows that police, legal advisers and family courts were preferred by the victims as formal agencies to intervene as compared to NGOs and Community Panchayat.

TYPE OF HELP GIVEN BY FORMAL AGENCIES

The 68 victims of domestic violence were asked to state the nature of help given by the formal agencies. Their responses were as under -

Table No. 5.8**Help from Formal Agencies**

Nature of Help	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
Physical Protection %	2 (13.3)	3 (25.0)	2 (20.0)	4 (33.3)	5 (26.3)	16 (23.5)
Social & Moral Support %	7 (46.7)	7 (58.3)	4 (40.0)	5 (41.7)	9 (47.3)	32 (47.0)
Psychological Counseling %	6 (40.0)	2 (16.7)	4 (40.0)	3 (25.0)	5 (26.4)	20 (29.5)
Total %	15 (100)	12 (100)	10 (100)	12 (100)	19 (100)	68 (100)

It is clear from the data tabulation that all the 16 victims who reported their cases to police were given physical protection. They constitute about 24 percent of the respondents. It shows that police authorities had full realization of their legal responsibilities with regard to the cases of domestic violence reported to them. Out of 68 victims, 32 (47 percent) were given social or moral support by Community Panchayat and legal advisers and 20 victims were given psychological Counseling alongwith moral and social supports by womens NGOs working for the welfare of women at local level. The statewise analysis of data did not indicate any significant variation from the general trend.

Results of Intervention of Formal sources.

To what extent the intervention of formal agencies likes police, legal advisers, womens NGOs, Community Panchayat's and the family courts was helpful to the victims? In other words, did the victims got some relief from violent situation in the family subsequent to intervention from the formal sources. The respondents were asked to state whether abuse was stopped after the intervention of outside agencies. Their responses are reported in the following table -

Table No. 5.9**Results of Intervention of Formal Sources**

	Number of Respondents					
	A. P.	C.G.	G.R.T.	M.P.	MAH	Total
Yes totally %	4 (26.7)	2 (16.7)	4 (40.0)	4 (33.5)	9 (47.3)	23 (33.8)
Yes Partially %	6 (40.0)	3 (25.0)	1 (10.0)	3 (25.0)	7 (38.8)	20 (29.4)
No %	5 (33.3)	7 (58.3)	5 (50.0)	5 (41.7)	3 (15.9)	25 (36.8)
Total %	15 (100)	12 (100)	10 (100)	12 (100)	19 (100)	68 (100)

The data in the table indicate that after seeking help from outside formal agencies violence was totally stopped in the cases of about 34 percent of the victims and partially stopped in the cases of about 29 percent of the victims. About 37 percent of the respondents, however, reported that even after the intervention of the outside formal agencies the use violence by family members continued . The statewise analysis also disclosed the similar trend as violence against the victims did not stop even after the intervention of outside agencies in about 33 percent of the cases from Andhra Pradesh, 58 percent from Chhattisgarh, 50 percent from Gujrat, 42 percent from Madhya Pradesh, and about 37 percent from Maharashtra. Thus, the intervention of outside formal agencies failed to give any relief to a large number of respondents in the five states under study.

The victims who could not get relief from abusive conditions in the family even after the intervention of informal and formal groups were asked as to why they were still living with those families. In other words the research team wanted to know the compulsions under which the victims of violence families. Following alternatives were provided to them for recording their responses and they were asked to select one major reason compelling them to live with the family in abusive situation.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Reason</u>
(A)	No other place to go
(B)	For the sake of Children.
(C)	Protecting reputation of parental family

With the expectation and hope that the situation will change for better in future
Under pressure from parents.

Table No. 10

Reasons for Living in Abusive Situation

Reason Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	6	5	4	6	8	29
(%)	(40.0)	(41.7)	(40.0)	(50.0)	(42.2)	(42.6)
(B)	4	3	1	3	5	16
(%)	(26.7)	(25.0)	(10.0)	(25.0)	(26.3)	(23.5)
(C)	1	0	1	1	2	05
(%)	(6.7)	(0.0)	(10.0)	(8.3)	(10.5)	(7.4)
(D)	2	1	1	1	2	07
(%)	(13.3)	(8.3)	(10.0)	(8.3)	(10.5)	(10.3)
(E)	2	3	3	1	2	11
(%)	(13.3)	(25.0)	(30.0)	(8.3)	(20.5)	(16.2)
Total	15	12	10	12	19	68
(%)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

The data reveal that these 68 respondents indicated different compulsions and gave a number of reasons which force them to continue staying in the abusive relationship e.g. for the sake of children, for the sake of family reputation, with the hope that things will improve one day and that they could not think of alternative way of living. The analysis of data shows that a majority of about 43 per cent of the victims out of 68 reported that it was because of the fact that they had no alternative place go and hence they were forced to live in abusive relationship. About 24 per cent of he victims could not leave the family for the sake of their children as against about 16 per cent who were willing to desert the abusive relationship but continued to live in abusive situation due to pressure from their parents. There were others who were compelled to live only to protect the reputation of their parental

families and still others who continued living in abusive relationship with the hope that things would change for better in future. The percentage of such victims was about 7 and 10 respectively.

The victims from different states indicated near about similar responses. Victims who were to continue their stay in the abusive family because of no alternative place to live in were between 40 and 42 per cent in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Maharashtra and 50 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. Those who were forced to live in the abusive family for the sake of their children were between 25 and 27 per cent in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and only 10 per cent in Maharashtra and only 10 per cent in Gujrat. Protecting reputation of parental family was the compulsion for staying in abusive situation reported by about 7 per cent of the victims from Andhra Pradesh, 8 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, about 10 per cent each from Gujrat and Maharashtra. There were victims who were living in abusive relationship with the hope that one day everything would change for better. The percentage of such optimistic victims was reported between 8 and 11 from Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and about 13 in Andhra Pradesh. Highest percentage of victims (30 percent) who were forced to live in abusive family against their will but under pressure from the parents was reported from Gujrat, followed by 25 per cent from Chhattisgarh. In other states this percentage was not too much i.e. 13 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 8 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and about 11 per cent in Maharashtra.

To conclude maximum number of respondents were under compulsion to live in the abusive situation as they had no alternative place to go and for the sake of their children. The data of the present study support the contention of researchers like Gelles (1976), Martin (1979), Roy (1977), Strube and Barbour (1983) and Strube (1988). They have concluded that a number of conditions influence the decision of victims to tolerate violence and they are forced to continue living with their abusive families.

The analysis of data on the reactions to domestic violence and the coping behaviour of the victims highlights that the subjective dependency is the outcome of their socialization, life situations, social definitions, values and norms and lack of alternative support systems. Hence, the objective conditions not only influence the victims reaction to domestic violence but also their coping behaviour pattern. In addition to this their perception that other alternative ways of living, e.g. Single, divorcee or separated are no substitute for married life, forces them to develop tolerance to violence and they continue living with their abusive families with a hope that things may improve.

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The instant reaction to violence is a temporary phase but violence causes a long term effect on the life of the victims. It also affects the life of their children. The family also gets affected in one form or the other. It was therefore, proposed to study the long term impact of domestic violence against women. Violence causes stress, anxiety, depression, disturbed sleep, palpitations, physical fatigue, cronic head-ace, Psychogenic pain etc. to women. A single victim may suffer from one or more ailments at a time. There may also be a shift from one type of ailment to other. In some cases old ailments disappear giving place to new which may be more severe. The respondents were asked whether they were suffering from any or more of the following disorders –

<u>Code</u>	<u>Disorder</u>
(A)	Mental Stress
(B)	Anxiety
(C)	Depression
(D)	Disturbed Sleep
(E)	Palpitation
(F)	Physical Fatigue

- (G) Chronic head-ache
 (H) Psycho Somatic Pain
 (I) Any other
 (J) No disorders
 (K) Not applicable

