

STUDY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN  
(A study conducted at Berhampur)

A Project Report submitted  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

*This is to certify that, the Field Project, titled “Study on Domestic Violence Against Women” an original work of me and is being submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of the “Post Graduate Diploma in Value Education and Spirituality” of Annamalai University in technical collaboration with Brahma Kumaries Education wing. This report has not been submitted earlier to any other university or institution.*

*Rama Das*

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*Place : Berhampur*

*Date :*

*Submitted for practical examination held on ..... 2011.*

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## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

*This project was one with many visible and invisible hands, helping it directly or indirectly towards making it a grand success. It is not possible to write each of the name, who had contributed something.*

*First of all, I would like to thank my Supreme God Father who made me the instrument for this project. A deep sense of gratitude is owed to B.K. Manju Behen and B.K. Mala Behen of Shantikunda, Berhampur center for their inspiration and advice.*

*I am also thankful to those family members of Ambapua area, who have co-operated me, while taking their interviews and conducting group discussions about domestic violence against women and brought about a visible change in their outlook,*

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## **CHAPTER – I**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

The erosion of values in the personal life, in the family and in the society is the main cause of domestic violence against women. Education, knowledge and information – make a woman empowered. If a woman is empowered in the family, she can change other members with little effort, because she is the backbone of the family and the first “Guru” of her children.

If a woman develops spirituality in her personal life and adopts the human values practically in the family, the other members will definitely be influenced. There must be positive impact on others. With meditation, spirituality, moral principles and values, a woman develops her discerning and judgment power. Her perception and attitudes broaden. She becomes more sensitive to right and wrong. Empowerment increases the spiritual, political, social, and economic strength of a woman. It involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities. Such empowerment helps in the eradication of domestic violence to a great extent.

### **DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE :**

The term domestic violence is synonymous with family violence. It includes elder abuse, child abuse, wife abuse and other forms of violence between family members. Violence between

spouses is often defined as intimate partner violence. Terms like wife beating, husband abuse, wife abuse are regularly used in instances of domestic violence. These forms of abuse also have the potential to create severe mental and emotional disorder in individuals which can escalate into acts of suicide and self-damage.

Domestic violence against women is a silent crisis that happens daily and with impunity behind closed doors and within close relationships in many Indian homes. Community gender norms sanction domestic violence. The strongly held belief that marriage as a social institution should be preserved at all costs and that family honour is important forces, women to remain silent on the issue and live with abuse. Unfortunately this is a shared philosophy with the criminal justice system, further victimizing the women.

In this age of bombs and terrorist threats, it will not be surprising to hear a woman say she fears to travel in a train or a plane or holds her heart till her child returns home safely from school or work. But the fact is that, for many home is where they face a regime of terror and violence at the hands of somebody close to them – somebody they should be able to trust. They are going home, a place they should be safest. The women who suffer are unable to make their own decisions, voice their own opinions or protect themselves and their children for fear of further repercussions.

Several complex and inter connected institutionalized social and cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence directed to them, all of them manifestations of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Factors contributing to these unequal power relations include – socio-economic factors, fear of and control over female sexuality, belief in the inherent superiority of males and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and children an independent legal and social status (UNICEF – 2000)

In India human relationships lead to domestic violence when an adult misuses his power to control another person's life. Violence is primarily the establishment of fear and control in a relationship through physical and other forms of violence and abuse. The violence normally manifests as physical abuse, mental torture, sexual assault and threats. Violence can be more subtle like degrading someone constantly, depriving them of money or confining them to the house. Such types of violence are often occurring in cases of women.

**“The children and the Family Court Advisory and Support Service”** in Britain defines domestic violence as “Pattern of behaviour, characterized by the misuse of power and control by one person over another. This is said to occur in all kinds of relationship”. Domestic violence against women has very long term and serious impact on the lives of individuals, adults, children,

families and communities. Domestic violence can be mental, psychological, physical and emotional.

