PREFACE

Women constitute half of the world’s population and play specific and crucial role either visible or invisible, in society and history. Yet they often become victims of gender based violence. For centuries, they have accepted ill-treatment at the hands of the men they lived with. Thus, domestic violence is a part of violence against women of every class, caste, religion, and region. The present study is mainly focussed on domestic violence in Imphal (West) and Imphal (East) districts of Manipur and the effectiveness of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The present work entitled “A critical study on domestic violence against women with special reference to the Imphal (West) and Imphal (East) districts of the state of Manipur” is a modest attempt by the researcher to explore new dimensions as a student of law on the prevalence of domestic violence among Manipuri women.

Chapter 1 of the study gives a general introduction on the issue of domestic violence against women. Domestic violence is one of the gravest and the most universally pervasive human rights violation. The violence occurs within the safe confines of the home at the hands of a close family member. Violence within the home is considered to be a strictly private matter and as such has been endorsed over centuries. Even though the importance of the role of women has been analyzed from time to time, violence is still manifested in different forms in the society. Domestic violence against women is a much discussed topic in various forums in recent times. This chapter also highlights the aims and objectives of the study. It also includes the methodology adopted by the researcher to collect data for the study on the present topic.

The second chapter of the study is related to the genesis of the status of women in the socio-legal order. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to study the position of
women in human society and the various forms of violence to which women in every part of the world are subjected to in the male-dominated society. Further study has been done to examine the numerous International Conventions under the United Nations which specifically relates to the rights and privileges of women. This chapter also deals with the position of women in Indian legal perspective and violence against women in India.

The third chapter specifically deals with the status of women in Manipur and the forms of violence perpetuated against women in the State. Though women’s activism is very strong in Manipur, a close look at their status in the social strata will reveal that most of their needs and aspirations are marginalised. The strength of the collective force of women in Manipur does not necessarily translate into individual strength. In fact, women in Manipur also fall victims to various forms of gender-based violence and discrimination just like their counterparts in other parts of the globe.

Chapter 4 of the present work deals with cases of domestic violence in Manipur and effectiveness of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. There have been many instances of domestic violence in Manipur as is evident from the numerous cases which have been filed in the courts in the Imphal (West) and Imphal (East) districts of the state. Whether all the cases of the alleged domestic violence are genuine or not is altogether another tale.

Chapter 5 discusses the judicial responses to cases of domestic violence in India. In this chapter, the researcher mentions some landmark judgments of the higher judiciary in dealing with various aspects of the provisions of law relating to domestic violence in India.
The sixth chapter of the present work deals with the kinds of social interventions which can play a pivotal role in combating the menace of domestic violence in the State of Manipur. Under this chapter, the roles of local communities like the *Meira Paibis* and the local clubs in tackling domestic violence against women in Manipur has been discussed. Further, the contribution which an NGO can make to create awareness among the masses of the evils of domestic violence and empower women to face every obstacle in life has been incorporated. The last part of the chapter deals with the role of the media in creating awareness of the legal rights of women.

The last chapter of the study gives a summary of the work. It deals with the findings of the present study. Here, the researcher has attempted to give some suggestions based on the findings upon which further research can be done in future.

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