The responses are presented in the following table –

Table No. 5.11
Disorders Due to Violence

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	40	57	85	115	129	426
(%)	(16.0)	(22.8)	(34.0)	(46.0)	(51.6)	(34.08)
(B)	17	28	52	114	61	272
(%)	(6.8)	(11.2)	(20.8)	(45.6)	(24.4)	(21.76)
(C)	37	35	93	99	102	366
(%)	(14.8)	(14.0)	(37.2)	(39.6)	(40.8)	(29.28)
(D)	31	47	102	66	84	330
(%)	(12.4)	(18.8)	(40.8)	(21.6)	(33.6)	(26.40)
(E)	06	31	28	38	12	115
(%)	(2.4)	(12.4)	(11.2)	(14.4)	(4.8)	(9.20)
(F)	08	31	54	48	38	179
(%)	(3.2)	(12.4)	(21.6)	(19.2)	(15.2)	(14.32)
G	16	22	62	40	48	188
(%)	(6.4)	(8.8)	(24.8)	(16.0)	(19.2)	(15.04)
H	02	03	22	23	56	106
(%)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(8.8)	(9.2)	(22.4)	(8.48)
I	02	07	01	05	03	18
(%)	(0.8)	(2.8)	(0.4)	(2.0)	(1.2)	(1.44)
J	83	91	49	87	97	487
(%)	(33.2)	(36.4)	(19.6)	(34.8)	(38.8)	(38.96)
K	107	25	47	17	38	236
(%)	(20.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(15.2)	(18.88)

The analysis of data reveal that a majority of 426 respondents (34%) out of 1250 were reported to be suffering from mental stress, followed by about 29 per cent who were victims of depression due to violence. About 26 per cent of the respondents were having disorders in sleep and about 22 per cent had anxiety.

Those suffering from palpitation, physical fatigue, chronic headache and Psychogenic pain were about 9, 14, 15 and 8 per cent respectively. 18 respondents had multiple disorders but could not explain the exact nature of their ailments. Out of 1250 respondents 487 (about 39 per cent) reported that though they were living under abusive situation they had not developed any disorder and had no health problems.

The lowest number of cases of disorders and health problems were reported from Andhra Pradesh. In this state only 16 per cent of the respondents were suffering from mental stress, 12 per cent from disturbed sleep and 14 per cent from depression. Other disorders were not reported significantly.

In Chhattisgarh about 23 per cent of the respondents out of 250 reported that they were suffering from mental stress, 14 per cent were under depression, about 19 per cent had disturbed sleep and about 12 per cent each complained about constant palpitation and physical fatigue. Only 3 cases of psychosomatic pain and 22 cases of chronic head-ache were reported. About 36 per cent of the respondents who were victims of domestic violence did not report any suffering.

From Gujrat a large number of cases (about 41 per cent) of disturbed sleep were reported. Respondents who complained about mental depression and stress were about 37 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. Anxiety as a disorder following violence was reported by 21 per cent of the respondent. The cases of chronic-headache were reported in large number (about 25 per cent) from Gujrat as compared to other states. The victims of psychosomatic disorders were also reported in large number (about 9 per cent) from this state.

In Madhya Pradesh cases of mental stress were more as compared to other ailments. There were about 46 per cent cases each of mental stress and anxiety. About 40 per cent respondents were patients of depression about 22 per cent had disturbed sleep. The cases of physical fatigue, chronic head-ache, psychosomatic pain were also reported in sufficiently large number from this state. In

spite of domestic violence, about 35 per cent of the respondents had no disorder of any type.

Highest number of respondents (about 52 per cent) from Maharashtra reported mental stress as the effect of domestic violence against them. About 41 per cent respondents were suffering from mental depression, 34 per cent from sleep-disorders, 19 per cent had chronic head-ache and 22 percent had psychosomatic pain. About 39 per cent had no problems.

The urban-rural comparison shows that victims from rural areas were less prone to physical and mental disorders as compared to their counterparts in urban areas. Similarly victims from upper class and middle class families are more likely to suffer from mental ailments in comparison with victims from rural areas. This is because of the fact that women from rural areas are mentally strong to bear the ill-effects of domestic violence.

It is clear from the analysis of data that domestic violence against women affects their physical and mental health. The psychological disorders are more rampant as compared to physical health problems. As compared to physical violence emotional violence causes more harm to the health of women. Moreover, since they are living in the abusive family nobody cares for their health problems, no medical advice is sought and proper treatment given. As a result the health problems aggravate resulting in impaired health.

LONG TERM EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

So far, the physical and mental disorders arising out of domestic violence against women were discussed. It is also necessary to examine how and to what extent the personal and social life of a woman is affected due to domestic violence. There are women who face the violent situation boldly and do not allow their personality to be adversely affected. But there are others who get mentally

disturbed and disorganised. They restrict their social contacts and feel ashamed of their abusive situation. There are still others who get worried and become victims of chronic health problems. In order to find out how far the respondents from the five states are affected due to domestic violence (from the view point of long term impact) the respondents were asked to select any one or more of the following alternatives to report their condition –

<u>Code</u>	<u>Long-term Impact</u>
(A)	Mentally disturbed & disorganised
(B)	Ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends
(C)	Restricted Social Contacts
(D)	Impaired health
(E)	No impact
(F)	Not applicable

Table No. 5.12

Long-Term Impact of Violence

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	47	47	111	146	121	472
(%)	(18.8)	(18.8)	(44.4)	(58.4)	(48.4)	(37.76)
(B)	29	27	83	72	71	282
(%)	(11.6)	(10.8)	(33.2)	(28.8)	(28.4)	(22.56)
(C)	27	48	57	97	53	282
(%)	(10.8)	(19.2)	(22.8)	(38.8)	(21.2)	(22.56)
(D)	26	46	58	117	81	328
(%)	(10.4)	(18.4)	(23.2)	(46.8)	(32.4)	(26.24)
(E)	03	21	03	20	13	60
(%)	(1.2)	(8.4)	(1.2)	(8.0)	(5.2)	(4.8)
(F)	107	25	47	17	38	234
(%)	(42.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(14.2)	(18.72)
Total (%)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

The Tabulated data reveal that a very large number of respondents (more than one-third) out of a total of 1250 reported that they were mentally disturbed

and/or disorganised due to domestic violence. About 26 per cent of them were living with continued impaired health. Out of 1250 respondents about 23 per cent each complained of reduced social contacts and were ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends. About 5 percent of the respondents said that they did not find long term impact of violence on their personal and social life.

In Andhra Pradesh out of 250 only about 19 per cent of the respondents reported long term mental disturbance and disorganization, around 11 per cent each were ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends and had reduced social contacts, about 10 per cent had impaired health problems. Only 3 respondents had no long term impact.

The reports from other states were somewhat different. In Chhattisgarh about 19 per cent respondents each reported long term impact of violence in the form of (a) mental disturbance and disorganization (b) impaired health & (c) reduced social contacts. About 10 per cent of the respondents stated that they were ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends and about 8 per cent had no long term impact of violence.

Gujrat reported about 44 cases of long-term mental disorders and disorganisation and 33 per cent cases of long term feeling of shame in mixing with friends and relatives. In about 23 per cent of the cases each, reduction in social contact and impaired health were reported as long term impact of violence. No long term impact was reported in 3 cases.

In Madhya Pradesh majority of the respondent were mentally disturbed and disorganised as a result of domestic violence. Such respondents were about 58 per cent as against 46 per cent who reported impaired health and 39 per cent in whose case social contacts were curtailed. About 29 per cent of the respondents were ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends and about 8 per cent carried no long term impact of domestic violence.

The situation in Maharashtra was somewhat close to Madhya Pradesh. Nearly 48 per cent of the respondents reported that they were mentally disturbed and disorganised for long due to violence as against 32 per cent who were suffering from impaired health. About 28 and 21 per cent respondents respectively stated that (i) they were ashamed of mixing with relatives and friends and (ii) that they have curtailed their social contacts since long due to domestic violence.

In short a large number of respondents were victims of long term impact of violence. The cases of mental illness were more as compared with physical ailments. Moreover, the psychological impact of violence was found positively associated with verbal and emotional abuse of the victims.