Domestic violence is violence that takes place between people on private territory. The term domestic violence depicts violence between individuals, who are usually bonded through law, blood or personal intimacy. Domestic violence against women is very common in India. This occurs, irrespective of caste, class, religion and community in almost all parts of our country. The horrendous nature of domestic violence has been experienced and documented across nations and different cultures throughout the world. It is a fact on human life, an universal phenomenon.

Domestic violence against women can also be viewed as criminal behaviour, done to sustain power and control, Psychologist's assert that, the rate of domestic violence against women is particular by high in places, where women are treated as the inferior sex traditionally. Economically dependent women are also found to be more vulnerable to violence and abuse.

### **THE HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The phenomenon of domestic violence against women is as old as humans. Violence is going on since hundreds of years all over the world. Society deliberately formulated beliefs and traditions, which facilitated this form of violence, especially towards women. That is social norms were deliberately floated to ensure the subordination of women. The percentage of domestic violence is

always more in countries where the laws and the social norms diminish the status of women. Woman is usually the chief victim of domestic violence.

Domestic violence was recognized as a specific problem in U.S.A. in 1983. Domestic abuses became a matter of public awareness during the women's movement of 1970's. This served so change the course of American history and had a visible impact on the whole world. In India, domestic violence came to be formally recognized as a specific criminal offence, when section – 498-A was introduced in the Indian Penal Code. This section is formulated to deal with cruelty by a man or his family towards a married woman.

The rate of domestic violence against women is extremely high in countries like Egypt and Zambia. However, social activists in India are in opinion that, the attitude of society is a strong deterrent for steps taken to diminish or eradicate the scourge of domestic violence against women.

Economic and social circumstances can also induce tension and stress, which can result in violence. Women are more vulnerable to domestic violence worldwide because they are economically dependent on their male.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLENCES :**

All forms of domestic violences have one purpose – to gain and maintain control over the victim. The abusers used many tactics

to exert power over their spouse or partner, dominance, humiliation, isolation, threats, intimidation, denial and blame.

### **PHYSICAL VIOLENCE :**

Physical abuse is abuse involving contact intended to cause feeling of intimidation pain, injury or other physical suffering or bodily harm.

Physical abuse include hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Physical abuse can also include behaviour such as denying the victim of medical care when needed, depriving the victim of sleep, or other functions, necessary to live or forcing the victim to engage in drug / alcohol against her will. It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets such as children or pets, in order to cause psychological harm to the victim.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE :**

Sexual abuse is any situation, in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Coercing a person to engage in sex, against her will, even if that person is a spouse.

Sexual violence is defined by World Health Organisation as –

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act unwanted sexual comments or advance or acts to traffic or otherwise directed

against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person, regardless of their relationship to the victim.

Marital rape, also known as spousal rape in non-consensual sex in which the perpetrator is the victim's spouse. As such, it is a form of partner rape, of domestic violence and of sexual abuse. In the U.S., spousal rape is illegal in all fifty states.

### **EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE :**

Emotional violence also called psychological or mental abuse can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness or denying the victim access so money or other basic resources and necessities.

Emotional abuse is defined as any behaviour that threatens, intimidates the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or control the victims freedom. This can include threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship and public humiliation. Constant criticism, name – calling and making statements, that damage the victim's self esteem are also common forms of emotional violence. Often perpetrators will use children to engage in emotional abuse by teaching them to harshly criticize the victim as well. Emotional abuse includes

conflicting actions or statement which are designed to confuse and create insecurity in the victim.

Emotional abuse includes forceful efforts to isolate the victim, keeping them from contacting friends or family. Isolation results in damaging the victim's sense of internal strength leaving them feeling helpless and unable to escape from the situation. Women, undergoing emotional abuse often suffer from depression, which puts them at increased risk for suicide, and drug or alcohol abuse.

