PREFACE

Among all the relationship, the relationship inside the family are the thickest as well as most informal, which are often associated with love, support and bonding among members. Across all the cultures, family has been regarded as a safe haven for all human being irrespective of gender. But it is also true that family which was perceived as an arena of love, affection and gentleness and center of solidarity and warmth has now become the center of exploitation, assault and violence against most of the women.

Women constitute about one half the world populations, but they are placed at various disadvantage positions due to gender differences and bias since immemorable times. Women have been victim of the male dominated society all over the world and India is no exception to this unfortunate situation. Though the Constitution of India assures for all dignity, equality, justice and freedom but they have been systematically denied to the women.

Among the many manifestations of the violations of the human rights and fundamental rights of the women, domestic violence is one of the vicious. Family system, subordination, cultural, religious and socio-economic reasons are inter alia giving scope for domestic violence against women.

Domestic violence is an old age phenomenon that often happens to women. The most important aspect of the domestic violence is that ‘it happens behind the close doors’ and is most often is denied by women who have been victim of violence because of so many reasons.

Domestic violence against women takes place in myriad form all over the region and different countries have tried to respond this violence through various laws, and policies and other forms of state action. Violence against women whether in home or outside is reflective of the power structure and the hierarchies that have been constituted in society which regulate the status of women only after men. This is a complex area of study and research as the texture and forms of violence varies with variables such as that of caste, race, religion, class, level of education, type of family, occupation, etc.
The study of the domestic violence against women in India is important because this study exhibit the role of various laws in protecting the women from domestic violence. In India, a few empirical studies have been conducted on domestic violence against women. This research was, therefore undertaken to explore the problem in Indian scenario. The present study is an investigation with primary aim to investigate how and to what extent women are facing various types of domestic violence, to what extent they know about the pro-women provisions and legislation provided by the statute specifically with regard to the protection of women from domestic violence.

The first chapter provides the context in which the study is set, the focus and objective of the study and its significance. This chapter is basically introductory in nature and lay emphasis on term violence, domestic violence, and instances of domestic violence.

The chapter second deals with the evolution of the concept of domestic violence against women in different periods of the history. The position, power and status and disabilities of the women are described in the Hindu civilization from pre-historic times to the present day.

The chapter three deals with the theoretical aspect of the concept of violence against women. The root cause of the domestic violence against women is also analyzed.

The chapter four of this work provides the legal response to the domestic violence against women in India. It explains the pro-women legislation and initiative provided to the women from time to time.

The chapter five of this work explains the approach of the Indian judiciary in protecting the women from various types of atrocities including domestic violence.

The chapter six of this study is based on the empirical study carried out in district Bilaspur of Himachal Pradesh. An endeavour has been made to know the type of domestic violence women are facing and their awareness about various pro-women provisions and legislation.
The last chapter sum-up the entire study and lays down the emphasis on the conclusion drawn on the basis of present study and make some valuable suggestions for curbing the problem of domestic violence against women.