Impact on Family Life

Cooperation and conflicts are normal features of family life. However, presence of these features in the intimate relationships create paradox. On the one hand there is myth of family non-violence which depicts cultural harmony and on the other hand, there seems to be social norms which grant the right to a few members to abuse other family members. Violence perpetrated among the members of the family is more common. The domestic violence against married women perpetrated by their husbands or other members of the family spoils the cordial relationships among the members of the family. Worst affected are the women victims of violence. It was, therefore thought necessary to ask the women respondents as to how their family life was affected as a result of violence. Following options were provided to them and they were asked to select one or more -

Impact Code

Impact

- | | |
|-----|---|
| (A) | Conjugal relations are strained and are always under tension. |
| (B) | Quarrels take place on minor issues frequently |
| (C) | Communication gap widens giving rise to misunderstanding. |
| (D) | Mutual Trust is lost . |

- (E) Family does not remain a place to live in.
 (F) Any other
 (G) Not applicable

The following table discloses the nature of responses returned –

Table No. 5.12

Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Life

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	55	60	121	132	112	490
(%)	(22.0)	(24.0)	(48.4)	(52.8)	(44.8)	(39.2)
(B)	30	65	89	80	94	358
(%)	(12.0)	(26.0)	(35.6)	(32.0)	(37.6)	(28.64)
(C)	15	56	78	58	56	263
(%)	(6.0)	(22.4)	(31.2)	(23.2)	(22.4)	(21.4)
(D)	17	37	52	102	78	286
(%)	(6.8)	(14.8)	(20.8)	(40.8)	(31.2)	(22.88)
(E)	13	25	45	74	47	204
(%)	(5.2)	(10.0)	(18.0)	(29.6)	(18.8)	(16.32)
(F)	04	03	17	03	06	33
(%)	(1.6)	(1.2)	(6.8)	(1.2)	(1.8)	(2.64)
(G)	107	25	47	17	38	234
(%)	(42.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(14.2)	(18.72)
Total (%)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

* Multiple choice was given to respondents

Excluding 234 respondents, who were not the victims of domestic violence, the remaining 1016 respondents described in what way their family life was affected as a result of violence against them. Sufficiently large percentage (about 39) of respondents reported that due violence conjugal relations were strained and the same were always under tension. Near about 29 percent of the respondents reported that quarrels took place between the husband and wife and also between the respondents and other members of the family on very minor issues very often. About 23 percent of the respondents stated that violence resulted in loss of mutual trust between the husband and the wife and nearly 21 percent of them were worried about the widening of communication gap giving rise to multiple misunderstandings.

Family did not remain a place for living for about 16 percent of the respondents. About 3 percent of the respondents were not specific about the impact of violence on their family life.

In states, strained conjugal relations with continuous tension were reported by about 48 percent respondents from Gujrat, 53 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 45 percent from Maharashtra, 24 percent from Chhattisgarh and about 22 percent from Andhra Pradesh against an average percentage of 39.2.

Frequent quarrels on minor issues in the family as a consequence of domestic violence was reported by about 38 percent of respondents from Maharashtra (highest), 36 percent from Gujrat, 32 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 26 percent from Chhattisgarh, and 12 percent from Andhra Pradesh (lowest) as against average percentage of 29 for all states.

Widening of communication gap followed by misunderstanding was reported as the impact on family life due to violence was stated by 31 percent of the respondents from Gujrat, about 22 to 23 percent each from Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra and only 6 percent from Andhra Pradesh as against states-average of 21 percent.

Loss of Mutual trust between the spouses and other family members was reported by about 41 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 31 percent from Maharashtra, 21 percent from Gujrat 15 percent from Chhattisgarh and only 7 percent from Andhra Pradesh. The average for all the states taken together was 23 percent.

For 30 percent respondents from Madhya Pradesh, nearly 18 percent each from Gujrat and Maharashtra, 10 percent from Chhattisgarh and 5 percent from Andhra Pradesh, family no more remained a place to live in.

A small percentage (1 to 6) of respondents from each state described a variety of consequences on their family life due to domestic violence.

Impact of Domestic Violence on the Life of the Children

The maltreatment meted to the mother affected the life of the children in one form or the other. The serious impact of verbal and physical violence inflicted on mother is the loss of respect for parents. Secondly, the children are also likely to be abusers in their life. Moreover, the abused mother does not look after the children in a proper manner as a result, their personality development is blocked. The children also neglect their studies and are always worried about their future. It was therefore that the respondents were asked as in what ways their children were affected as a result of violence against them. They were provided with the following alternatives with multiple choice.- -

<u>Code</u>	<u>Impact on Children</u>
(A)	Children lost respect for father, mother and other members in the family
(B)	They are not properly looked after
(C)	They remain under tension and are not able to concentrate on studies
(D)	Their personality development is blocked.
(E)	They are likely to become abusers in their life.
(F)	Can't say anything exactly
(G)	Not applicable.

Table No. 5.13
Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	40	36	37	71	58	242
(%)	(16.0)	(14.4)	(14.8)	(28.4)	(23.2)	(19.36)

(B)	21	35	81	57	59	253
(%)	(8.4)	(14.0)	(32.4)	(22.8)	(23.6)	(20.24)
(C)	26	36	80	58	52	252
(%)	(10.4)	(14.4)	(32.0)	(23.2)	(20.8)	(20.16)
(D)	23	28	61	49	39	200
(%)	(9.2)	(11.2)	(24.4)	(19.6)	(15.6)	(16.00)
(E)	06	25	35	44	21	131
(%)	(2.4)	(10.0)	(14.0)	(17.6)	(8.4)	(10.48)
(F)	07	13	09	01	21	40
(%)	(2.8)	(5.2)	(3.6)	(0.4)	(8.4)	(3.2)
(G)	107	25	47	17	38	236
(%)	(42.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(15.2)	(18.88)

It is clear from the data presented in the table that about 20 percent of the respondents of 1250 informed in each case that (i) their children's lost respect for their parents and other abusers in the family, (ii) that they were not properly looked after by the abused mother and (iii) that they always remained under tension and hence could not concentrate on their studies due to violent situation in family. About 16 percent of the respondents reported that the personality development of their children was blocked and about 10 percent of them feared that their children were likely to become abusers in their life. Around 3 percent of the respondents could not report precisely the impact of domestic violence on the life of their children. Those without children were also included in this category.

Loss of respect for mother, father and other abusers in the family was reported by 28 percent of respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 23 percent from Maharashtra, 15 percent from Gujrat, 14 percent from Chhattisgarh and 16 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

“The children were not properly looked after and cared for ” was the opinion of about 32 percent respondents from Gujrat, 24 percent from Maharashtra, 23 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 14 percent from Chhattisgarh and 8 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

“ The children remained under constant tension and were not able to concentrate on studies properly” stated about 32 percent respondents from Gujrat, 23 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 21 percent from Maharashtra, 14 percent from Chhattisgarh and 10 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

“ Personality development of the children was blocked “ reported about 24 percent of the respondents from Gujrat, 20 percent from Madhya Pradesh, 16 percent from Maharashtra, 11 percent from Chhattisgarh and 9 percent from Andhra Pradesh.

About 18 percent of respondents from Madhya Pradesh, 14 percent from Gujrat, 10 percent from Chhattisgarh, 8 percent from Maharashtra and 2 percent from Andhra Pradesh expressed no specific opinion.

Thus a large number of respondents from all the five states reported that the life of their children were affected adversely due to violence against their mothers.

Impact of Violence on Sex-Life of the Victims

Sex in Indian Society is a matter of private life and as such not to be discussed publicly. It was, therefore, very difficult for the investigators to ask sex-related questions to the women respondents. It is a fact that violence by the husband in one form or the other affects the conjugal relations. Some times, husband may not be a perpetrator but is indirectly responsible for instigating violence against the wife. The irritation created out of violence is carried to bed-room and as a result the sex-life of a victim is affected. In order to find out the impact of domestic violence on the sex-life of the respondents the following alternatives were provided to them and they were ask to choose only one.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Type of Impact</u>
(A)	Lost interest and love for husband
(B)	Do not get satisfied during and after sex
(C)	Developed irritation for the husband
(D)	Surrender against will
(E)	Any other
(F)	Not applicable

The following table shows the distribution of respondents according to their responses –

Table No. 5.14

Impact of Violence on the Sex-Life of Victims

Reason Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	61	42	59	66	65	293
(%)	(24.4)	(16.8)	(23.6)	(39.6)	(39.2)	(23.44)
(B)	13	31	37	38	38	157
(%)	(5.2)	(12.4)	(14.8)	(15.2)	(15.2)	(12.56)
(C)	28	48	43	54	29	202
(%)	(11.2)	(19.2)	(17.2)	(21.6)	(11.6)	(16.16)
(D)	10	66	42	37	59	214
(%)	(4.0)	(26.4)	(16.8)	(14.8)	(23.6)	(17.12)
(E)	31	38	22	38	21	150
(%)	(12.4)	(15.2)	(8.8)	(15.2)	(8.4)	(12.0)
F	107	25	47	17	38	234
(%)	(42.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(15.2)	(18.72)
Total	250	250	250	250	250	1250
(%)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

The tabulated data shows that the fear of the investigators that they will get poor response from the respondents proved to be wrong as nearly 70 per cent of the respondents gave a positive response to the queries on sex-life. A majority of 23 per cent of the respondents stated that they have, due to repeated violence caused by the husband directly or indirectly, lost interest in sex as well as love for the husband. About 16 per cent of the respondents informed that the husband himself was the perpetrator of violence in their cases and hence they have developed

irritation for their husbands and consequently did not feel interested in having sex with husband. Nearly 13 per cent of the respondents did not get satisfaction during and after sex as the memories of inhuman treatment meted to them were haunting their minds. Similar reasons were stated by about 17 per cent of the respondents who said that they surrender for sex against their will. About 12 per cent of the respondents agreed that their sex-life was adversely affected due to domestic violence but could not narrate any specific impact as such. Remaining respondents were not victims of violence.