### **VERBAL ABUSE :**

Verbal abuse is a form of abusive behaviour, involving the use of language. Abusers may ignore, ridicule, disrespect and criticize others consistently, manipulate words, purposefully humiliate, falsely accuse, manipulate people to submit to undesirable behaviour, make others feel unwanted and unloved, threaten economically, place the blame and cause of the abuse on others, isolate victims from support system, harassment. While oral communication is the most common form of verbal abuse, it includes abusive words in written form.

### **ECONOMIC ABUSE :**

Economic abuse is when the abuser has control over the victim's money and other economic resources. In its extreme form this involves putting the victim on a strict "allowance", withholding money at will and forcing the victim to beg for the money until the

abuser gives them some money. This also includes preventing the victim from finishing education or obtaining employment or intentionally squandering or misusing communal resources.

### **EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN :**

The effects of gender based violence are truly devastating. It can translate into life long emotional trauma and take immense toll on human productivity. The social abused women are also vulnerable to HIV and put an immense burden on health services and other resources. Moreover, the effects of domestic violence extends to the future generation. The children who witness domestic violence can become psychologically disabled for life long. Some of the effects of family violence on children are highlighted in the Queens Land Government.

### **PHYSICAL EFFECT :**

Bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations and internal bleeding are some of the acute effects of a domestic violence incident that require medical attention and hospitalization. Some chronic health conditions that have been linked to victims of domestic violence are arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, chronic pain, pelvic pain, ulcer and migraines.

Domestic violence during pregnancy can be very non-specific and thus not easily diagnosed by medical officers. But it is relatively common in all societies. The phenomenon has been rated 2.5 to

3.4% in U.K., 2 to 3% in U.S.A. and 12.5% in Ireland. Teen agers are found to be more vulnerable to violence during pregnancy, the world over. The severity of the violence is seen to increase in postmortem. Violence at this stage manifests in various ways like late in booking in hospitals, delay and providing medical aid for injuries, non attendance at appointments aggressive partners, vaginal bleeding, miscarriages, pre-term labour pain and injury to or death of the foetus. It can also lead to psychological damage or pre-mature births. It can also damage the minds of existing children. Illegal pregnancies and abortion are also a facet of abuse and violence.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT :**

Among victims who are still living with their perpetrators, high amounts of stress, fear and anxiety are commonly reported. Depression is also common as they are constantly subjected to intense criticism. It is reported that 60% of the victims meet the diagnostic criteria for depression, either during or after termination of the relationship and have a greatly increased risk of suicidality. In addition to depressive victims of domestic violence also commonly experience long term anxiety and panic and are likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for Generalized anxiety disorder and panic disorder. The most commonly referenced psychological effect of domestic violence is Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The symptoms seen in PTSD are generally experienced for a long span of time after the victim has left the dangerous situation. Many

researchers state that PTSD is possibly the best diagnosis for those, suffering from Psychological effects of domestic violence, as it accounts for the variety of symptoms, commonly experienced by the victims of trauma.

### **FINANCIAL EFFECT :**

Violence against women puts huge pressure on a nation's socio-economic fabric, resulting in heavy losses in terms of productivity. According to a U.N. Press Report, two-third of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence. Seventy percent of married Indian women between the ages of fifteen and forty nine were proven victims of ugly incidents like rape, beating, forced or coerced sex (an U.N. Population Fund Report) and each incident of domestic violence leads to the loss of seven working days for a woman in a country like India.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA :**

In India, it is seen that, economically dependent women are more vulnerable to domestic violence. A survey done in the Indian State of Kerala sited that 49% of women who owned no property, reported violence, compared to 7% from those who were the owners of land and property. It has been found that one out of five women who are victims of rape or attempted rape are abused and coerced by family members or known people. Family counseling centers set up by M.P. Police department and supported by U.N.F.P.A. have

been extremely helpful in providing legal services in dowry related cases, child marriages, rape and harassment by the laws.