Statewise analysis disclosed that maximum number of respondents from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (about 40 per cent and 39 per cent respectively) reported that they had lost interest in sex and love for their husbands due to domestic violence. The percentage of respondents stating similar impact of violence on their sex-life was about 4 percent each in Andhra Pradesh and Gujrat and about 19 in Chhattisgarh.

The cases of respondents not getting satisfied during and after sex were reported at 15 per cent each from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujrat, 12 per cent from Chhattisgarh and 5 per cent from Andhra Pradesh.

About 22 per cent respondents from M.P., 19 per cent from Chhattisgarh, 17 per cent from Gujrat, about 12 per cent from Maharashtra and 11 per cent from Andhra Pradesh that they have developed irritation for their husbands and hence were not satisfied with their sex-life.

In about 26 per cent cases from Chhattisgarh, 24 per cent from Maharashtra, 17 per cent from Gujrat, 15 per cent from Madhya Pradesh and 4 per cent from Andhra Pradesh, the women respondents surrendered for sex against their will.

Around 8 to 15 per cent respondents from each state could not express their feeling regarding the impact of domestic violence on their sex-life but admitted that their sex-life was affected due to violence in one way or the other.

Coming to the conclusion we can say that the sex-life of most of the victims was adversely affected due to domestic violence. No significant difference was observed in urban and rural areas except with the fact that respondents from rural areas were shy in speaking about sex-life. Similarly, the respondents from upper class and middle class families were more free to express their views on sex-life as compared to respondents from lower class and below poverty line families.

Opinion about the relief available to the victims

The abused woman can seek a number of legal relief available to the victims of domestic violence. She can file a civil suit in the court if she is –

- (i) wife or former wife of the abuser
- (ii) harassed by any other person in the family including her husband
- (iii) has a child in common with the abuser
- (iv) related to the abuser by blood or marriage.

The abused woman can file a criminal suit against the abuser if she has suffered violence in an abusive relationship, regardless of marriage to or living with the abuser.

The purpose of criminal action is to punish the abuser whereas the purpose of civil action is to get certain type of relief from domestic violence. The abused woman can request and may be able to get the court order that (i) the abuser shall not assault, threaten, harass the victim of violence or (ii) full order of protection.

If the abused woman does not want to approach the court but desires to settle the matter at local level she can seek the intervention of N.G.O.s working in the field of womens welfare and protection of womens rights.

The data presented in the above table reveal that the respondents are equitably distributed in their opinion over different types of protective relief measures available to victims of domestic violence. They were asked to state only one out of number of alternatives suggested. About 15 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 opined that the available relief measures were ineffective as against 12 per cent of them who were of the opinion that the relief available to victims was insufficient. "The relief measures are complicated" was the opinion of about 18 per cent of the respondents and equal percentage of them stated that the relief were not guaranteed." The available relief give temporary benefit" was the opinion of about 19 percent of the respondents. Equal percentage of respondents could not express their opinion, as they were not aware of any relief measures.

Respondents from Andhra Pradesh were equally spread in the matter of their opinion about the relief available to victims of violence. About one-fourth of the respondents from this state were not aware of relief measures available to victims and as such could not give their opinion. One-fourth, again, of the respondents found that the measures available gave only temporary relief. The percentage of respondents who (i) felt that the relief was ineffective (ii) that the relief measures were insufficient (iii) the relief measures involved complicated procedure and (iv) that they did not provide guaranteed results was about 11 per cent, 14 per cent, 13 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

The reports from the state of Chhattisgarh revealed that about 27 per cent of the respondents firmly believed that the relief measures were very much complicated, followed by about 13 per cent of them expressing their doubts about their guaranteed results. About 9 per cent of the respondents from the state felt that the available measures gave only temporary relief to the victims and about 6 per cent were of the opinion that the available relief measures were insufficient. Only 4 per cent of the respondents thought that the relief measures were ineffective. A large

majority of respondents (about 37 per cent) had no idea about the relief measure available to victims and hence could not give their opinion.

In Gujrat majority of the respondents (about 26 per cent) were of the opinion that the reliefs available to the victims of domestic violence were not guaranteed, followed by about 24 per cent of them who believed that such measures gave only temporary relief and not a permanent solution of the problem. About 19 per cent of the respondents stated that the procedures for seeking relief were too much complicated as against 15 per cent of them who were of the opinion that the reliefs were insufficient and therefore of no use. Around 12 per cent felt that the reliefs were ineffective. Nearly 4 per cent respondents could not express their opinion as they had no knowledge of the reliefs available to the victims of domestic violence.

“We do not know what reliefs are available to victims of domestic violence” was the reply of about 7 per cent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh. A majority of 24 per cent of the total respondents found the reliefs ineffective while around 20 percent felt that the available measures provided only temporary relief to the victims and equal percentage of respondents felt that such reliefs were not guaranteed. Out of 250 respondents from this state about 14 per cent were of the opinion that the reliefs were not sufficient.

Coming to the state of Maharashtra it is observed that about one-fourth of the respondents from the state viewed the relief measures available ineffective as against 13 per cent of them who found the relief insufficient to the requirements of victims. Another 16 per cent found the reliefs complicated while about 13 per cent saw lack of guaranteed relief in the measures that were available. Around 14 per cent respondents thought that the measures provide only temporary relief. A large number of respondents (about 19 percent) expressed their inability to give their opinion about relief available to victims as they were totally ignorant of relief measures.

In conclusion it can be said that about 80 per cent of the respondents from all the states taken together are not satisfied with the relief measures presently available to the victims of domestic violence. The observations of our investigators revealed that majority of the respondents were unaware of the reliefs available to them. However, when the investigators explained to them the reliefs available they could express their opinion. No significant difference was observed between the urban and rural respondents as well as respondents from upper, middle and lower class families. However, respondents having good educational background or engaged in occupations of higher status had good knowledge of reliefs available to victims of domestic violence.

MEASURES SUGGESTED FOR REDUCING / ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The respondents were asked to suggest measures to reduce or curb domestic violence against women. Since the respondents were likely to be enthusiastic in responses and could have suggested a variety of measures with long list, it was thought necessary to restrict their choice to the following alternatives only. However, they were given freedom to suggest one or more than one measures.

Measure Code	Measures
(A)	Creating awareness on family and Community level.
(B)	Very strict and effective law to punish the Abuser and protect the victim.
(C)	Family orientation for cordial intra-personal relations among the family members
(D)	The Social activists should launch a drive.
(E)	Any other.

The following table presents the responses from the respondents.

Table No. 5.16
Measures Suggested to End Domestic Violence

Measure Code	Number of Respondents					
	A.P.	C.G.	GRT	M.P.	MAH.	Total
(A)	151	78	100	132	124	585
(%)	(60.4)	(31.2)	(40.0)	(52.8)	(49.6)	(46.64)
(B)	58	46	106	65	112	387
(%)	(23.2)	(18.04)	(42.4)	(26.0)	(44.8)	(30.96)
(C)	33	91	90	80	80	374
(%)	(13.2)	(36.4)	(36.0)	(32.0)	(32.0)	(29.92)
(D)	44	35	91	86	58	309
(%)	(17.6)	(14.0)	(36.4)	(34.4)	(23.2)	(24.72)
(E)	24	38	44	46	36	188
(%)	(9.6)	(15.2)	(17.6)	(18.4)	(14.4)	(15.04)
(F)	107	25	47	17	38	234
(%)	(42.8)	(10.0)	(18.8)	(6.8)	(15.2)	(18.72)
Total (%)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

(*Multiple choice question)

Out of 250 respondents from Andhra Pradesh about 60 per cent suggested that it was necessary to create awareness against domestic violence on family and community level. This measure was also suggested by about 53 per cent of the respondents from Madhya Pradesh about 50 per cent from Maharashtra, about 40 per cent from Gujrat, and 31 per cent from Chhattisgarh. Similarly out of 1250 respondents from all the states taken together about 47 per cent of the respondents suggested that social awareness should be created on family and community level.

“Very strict and effective law on domestic violence against women should be passed at state and central level to protect the victims and to punish the abusers” was the measure suggested by 45 per cent of the respondents from Maharashtra, 42 per cent from Gujrat, 26 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 23 per cent from Andhra Pradesh and 18 per cent from Chhattisgarh as against 31 per cent of the respondents from all the states taken together.

About 30 per cent of the respondents from all the five states suggested family orientation for interpersonal relations among the family members. It was also suggested by 36 per cent of the respondents each from Chhattisgarh and Gujrat and

32 per cent each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra followed by 13 per cent of the respondents from Andhra Pradesh.

“The social activists in the country should launch a drive to eradicate this evil at national level” was the measure suggested by about one-fourth of the respondents from all the states taken together. About 36 per cent of the respondents from Gujrat, 34 per cent from Madhya Pradesh, 23 per cent from Maharashtra, 18 per cent from Andhra Pradesh and 14 per cent from Chhattisgarh also endorsed the same measure to eradicate the evil of domestic violence against women’.

Under any other category about 15 per cent respondents from five states offered a variety of suggestions important among which were – (I) public defamation of abusers (ii) social boycott of perpetrators and (iii) intervention and preaching by religions leaders.

About 19 per cent of respondents out of 1250 did not make any suggestions, as they were not the victims of domestic violence against women.

The measures suggested by the respondents are comprehensive. However, it should not be forgotten that the women in India are not mentally prepared to take advantage of even the existing reliefs available to them under the law of the country. This is because of the fact that they want to preserve their marriage at any cost, even at the cost of life long abusive situation. This, however, could not be an excuse for making more meaningful and approachable measures available to them for getting relief from domestic violence.

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Chapter – VI

MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives-

- (1) To study the nature, extent and incidence of domestic violence against women.
- (2) To identify the correlates of domestic violence against women.
- (3) To find out the traditional sex-based roles and the domestic violence.
- (4) To examine whether dependency objective and subjective or both is the cause, condition or instigating factor for domestic violence.
- (5) To find out whether the abused women seek the help of informal and formal agencies and to find out to what extent these agencies are successful in solving the problems of the abused women.
- (6) To trace the reasons for which abused women continue to stay in abusive situation.
- (7) To examine the impact of domestic violence on the abused women, Children and intra-family relations.
- (8) To suggest measures to control, minimize and, if possible eliminate the evil of domestic violence against women.

The present chapter informs major findings based on analysis of data relating to domestic violence against women and other aspects germane to the objectives of the study. It also includes conclusions based on the findings and recommendations of the study team to reduce the incidence of violence.

The study was undertaken in five states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and 250 respondents were taken from each state (125 from urban area and 125 from rural area) making a total

of 1250 respondents. Care was taken to see that the respondents are drawn from different religions and from classes having different socio-economic background i.e. upper class, middle class and lower class.

Only necessary aspects of demographic background were considered for the purpose of this study. Hence data was collected only for demographic aspects like present age, age at marriage, marital status, family type, education, religion, occupation and socio-economic status of family of respondent. The major findings in this respect are as under -

(i) Present Age of Respondents :

Out of 1250 respondents about one-third were in the age group of 25-30 years and 17 percent in the age group of 18 to 24 years and about 16 percent in 31-35 years age group. About 14 per cent, and 10 per cent respondents were in the age group of 36 – 40 years and 41- 45 years respectively. In short a large majority of about 88 percent of the respondents were from the age-group of 18-45 years. It was observed that the incidence of violence was more in the age group of 18-24 years and 31-35 years.

(ii) Age at Marriage :

The data pertaining to age of respondents at the time of marriage indicates that out of 1250 respondents from all the states taken together about 58 percent (more than half) respondent were married when they were between 16 to 20 years of age, about 8 percent when they were between 25-30 years. Only about 3 percent respondents were married after 30 years of age. Thus nearly 89 percent of the respondents were married between 16 to 24 years of age. Age at marriage is an important variable in the study of domestic violence against women. It is observed in the study that younger age at marriage puts a lot of stress for adjustment, which results in violence on the part of young husbands and their parents. The data

collected indicates that out of 726 women, married between 16 to 20 years, about 76 percent reported that they were victims of violence right from the early days of their marriage. Thus a positive association was observed between the age of marriage and the incidence of domestic violence against women.

(iii) Marital Status of Respondents:

The study discloses that out of 1250 respondents 1024 (about 82 percent) were married, about 9 percent were separated, about 3 percent were divorced and about 7 percent were widows. The general presumption that only married women are the victims of domestic violence is not supported by the findings of the study. It is observed that out of 110 separated women about 69 percent were victims of violence by their former husbands. Out of 33 cases of divorcees and 83 cases of widows, incidence of violence was reported in 80 percent cases of divorcees and 68 percent case of widows. The perpetrators in these cases were members of the families with which they were living .In short domestic violence were prevailing irrespective of the marital status of the women.

iv) Educational Level of Respondents:

The results of analysis indicate that about 72 percent of the respondents were educated and about 28 percent illiterate. About 15 percent each of the respondents had their education up to primary level, and middle school level only. About 21 percent of them were educated up to S.S.C. or H.S.S.C. only 21 percent women were graduates or post-graduate. It is said that education empowers women to fight against injustice. However, the results of our study disclose that even the highly educated women were meekly bearing the atrocities and violence. Out of 193 respondents who are graduated 86 are victims of domestic violence. Similarly 68 percent of the 896 educated respondents were the victims of domestic violence in one form or the other.

v) Occupational Background of Respondents:

Nearly half of the respondents were housewives and were not engaged in any occupation outside the home. About one-fourth of the total respondents were labour by occupation i.e. Construction labour, farm labour, maidservants etc. Only 13 percent were in service and 7 percent professionals. About 3 percent were engaged in small business. The analysis of data disclosed that women who were engaged in profession or business and those who were in service were less exposed to domestic violence as compared to those working as labour and housewives.

Vi) Type of Family :

About 60 percent of the respondents were living with nuclear families and 40 percent with joint families. Out of 60 percent respondents from nuclear family about 63 percent were exposed to domestic violence and out of 40 percent living with joint families about 42 percent were victims of violence . Thus the incidence of violence appears to be higher in nuclear families as compared to joint families.

Vii) Religions Backgrounds :

The women respondents were classified on the basis of the religions they belonged to. It was observed that about 70 percent of the respondents were Hindu, 8 percent Muslims, 5 percent Christians, 10 percent Buddha's, 3 percent Jains, and 3 percent belonged to tribal religions. The analysis of data disclosed that there is no difference between the religions as far as incidence of violence is concerned. For example 129 women respondents who belonged Buddhism about 76 percent were living in abusive situation and out of 43 respondents who followed Jainism about 46 percent were exposed to domestic violence. Out of 65 Christian respondents about 39 percent were the victims of domestic violence and out of 873 Hindu respondents about 79 percent were suffering from domestic violence in one

form or the other. Thus religion is no bar for domestic violence and the same is prevalent in all religions but the incidence and extent varies from religion to religion.

VIII) Social Class Background :

The results of the present study reveal that social class background of the respondents made no significant difference in the incidence and extent of domestic violence. The analysis of data disclosed that about 53 percent respondents belonged to Middle Class (Higher, Lower and Middle) as against 38 percent belonging to lower class and to families living below poverty line. Only 9 percent of the respondents were from upper class. It was observed that domestic violence against women was largely seen in all classes of families though the frequency and from of violence differed from class to class.