The most common forms of violence against Indian women include female foeticide, dowry based harassment and death, female infanticide, physical and mental abuse, sexual trafficking and public degradation. Any protection, related to domestic violence is usually smoothened within the walls of Indian homes, due to the orthodox and patriarchal nature of the society.

Violence can be perpetuated by the male or other family members in the joint family system in Indian households. Selective abortion, based on the gender of the foetus can be very damaging to a woman, who is under greater pressure to produce male children. It violates the dignity of being human and can be spiritually damaging for the entire community.

In India, there is a crime against women in every three minutes and rape in every 29 minutes and one record case of dowry death in every 77 minutes. Cases



of cruelty meted out by husbands and in-laws are seen in every nine minutes. Psychology plays a big part in the domestic drama of violence. Gender issues also play a big part in domestic violence. Above all, domestic violence against women is an intrinsic part of human society since time immemorial because it is often impossible

to escape from four walls within which one lives with other human beings.

### **HOW DID THE PROBLEM ARISE :**

Domestic violence against women is not considered to be serious in aggressive societies, all over Indian. In short, it is not given the status of real violence in the eyes of the society. So, domestic violence is called “a closed door syndrome”. This situation is very bad in India even worse. According to a recent survey done on family abuse, physical violence against women was reported as 26% in the urban region and 20% in rural areas. Psychological torture was noted in more than 50% of the cases. 80% of women killed in the united states are victims of domestic violence. A woman in this advanced country is also nine times more likely to be violated at home than on the road.

Wife battering is an awful reality of Indian life across all societies, classes, castes and ages. Crimes against Indian women are being committed since antiquity. The subservient position of women is woven in the fabric of Indian culture, making an average woman vulnerable to male abuse most of the time in her everyday existence. Gender crime is not new. It occurs all over Indian each day with forensic precision - according to a report. Violence against women is sanctioned in India by customs traditions and religions. Absolute male domination in terms of economy and the patriarchal system of society facilitates crimes against women, who are

considered a weaker sex. Girls are taught by their mother to worship their men right from childhood and shoulder their burdens behind closed doors, when violated.

Indian society looks down on women who report crimes done at home. The most blatant form of gender crime in Indian culture is burning of brides and wives. Dowry related crimes are common amongst them. While in India, international attention has focused on dowry deaths, perhaps the most dramatic manifestation of violence against women; it is only part of the problem. Not all violence within the household can be reduced to dowry demand, domestic violence is far more systematic and pervasive than previously acknowledged. The few studies available indicate that, physical abuse of Indian women is quite high, ranging from 22% to 60% of women. A multi-site study of 9,938 households found that 40% of the women reported experiencing at least one form of physical abuse and of these, 65% reported severe physical abuse, including being kicked hit or beaten. However, there has been very less research on domestic violence, as it is highly sensitive and there is a strong cultural resistance in most societies to publicly acknowledge the problem.

### **CULTURAL CONTEXT :**

Domestic violence in India arises from patriarchal notions of ownership over women sexuality, labour, reproductive rights, mobility and level of autonomy. Deep-rooted ideas about male superiority

enable, men to freely exercise unlimited power over women's lives, and effectively legitimizes it too. Violence is thus a tool, that men use constantly to control women as a result of highly patriarchal conditioning, which accord men the right to beat their wives and thus perform the duty of chastising them. The unequal and hierarchical gender relations manifest itself clearly in the familial set-up.

Violence within the home constitute a "private affair", because of the high value attached to family as an indisputably social institution. In fact, this belief leads us to understand that, the family in reality is the site of and the root of unequal genders relations and oppression of women. Thus, martial violence especially, woman battering goes largely unnoticed or more importantly hushed. It has also been quite apparent for a long time now that, violence against women within the family does not constitute an occasional, rare incident, but is a regular systematic and structural manifestation of social control.