NATURE, INCIDENCE & EXTENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For the purpose of the present study, domestic violence has been defined as an act carried out by any elder member of the family against any female member with the object of harassing her mentally or causing her a physical injury. Thus a broader view of violence is taken for the purpose of the study. Further, for the purpose of analysis domestic violence against women has been classified as (i) Physical (ii) Emotional and (iii) Economic. While describing the nature, incidence and extent of domestic violence, different forms of violence used by perpetrators were considered

(i) Respondents Perceptions of Domestic Violence : The perceptions of domestic violence reported by the respondents were different depending upon the nature of violence experienced by them. Naturally, respondents who did not experience any violence could not give their perception in clear terms. Beating by husband was perceived as domestic violence by large majority of respondent (about 61 per cent) and torturing by 43 per cent of respondents. Around 35 to 39 per cent respondents perceived scolding, insulting, repeated quarrels, mental harassment and rude

behaviour, singularly or jointly, as domestic violence against women. About 25 to 27 percent respondents treated sexual abuse and suspecting character as their perception of domestic violence. Thus it is clear that there is no uniformity about the nature of domestic violence in the opinion of the respondents.

(ii) Instigators of Domestic Violence : Domestic violence is not a natural phenomenon and as such is not the outcome of natural relationship and behaviour. In reality it is the effect of some precipitating factors and instigation. Mother-in-law in the family is regarded as the principal instigator of violence against daughter in law. However, the findings of this study do not support this view. The study reveals that in majority of the cases (40 percent), the husband was the principal instigator of violence as against 30 per cent of the cases wherein mother-in-law played major role in instigating violence. Instigation from father-in-law and brother-in-law was not significant. However, sister-in-law was not much behind in instigating violence. Our study indicates that husband is the principal instigator and also executor of violence in the family.

(iii) Nature & Extent of Physical Violence : The most common and frequently used forms of physical violence reported by the respondents are slaps, beating, pushing, kicking, throwing objects, beating with cane, burning with rod, holding with rope, sexual coercion or assault. Out of these beating, kicking slapping and pushing were reported by about 58 per cent of the respondents as the forms of domestic violence. Most of the respondents in this category were from middle class and lower class families and in 90 per cent of the cases the perpetrators were their husbands. Assault with weapon and sexual assault were reported only in about 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the cases. Thus in majority of the cases the forms of physical violence used by the perpetrators were found to be beating, slapping, pushing, kicking, assault with weapons and sexual abuse.

(iv) Nature and Extent of Emotional Violence : Domestic violence also includes placing a woman in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. This

causes a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. The respondents were asked to describe the nature and extent of emotional violence used against them by the perpetrators. About 28 per cent of the victims of domestic violence reported that they were emotionally abused by insulting them in the presence of their children and relatives, by blaming them for everything that went wrong in the family, leveling charges against them on small and negligible matters and compelling them to feel guilty for no fault of theirs. The study also revealed that about 20 per cent of the respondent were given threats of divorce, treated like servants in the family and were harassed in a number of ways. The worst type of emotional abuse experience by about 11 per cent of the respondents was the repeated charge of extra- marital relations. A number of respondents, it is observed, were not allowed to meet their friend, relatives and parents, they had no freedom to express their views on family matters, their health problems were neglected and strict watch was kept on their movements. To state precisely, a sufficiently large number of respondents (about 9 percent) were the victims of emotional abuse.

The study also revealed that the incidence and extent of emotional abuse was more in urban areas as compared with rural areas. Similarly the victims of emotional violence were more in number from upper class, higher middle class and lower middle class families as compared to lower class families and families living below poverty line.

(V) Economic Abuse : Economic abuse is a new concept in domestic violence. It is the result of dependency. Women's access to resources is largely determined by their relationships to men through marriage. The dependency of women is fully exploited by men for controlling women. In the present study efforts were made to find out how far dependency results in economic abuse of women. In order to maintain dependency the women respondents were prevented from taking a job, they were forced to leave the existing job, full salary was forcefully seized from them, they were pressurised to bring money from their family of orientation and they were not given freedom to make purchases of their choice. Out of 1250 cases only 278 (about

11 per cent) reported that they were not the victims of economic abuse. Thus, it is clear that the economic abuse was used alongwith other types of violence.

(vi) Frequency of Violence : Violence against women, if occasionally caused, does not assume the form of a problem. However, when it is repeatedly used, for whatever reasons, it does becomes a cognisable issue. As a part of this study, it was, therefore, enquired as to how many times the act of violence is repeated in the case of a victim. The results revealed that about 15 per cent of the respondents faced violence practically every day. Incident of violence took place once or twice in a week in the cases of 16 per cent of the respondents and once or twice in a month in the cases of again about 16 per cent of the respondents. About 13 per cent of the respondents faced violence a number of times in a month. In about 15 per cent of the cases the frequency of violence was uncertain and it varied from week to week and month to month. It was observed that the frequency of violence was not uniform in all cases and there was variation from one case to the other. No significant difference was noticed between the rural and urban areas in this respect. However, it was observed that frequency of violence was more in lower class and below poverty line families as compared to families belonging to upper class and middle class families. Further, as compared to joint families, the violence appeared to be more frequent in nuclear families.

(vii) Duration of Violence : The respondents were asked to state as to how long they were being abused. A large majority (35 per cent) of respondents informed that they were victims of violence for the last more than five years, followed by equal percentage of respondents who were being harassed in their family for the last one to five years. It is observed that these women are living under violent conditions due to a number of limiting factors.

(viii) Causes of Domestic Violence : A long list of causes was reported by the respondent for the violence caused to them. Prominent among them were dowry (11%), refusal to bring money from family of orientation (13%), suspected extra marital relations and love affairs before marriage (10% and 9%), husbands'

alcoholism (25%) and husband had problems at work place (19%). The results of analysis indicated that alcoholism of husband was a prominent cause in domestic violence against women in rural areas and that too in families living below poverty line. Dowry was reported to be a reason for violence against women in upper class and upper middle class families in urban areas. The study also revealed that the domestic violence against women emanated from strained relationships within the family. The causes and motivations of violence were within the relationships between men and women in the family.

(ix) Impact of Domestic Violence : Domestic violence is not considered seriously unless it involves homicide or serious physical injury to the victim. However, from the standpoint of victim violence, in whatever form or in whatever degree, is a violence. The reactions of victims about the violence experienced by them are likely to be different depending upon their level of education, family background, life situation and availability or non-availability of alternatives. The reaction to abuse may be sudden or instant, it may also culminate into long-term impact on the life of the victim, her children and family as a whole.

The immediate reactions to violence as reported by the respondents were resistance, fighting back, hatred against the abuser, feeling of taking revenge, helplessness, humiliation and shame. It was observed in analysis of data that about 26 per cent of the respondents resisted the violent action of the perpetrators and about 25 per cent fought back for defending themselves from the abuse. However, 25 per cent of the total respondents were helpless and had to surrender to the perpetrators. About 14 per cent of the respondents in each case developed hatred against the abusers and had a strong feeling of taking revenge. Feeling of helplessness and shame was also reported by some of the respondents.

The cases of fighting back were more in Madhya Pradesh (49%) and Maharashtra (36%) as compared to other states i.e. A.P. (20%), Chhattisgarh (10%) and Gujrat (19%) whereas largest number of cases of fighting back were reported from Gujrat (49%).

The analysis also disclosed that women from rural areas and that too from lower class families were ahead in resistance and fighting back as compared to those in urban areas and from upper class and middle class families.

(x) Coping Behaviour of Victims : The victims of domestic violence adopt a number of strategies for dealing with the abusive situation. The strategies depend upon their perceptions of violent situation. The analysis of victims' immediate reactions to violence indicated that their reactions were either self-directed or directed to others. However, when the strategies bear no results the victim feels helpless and is compelled to seek some help from other persons. The sources of help are informal and formal. The victim in the first instance approaches informal sources for help and when she fails in seeking their help the victim has no other alternative than to seek the help from formal sources. In the present study we have examined the coping behaviour of the victims of violence with reference to personal strategies, use of informal assistance sources and formal help sources. It is observed that the victims have first used informal help sources before approaching the formal help sources when personal strategies failed to give expected results.

The analysis of data clearly showed that in majority of the cases (44%), family members did not intervene to stop the violence when the respondents were abused in their very presence. It is observed that in more than 50 per cent of the cases from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh there was no intervention of family members when the respondents were abused physically, verbally, emotionally and economically. There was no significant difference in the attitude of family members from urban and rural areas and from upper class, middle class and lower class families.

Nearly 49 per cent of the respondents approached the informal sources with a view to seek their help but about one-third of them could not do so for reasons not disclosed by them. Since only 607 out of 1016 victims of violence have reported their abusive situation to their friend, relatives or parents the general presumption that the victims would report their woes to their nearest friends and relatives is not supported by the findings of this study. However, as compared to parents and

relatives majority of the victims preferred to seek help from their friends. It is however interesting to note that the victims could not get proper guidance and help from the informal group. In majority of the cases the victims were advised to patch up with the abusers or break off their marriage. Only in about one-third of the cases, the victims were directed to seek help from NGOs or police or seek the advice from lawyers. However, this advice was not followed by majority of the victims as only 68 out of 607 respondents who were advised by informal groups approached the formal agencies. Majority (21) out of these 68 victims sought help from legal advisers and 12 approached family courts. It is thus very clear that in spite of their best efforts, NGOs and community panchayats failed to attract victims for settlement of dispute at local level. This may be due to the fact that the relief provided by the community Panchayats and NGOs is not legally binding on the abusers and moreover it may be of temporary nature.

Analysis of the type of help given by the formal agencies disclosed that out of 68 cases majority of the victims (47%) were provided social and moral support and about 29 percent were given psychological. Counseling. Those approached police were given physical protection. It was observed that out of these 68 victims who sought the help from formal agencies only 34 per cent reported that violence against them was stopped fully; 29 per cent reported partial relief from violence but the remaining 37 per cent could get no relief from the abuse they were facing –

It is interesting to note that in spite of the abusive situation the victims continued to live with the perpetrators. An enquiry into the compulsions under which they were living in abusive situation revealed that majority of them had no other place to go for shelter. (43%); about one-fourth had to do so for the sake of their children and nearly 16 per cent of them were tolerating the abuse under pressure from their parents. There were others who hoped that situation will change for better in future.

(xi) Impact of violence on Mental & Physical Health of the victims :

The immediate reactions to violence is a temporary phase but violence affects the

mental and physical health of the victims. An evaluation of violence on the health of the victims on the basis of data analysis revealed that out of 1250 respondents about 34 per cent had mental stress, 29 per cent were victims of depression, 29 per cent had sleep-disorders, 22 per cent were suffering from anxiety and 14 per cent had constant physical fatigue. There were cases of multiple disorders. However, it is surprising to note that 487 victims of violence reported no physical or psychological disorders due to violence.

The urban-rural comparison disclosed that women from rural areas were less prone to physical and mental disorders as compared to women from urban areas. It was also observed that victims of domestic violence from upper and middle class families suffered more from mental disorders as compared to victims from lower class families. This may be due to the fact that women from rural areas and lower class families are mentally strong to bear the violent behavior of the perpetrators.

(xii) Long-term Impact of Domestic Violence : In the present study attempts were made to examine the long-term impact of domestic violence on the personal and social life of the victims. About 5 per cent of the respondents did not report any long-term impact of violence. However, about 38 per cent of the respondents were mentally disturbed and disorganised; about 23 per cent in each case reduced their social contacts and were ashamed of mixing with friends and relatives and about 26 per cent were living with impaired health. Thus, more than three-fourth of the respondents were victims of long term impact of violence.

(xiii) Impact on Family Life : The domestic violence against women spoils the cordial relationships among the members of the family. The data analysis revealed that due to violence perpetrated against women the conjugal relations were strained and were always under tension in about 39 per cent of the cases. Quarrels took place on minor issues frequently in about 29 per cent of the families. Mutual trust between the husband and the wife was lost in about 23 percent of the cases and communication gap widened in about 21 per cent of the cases. Thus, as reported by

a large majority of the respondents (about 81 per cent) the normal family life is disturbed and adversely affected due to violence against women.

(xiv) Impact on the Life of Children : How and in what manner the life of children is affected due to domestic violence? The serious impact of verbal and physical violence against women leads to loss of respect for elders in the family. The data analysis disclosed that in about 20 per cent of the families the children lost respects for their parents, they were not properly taken care of by the abused mothers and they always remain under tension. The responding mothers also reported that the personality development of the children was blocked (16%) and they were afraid that their children may become the abusers in their life (10%). Thus the life of the children in the families where their mothers are abused gets adversely affected.

(xv) Impact on Sex-life of Victims : About 70 per cent of the respondents gave positive response to the question on sex-life. The respondents both from urban and rural areas and from families having different social status freely expressed their views on impact of violence on their sex-life. A majority of 23 per cent of the respondents out of 1250 reported that they have lost interest in sex as well as love for their husbands due to violence committed on them in which their husbands were directly or indirectly involved. Nearly 15 per cent of the respondents developed irritation for their husbands because husbands themselves were the perpetrators of violence against them. As a result they were avoiding their husbands as far as sex was concerned. As the memories of violence and inhuman treatment invaded the minds of about 13 per cent of the respondents could not get satisfaction during and after the sex. On the same ground about 17 per cent respondents surrendered for sex against their will. In about 12 per cent of the cases the respondents agreed that their sex-life was adversely affected due to abuse in the family but they could not clearly express as to how and in what manner it was affected. Thus in majority of the cases the normal sex-life of the victims of violence was adversely affected.

(xvi) Opinion About the Relief Available to the Victims of Violence : It was observed during the process of investigation that a large number of

respondents were ignorant about the relief available to the victims of domestic violence. Therefore, the investigators had to explain to them the nature and sources of relief available under law and with the social organisations before recording their opinion on the reliefs available. In spite of these efforts on the part of investigators about 19 per cent of the respondents indicated their inability to state their opinion on the relief available to victims of violence. In the opinion of about 15 per cent of the respondents the relief available to the victims were not effective as far as the protection of interest of the abused women was concerned. Nearly 12 per cent of the respondents rated the available relief as insufficient to meet the requirements of the victims. "The relief measures were described as complicated due to procedures that were beyond the understanding of ordinary victims" was the opinion of about 18 per cent of the respondents and equal per cent of the respondents firmly stated that the available relief was not guaranteed. Thus about 80 per cent of the respondents were not satisfied with the relief available to victims of domestic violence.

(xvii) Suggestions for Reducing/Curbing Domestic Violence : It is to be noted that most of the respondents were confused about the suggestions to be made for reducing domestic violence. In spite of this the respondents from urban as well as rural areas suggested a number of measures to curtail the incidence of domestic violence against women. The measures suggested by the respondents were (i) creating awareness on family and community level (47 per cent), (ii) very strict and effective law to punish the abusers and protect the victims (31 per cent), (iii) Family orientation for cordial interpersonal relations among the family members (30 per cent), and (iv) launching a drive against the evil of domestic violence by social activists (25 per cent) Suggestions like public defamation of abusers social boycott of perpetrators and spiritual guidance by religions leaders etc. were also made by about 15 per cent of the respondents. Thus, the measures suggested by majority of respondents point out to the lacuna in the present efforts on the part of social organisation and Government policy regarding this issue.

Conclusions

On the basis of data analysis and major findings the following conclusions may be drawn –

- (1) The women of younger age who were married at a lower age were at higher risk of being physically abused in contrast to those who were of higher age group and married at later age. As against this women of higher age group were more likely to be abused emotionally and economically as compared with women of younger age group.
- (2) The educational level and occupational status of women victims disclosed that women who had no education and those highly educated were more prone to domestic violence as compared with those who were moderately educated. Similarly, women engaged in paid work of low social status were at higher risk of being abused in contrast with those who were purely housewives. Again out of the women who were engaged in paid work outside their homes in occupations having lower social status and less monetary returns were at high risk of being abused than those engaged in occupations of higher prestige. Thus, the general contention that the women engaged in paid work outside their homes are relatively free from domestic violence is negated by the results of the present study.
- (3) The social class background of victims of domestic violence revealed that women belonging to families living below poverty line and lower class run higher risk of being physically abused as compared to women belonging to middle classes and upper class. However, emotional abuse was more frequent in upper class and upper middle class families.
- (4) No marked difference was observed in the percentage of domestic violence in families having large number of members and families having less number of

members. However, as compared to joint families the incidence of violence was comparatively more in nuclear families.