### **WOMEN VICTIMS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE :**

Violence against women is a universal phenomenon, but the response to this varies with class, caste, religion and economic status. It has been seen that women from the middle class and upper class society in India are so ashamed of these phenomenon that they conceal it from society scrupulously. They do not want to expose the abusive faces of their spouse's sin in public and suffer in silence behind the closed doors.

Domestic violence is chronically hidden away or under reported all over the world. Research estimates have proved that 77% of the victims of domestic violence in India are women. Out of all violent crimes, 16% are due to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse affects one, out of four women in their families lifetime. It has been observed that, domestic violence is repeatedly perpetrated on the victim, compared to other forms of crimes and on an average, the victim takes the extreme step of calling the police, only after three dozen assaults. In England, one incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute and two women are killed every week by a current or ex-partner. Domestic violence against women occurs across the world, regardless of age, gender, class, caste and education. Domestic violence manifests as a continuous pattern of controlling and abusive behaviour, through which the perpetrator seeks power over the damaged party. Figures reveal that, domestic violence consists mainly of violence done on women by men. Women are the main victims of domestic violence in India. They suffer on many level - health, education and housing. It will not be an exaggeration to say that, women in most parts of the world do not have the right to live their lives in the way, they want and are constantly subdued by fear.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL INDIA :**

Women coming from rural back round in India are more vulnerable to domestic violence, compared to their counterparts in urban areas. This is because of their vulnerability due to lack of

education, exposure, opportunity and the nature of Indian society. The Indian state of Bihar tops the list of women, who are physically abused by their spouses. Married women from the state of Himachal Pradesh are found to be less likely to face violence at home, compared to other states of India.

37% of Indian rural women have faced abuse and violence at home, according to a new survey done by "National Family Health Survey". They are found to be more vulnerable to violence due to lack of education. Rural women with no education are more easily violated by their spouses and in-laws, but a very few report this in public. But however, it has been found that, rural women with secondary or higher secondary education are also abused by their families, more often than those, who are born and bred in urban areas and given less education.

It has also been observed that, illiterate women face more violence from their husbands compared to literate women. "The National Family Health Survey" – states that 40.2% Indian women from rural areas are facing more violence from their husbands compared to urban regions, where the percentage is 30.4% except Bihar. In Bihar, women from urban areas face more violence than their sisters from rural areas. 62.2% of its women were subjected to the trauma of domestic abuse in urban areas, compared to 58.5% of women from villages.

Spousal violence is lower among couples, in which husbands and wives have both been to school and are equally educated (23%) than among couples, where the husband has more education than the wife (36%). The cycle of domestic violence is repeated across generation. Women, whose mothers were beaten by their father are twice as likely to experience violence as women, whose mothers were not beaten by their fathers – 60 percent compared with 30 percent.

Women married to men who get drunk frequently are more than twice as likely to experience violence as women, whose husbands do not drink alcohol at all. However, alcohol is not the only factor that causes domestic violence in the family.

### **NEVER MARRIED WOMEN ALSO EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE :**

Sixteen percent of never married women have experienced physical violence since they were 15 years of age, generally by a parent, a sibling or a teacher. One percent of never married women report having ever been sexually abused by anyone. Among never married women, who have experienced sexual violence 27% say that, the perpetrator of the violence was a relative.

### **MOST WOMEN DO NOT SEEK HELP, WHEN THEY ARE ABUSED :**

Only one in four abused women have ever sought help to try to end the violence, they have experienced. Two out of three

women have not only never sought help but have also never told anyone about the violence. Abused women most often seek help from their families. Few abused women seek help from any institutional source such as police, medical institutions or social service organizations. Only 2% of abused women have ever sought help from the police.



### **MAJORITY OF WOMEN AND MEN SAY THAT A HUSBAND IS JUSTIFIED IN BEATING HIS WIFE :**

More than half of women (54%) and men (51%) agree that it is justifiable for a husband to beat his wife under some circumstances.

Women and men most often agree that wife beating is justified when the wife disrespects her in-laws.

Neglect of the house or children is the second most commonly agreed to justification for wife beating for both men and women.

**RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA :**

The Govt. of India has always been open to working towards ending violence against women and support women's movement to reform the law and evolve strategies to provide support and treatment services. Throughout the 1980's, the Indian Society witnessed numerous struggles by women's organisation, on issues of dowry deaths, custodial rape, abductions of women, sati, female, infanticide, sexual harassment of young girls and women in public places, trafficking and prostitution. It is important to note that, there is a legal reform by the Government in response to each of these issues of violence against women during the past decade.

Both Govt. and Non-government organizations have come up with various preventive and supportive strategies that include shelter homes, counseling services and legal aid centers. Further several Indian states have established special women police cells or all women police stations to aid women in reporting violence. NGO services include crisis counseling, legal assistance, temporary shelter, economic opportunities or a combination of services.

The protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides for more effective protection of the rights of women, guaranteed under the constitution, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family. Under the new Act, any women subjected to mental or physical injuries, physical abuses, criminal

intimidation or force, sexual abuse will be covered under domestic violence.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM :**

Although the Govt., both Central and State recognize the importance of protecting women from abuse and punishing the perpetrators of the crimes, the dilemma of whether it should be treated as a traditional crime or whether there should be emphasis on counseling and mediation prevails. Most magistrates, judges and the police adhere to traditional values that support the family as an institution and the dominance of the male party within it (UNICEF-2000)

The criminal justice approach of arrest, prosecution and conviction with punishment is a clear condemnation of the society for the conduct of the abuser and acknowledges his personal responsibility for the activity. Research shows that battered women are reluctant to police intervention because they believe it to be a private matters to be resolved within the family. They do not want their husbands or fathers to be prosecuted. They fear that reporting the matter to the police will result in more violence being inflicted on them. They believe that, reporting the problems to the police will do little good and harm their marital status. Legislation with regard to domestic violence is a modern phenomenon (UNICEF – 2000). The first problem that arises with legislation is that if a woman withdraws the case, the man cannot be prosecuted for beating up his wife,

since the spouse is the main witness. The law cannot proceed without her support.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL AND LAW :**

Indian lawyers collectively drafted a Bill on domestic violence in 1992 and circulated it widely in all women's organizations and groups in 1994. The National Commission for Women (NCW) came out with the draft of its bill, which met with intense criticism by various women's organizations. Most of the women's groups were unanimously vocal in articulating the need for a law against domestic violence by this time. They identified that, half of India faces the threat of typical gender based violence. It was also recognized that, the existing criminal laws were providing inadequate in meeting the needs of Indian women. Subsequently, the lawyers collective came out with its copy of a law on domestic violence in 1999, after a major wide consideration with various women's groups. Following this, the Govt. of India introduced a Bill on domestic violence in the Lok Sabha. The bill was titled the protection from Domestic Violence Bill – 2001.

There has been a lot of controversy, surrounding this bill both domestically and internationally in terms of its implications. Indian judiciary has created a kind of social revolution in India by revising the loop holes in the bill and bringing it into effect in its latest form. This new law is a land mark in an attempt to protect women against domestic violence. The new domestic violence bill extends to ban

dowry related harassment by way of dowry demands. The law has specially proved effective because it gives sweeping powers to a magistrate to grant protection orders in such cases.

India's National Crime Records Bureau has reported a crime against women in every three minutes in India. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide according to police officials. In spite of the enormity of the problem related to crimes against women in India, there was no specific legislation to control the threat of abuse or actual abuse for women in their homes. The new domestic violence bill attempts to meet this vacuum by including actual abuse or the threat of abuse whether physical, sexual, economical or emotional. The law is specially designed to offer protection to wives or live-in-partners. Punishment ranges upto a fine of 20,000/- to a jail term upto one year. This landmark new law offering protection to Indian women against domestic violence has become fully functional in India.