- (5) No clear-cut association was found in religious background and domestic violence against women. There was no marked difference in the percentage of victims of violence between different religious groups.
- (6) The perceptions of domestic violence against women were found to be different in different states. This may be due to the level of education, family value orientation, life situation and availability or non-availability of alternatives.
- (7) The most common forms of domestic violence reported by the majority of the respondents were slaps, beating, pushing, kicking, sexual coercion and assaults. The perpetrators of physical violence were mostly husbands of the victims. Majority of the victims of physical violence were mostly from rural areas and from lower class and lower middle class families of urban areas.
- (8) The cases of emotional violence were mostly reported from urban areas of the states covered by the study. More percentage of victims of emotional abuse was found in upper class and upper middle class families.
- (9) It was observed that economic abuse was executed alongwith other types of violence and not separately. The percentage of victims of economic abuse was more in rural areas and lower class families as compared to middle class and upper class families.
- (10) No uniform trend of frequency of violence was observed in the present study. However, the data analysis revealed that violence was more frequent in nuclear families as compared to joint families and in lower class families as compared to middle class and upper class families. Similarly, victims of violence were more frequently abused in rural areas as compared to urban areas.

- (11) The respondents from urban and rural areas of the five states reported a large number of reasons for domestic violence caused to them. Dowry was, however, not a major cause. Alcoholism of husband was reported as a major cause of violence by victims from rural areas and those belonging to lower class families. In urban areas of the states victims from upper class and middle class families reported suspected extra-marital relations, suspected love affairs before marriage, unemployment of husband and repeated demand for money from the family of orientation of the victims were the major causes of domestic violence against women.
- (12) There was no resistance to and fighting back of violence by victims from upper class and upper middle class families but victims from lower middle class and lower class families resisted to and fought back the perpetrators of violence. However, majority of the victims could not resist or fought back due to a number of limitations.
- (13) It is observed that only 49 per cent of the victims approached parents, relatives and friends for seeking their help in abusive situation. Therefore, the general contention that victims of violence would report their miseries to nearest relatives and friends is not supported by the findings of this study.
- (14) NGOs and Women's organisations working in the field of women's empowerment and welfare failed to attract the victims of violence in sufficient number in all the five states. Moreover, the work of these organisation was limited to urban areas only in majority of the cases and hence women from rural areas of the state were totally ignorant about the working of these organisations.
- (15) The data revealed that domestic violence affected the mental and physical health of the victims in different ways i.e. mental stress, depression, sleep disorders, anxiety physical fatigue etc. It was observed that among the victims of

mental and/or physical disorders the percentage of women from urban areas was more as compared with women in rural areas.

- (16) Attempts were also made to find out the long-term impact of domestic violence on the victims. More than 75 per cent of the respondents had long-term impact of violence on their life in the form of permanent mental disorders, disorganised personality, reduced social contacts, hesitation and feeling of shame in mixing with relatives and friends and permanent physical disorders. In majority of the cases domestic violence also affected their family life, sex-life and the life of their children adversely.
- (17) A large number of respondents were not sufficiently aware of the present relief available under law to the victims of violence. Those who had some knowledge were not satisfied with the benefits of these relief measures while others found the present relief insufficient to protect the interest of the victims.
- (18) The respondents were confused about the measures to be suggested for reducing the evil of domestic violence. However, many of them believed that by introducing a comprehensive law on domestic violence, by orientation of family members and by launching a drive on national level this evil could be reduced to some extent.

Recommendations

In the light of the objectives and finding of the present study and the discussion with women's organisations and social activists the study team would like to make the following recommendations to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence against women.

- (1) A massive awareness campaign involving the community, religious leaders, women's organisations, National Service Scheme (N.S.S.), NGOs, and opinion

makers at all levels is necessary to counter the present trend of violence against women in general and domestic violence in particular.

- (2) Domestic violence against women is an area where rights of women are not fully secured by laws and there are laws which are either discriminatory against women or provide a weak enforcement and punishment mechanism which do not deter the recurrence of crimes against women. It was observed in all the five states covered by the present study that the victims of domestic violence have not approached to seek relief available to them under different legislations as they were not sure that the law would give them sufficient and durable relief. Hence, it is necessary to see that the legal provisions against perpetrators of domestic violence are strictly enforced and no one is left without punishment. Moreover, the entire gamut of laws related to abuse and harassment of women need a comprehensive and through review in the light of the present trends and requirements.
- (3) Since there is no separate law relating to domestic violence against women and since the victims hesitate to go for relief available under the Indian Penal Code the cases of domestic violence against women are increasing. As of today, there are certain criminal laws that address the domestic violence against wife, but, none of them address violence against, sisters, daughters, mothers and mother-in-laws. The present criminal law does not address a woman's needs for residence or maintenance. The impetus to frame a separate law on domestic violence came from increasing trend of domestic violence against women and the absence of effective civil remedies to deal with it. Hence, under pressure from women's groups the Central Government introduced a Bill on Domestic Violence in Loksabha in 2001. The same was represented in Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002 and referred to a Standing Committee. The Bill ignores many of the demands of Women's Groups. There are many points of disagreement, ranging from definition of domestic violence to the fact that aggressor has been granted a right to self-defence under the proposed law. Then, there are questions about the relief allowed to aggrieved women and that they can be sent for mandatory joint

counselling along with the aggressor. All these and many others have dangerous implications for women. The Bill is presently pending with Rajya Sabha since Dec., 2002. The study team feels that it must be urgently passed and enforced immediately. It could be amended in due course on the basis of its effectiveness in reducing the rate of incidence of domestic violence.

- (4) It is learned that the Central Government is introducing a new scheme for women in difficult circumstances during the 10th Plan period. The study team would like to suggest that women who are victims of domestic violence should be covered under the proposed scheme.
- (5) A carefully planned mass media strategy is of critical importance for women's employment in general and domestic violence against women in particular. This can be done through media intervention. Issues relating to domestic violence against women and awareness of family members on the tragic effects of domestic violence should be packaged in interesting, viewer friendly programmes for assimilation and absorption in social psyche. It is, therefore, necessary to plan a media strategy for bringing a massive awareness and education on the issue of domestic violence against women. The Government of India should provide adequate resources for implementation of such a comprehensive media strategy for social change.
- (6) The Central and State Governments should conduct regular training programmes of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel and prosecutors to identify and respond more effectively to the cases of domestic violence against women in particular and crimes against women in general. The units of law enforcement officers specially targeting domestic violence against women should be created, developed, trained and expanded. Similarly, data collection and communication systems, linking police, prosecutors and courts for the purpose of identifying domestic violence against women should be introduced at the earliest.

- (7) The Central and State Governments should develop, enlarge and strengthen social support services programmes for the women who are victims of domestic violence.
- (8) Very few victims of domestic violence approach to medical professionals for treatment. Very few, again, disclose that the mental or physical injury is caused due to domestic violence. It is, therefore, necessary to give proper training to our medical personnel in dealing with and treating the cases of domestic violence against women. The training should cover the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, providing expert testimony and treatment.
- (9) The State Governments should carry out the implementation of comprehensive strategies addressing domestic violence against women that are sensitive to the needs and safety of the victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.
- (10) The Central and State Governments should encourage to develop and support projects to implement community driven initiatives to address the needs of victims of domestic violence. A large number of NGOs have emerged in different parts of the country, having to their credit significant contribution, expertise, and experience at grass-root level in projecting and addressing women's issues. The services of these organisations should be encouraged, supported and availed of, so that the eradication of the evil of domestic violence against women becomes a truly national and peoples movement.
- (11) Another deep concern of women in the rural areas of the five states is the tremendous physical and emotional violence which they experience when the men in their families are drunk. Freedom of families from liquor is their first need. The State Governments should enforce the prohibition in more widespread and effective ways in their efforts to minimise the incidence of domestic violence against women.

(12) Most of the victims of Domestic Violence are uneducated, backward and economically disadvantaged. The legal aid and advice should be made available to them without any cost.

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