In 1980, domestic violence was recognized as a specific criminal offence by the introduction of Section 498-A into the Indian Penal Code. This section deals with cruelty by a husband or his family towards a married woman. Four types of cruelty are dealt with by this law :

1. Conduct that is likely to drive a woman to suicide.
2. Conduct, which is likely to cause grave injury to the life, limb or health of the woman.
3. Harassment with the purpose of forcing the woman or her relatives to give some property.
4. Harassment because the woman or her relatives is unable to yield to demands for more money or does not give some property.

The punishment is imprisonment for upto three years and a fine.

**WHAT ARE THE FORMS OF CRUELTY, RECOGNIZED BY A COURT :**

1. Persistent denial of food.
2. Denying the woman access to children, thereby causing mental torture.
3. Physical violence.
4. Taunting, demoralizing and putting down the women with the intention of causing mental torture.

5. Confining the women at home and not allowing her normal social life.
6. Abusing children in their mother's presence with the intention of causing her mental torture.
7. Threatening divorce unless dowry is given.

### **WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE CASE OF DOWRY RELATED HARASSMENT OR DOWRY DEATH :**

Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code covers dowry related harassment. A women can use the threat of going to court to deter this kind of harassment. The I.P.C. also addresses dowry deaths in Section 304-B. If a woman dies of “unnatural causes” within seven years of marriage and has been harassed for dowry before her death, the court will assume that it is a case of dowry death. The husband or in-law will then have to prove that, their harassment was not the cause of her death. A dowry death is punishable by imprisonment of at least seven years. Section 306 should be invoked, when a woman commits suicide because of dowry related harassment.

Amnesty International has been authorized by the United Nations to look into domestic violence against women in India.

## **CHAPTER – 2**

### **OBJECTIVE, IMPORTANCE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

The main objective of this study on domestic violence, against women is –

1. To know in detail the root – cause of this problem the history of domestic violence and what are the social and traditional factors responsible for the creation of this criminal act.
2. To highlight the classification of different domestic violence, which are occurring in the day-to-day life of the women.
3. To make people aware of the fact how the archaic values of the society plays an important role for the occurrence of this violence against women.
4. To help people in changing their perception and attitude about this social problem.
5. To let the people know about the dangerous long term effects of this domestic violence on women and children.

### **IMPORTANCE :**

Although different Bills and Laws are enacted at different times to reduce and eradicate such types of violence, no satisfactory change have been found in the perception of the people towards women and girl children. So, greater attention is needed from all corner of the society to stop this inhuman criminal behaviour towards

women. Otherwise, the intensification of this problem would have long-term negative consequences on the future generation of the society.

#### **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :**

There could have been many improvements in the project work -

1. The women, who were interviewed had given answers from their real life experience in a very brief and short-cut way. If I could have given them enough time, they would have explained every incident of the violence, they had faced more elaborately.
2. Shortage of time became a great factor. That is why I could not complete the project in the manner I really wanted.

### **CHAPTER – 3**

#### **DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION :**

The tool of Data Collection required for this study in individual interview. Twenty-five women of Ambapua area of Berhampur were interviewed individually. All of the families belong to middle and lower middle classes of the society. After putting five introductory questions about their name, education, family members, social and economic background, each of them was asked to answer fifteen questions of the questionnaire about domestic violence against women. They all answered in “YES” or “NO”, out of 25 women, sixteen are found educated and the rest nine are under secondary education.

In this project, action based approach is adopted.

Answer of different women to the 15 questions of the questionnaire :

<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Sl. No.</b>															
1.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
2.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
3.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
4.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y

Q. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sl. No.															
5.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
6.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
7.	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
8.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
9.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
10.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
11.	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
12.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
13.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
14.	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
15.	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
16.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
17.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
18.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
19.	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y

Q. No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sl. No.															
20.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
21.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
22.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
23.	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
24.	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
25.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y

## **CHAPTER – 4**

### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA :**

The data represented in the table are analyzed and interpreted to draw conclusion and response of the respondents. The response of the respondents is taken from the questionnaire and the data is compiled in order to draw the inferences.

### **DATA ANALYSIS :**

There were 15 questions, which were asked to answer to each and every woman (Total 25 women). Out of them, it was found that, 8 nos. are physically abused like beating, kicking, slapping etc. Seven nos. are verbally abused like scolding with vulgar language and unbearable wordings. Two nos. are sexually abused by some family male member or relative. Four nos. are economically (Financially) abused like depriving of money or having no right on any property or asset of the family. Four nos. are psychologically or emotionally abused like scolding and degrading before children, humiliating before others, isolating the woman from friends and parent's etc.

**Q. No. 7** :- All the answers of the women are found same. They have always tried to avoid the abusive situation, but failed.

**Q. No. 9** :- 18 Nos. of women replied that, their married daughters are still facing dowry tortures in their in-law's house. Seven nos. answered negatively.

**Regarding Qn. No. 12** :- All the women agreed that, no counseling can help to stop the domestic violence.

**Q. No. 13** :- Ten Nos. of women are of opinion that, no women's empowerment can solve this problem until the attitude of male members towards women are changed. But 15 women agreed that, women's empowerment can help partially to minimize the problem.

**Q. No. 14** :- Twenty women have not sought any legal aid to protect them from domestic violence. Only five no. of women have sought legal help and those are found educated.

**Regarding Q. No.15** :- After making them understand about spirituality and values, all the women agreed to the fact that, women's empowerment along with spiritual development and adoption of values in the family can bring about change in the attitudes of the family members towards violence against women. But it is most challenging and time-taking matter.

## **CHAPTER – 5**

### **CONCLUSION :**

Victims of domestic violence suffer from various forms of abuse ranging from physical to emotional, sexual, financial and social. Much of the violence, committed in relationships, occurs on a continuum, ranging from menacing phone calls, threats, physical attacks and in some cases murder. No matter, what forms it takes, the dynamics of abuse are the same and women are mainly the victims. Domestic violence cuts across all strata of the society-economic or social. The abuse most often occurs over a considerable length of time - usually years and is rarely a single “unexplained” incident.

### **SUGGESTION :**

Currently the most necessary thing in the world is spiritual empowerment of every body, which is the real empowerment. It can give the solution for all problems, including domestic violence against women, which is increasing drastically all over the world. Woman's empowerment is now increasingly seen both qualitatively and quantitatively. It is pre-requisite to bring a change both, in the family and in the society. They are women's awareness, consciousness, resources at their disposal, voice, participation in political process, decision making over her work and income, increase in self-esteem, individual and collective confidence. The women, from all levels of the society should be educated and must be given opportunity to think everything critically. So that domestic violence can be lessened to a great extent.

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## ANNEXURE – II

**SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1.	Are you facing any physical abuse in your family ?		
2.	Are you being verbally abused by any family members ?		
3.	Have you ever experience any psychological abuse ?		
4.	Are you being sexually abused by any male members of your family ?		
5.	Does any one in your family has control over money and other economic resources ?		
6.	Do you think that, domestic violence has very bad impact on your children ?		
7.	Have you ever tried to avoid different abusive situation ? But failed.		
8.	Do you agree with the social tradition of considering girls as inferior sex ?		
9.	Are you daughter facing dowry torture in the in-law's house ?		
10.	Do you believe in gender-discrimination which leads to foeticide ?		
11.	Are you thinking that domestic violence is not occurring in educated families ?		
12.	Do you think that, this problem of domestic violence can be solved by counseling ?		
13.	Can women's empowerment solve this problem ?		
14.	Have you ever tried to seek any help from law-enforcement agencies ?		
15.	Do you think development of spirituality and adoption of human values in the family can minimize such type of abuses?		