CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION OF THE RESEARCH THEME

1: Introduction

The Research theme is based on the concept of “violence” which is the most common and highly destructive technique followed across boundaries and across cultures to subdue the vulnerable and the poor. Violence is an epidemic that kills, tortures physically and mentally and maims psychologically the most beautiful creation of God Almighty i.e. Woman. The very fact that Indian Constitution guarantees various legal rights to all without any discrimination is a myth in reality (Upadhyay et al 2004). The basic rights of right to life and live with dignity are destroyed maximum in a workplace and at home too.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) states that “Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.”
The socio-cultural values and attitudes dominated by patriarchal system gives a low esteem to a woman leading to inevitable gender inequality which is often the major contributory factor to this type of irrevocable damage and violence against the dignity of a woman. Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India speak volumes of right to equality as well as right to live a life with freedom and dignity. Article 19 specifically guarantees right to work to all irrespective of gender. All these rights when spoken of at the International level are also part of Universal Rights which too speak of uniformity and equality in terms of rights. In continuation of these India has been a signatory to Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979.

On the one hand where Article 14 talks of equality in terms of rights towards all practically when seen it is the reverse situation at home as well as at workplace. Women are never given their due credit for all the unaccounted work done at home as well as at the workplace. This secondary prioritization of women is definitely a bad indicator of not only an unhealthy family and society but as a nation on the whole. (Upadhyay et al, 2004).

However it is to be noted that inspite of such laws, the condition as well as the status of women has always been secondary in all aspects and at all places- the reasons could be many ranging from lack of legislative controls to effective implementation of laws, lack of gender sensitivity to the very core in the upbringing of the woman that she is taught to be lower in status of men whether it be economic, social, sexual, educational or at workplace. There are eyes which cry blood with the violence and torture they face, there are broken limbs by the very own whom they love, there are battered souls who work for them and there are these shattered women crying silently as they don’t have any recourse to. They are exploited everywhere in family in the name of love or adjustments and outside for money or Fulfillment of basic needs of oneself and family members. It is our family, society, our culture and our very own people who taught us to remain silent and bear it up and they are the very own who have often have inflicted this pain on us either to show their masculinity or satisfy their ego or otherwise. The question which ponders throughout is as to where do they go for justice, peace, love, happiness and dignity?

In Indian society, women’s status has always remained very high theoretically. Powers of God have been described in women’s forms as Laxmi, Saraswati, Durga etc. Woman is also
considered a symbol of wealth, knowledge and strength. Wife has been called as “Ardhangini” and her motherhood has been given great respect everywhere in all holy books and scriptures. Mother is considered to be the symbol of Nationality which makes a woman higher than all living creatures on this earth. From the archaeological remnants and Vedic literature (Pre Vedic and Vedic Periods) we get indications of women’s status in comparison to men’s status being higher. But from the post Vedic period its downward flow of gradual deterioration started and continued till the end of medieval period and the women quietly suffered throughout (Anu Jasrotia, 2012).

During the British regime in 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} Centuries, owing to the contacts with modern society, intellectual class of Indian society intensively realized the inhuman and unjust fact of discrimination and through social reform movements and social legislations efforts were made to improve the status of women. Raja Ram Mohan Roy the pioneer of the movement of Women’s rights made great efforts in bringing about socio-legal changes pertaining to child marriage, Sati and the legitimization of Widow Remarriage. All these efforts were to directly or indirectly reduce violence and make the life of women more humane and worth living.

The British Government also passed various legislations to protect the then problematic women such as the Prohibition of Sati Act, 1829; Widow Remarriage Act, 1856; Civil Marriage Act, 1872; Married Wife Property Act, 1874; Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and the Indian Government Act, 1935 etc. As a result of it the women got emancipated from the pain of economic, social familial and political disabilities (Anu Jasrotia, 2012).

Earlier to 1980’s there were no specific or special laws specifically related to violence at home or as such to cater to the needs of domestic violence. Neither could the husbands or the in-laws be ever convicted under it due its absence and such a need was never felt by the society or legislature to enact such specific domestic laws. Hence throughout it was seen that the conviction was under the provisions of either, causing hurt or confinement, murder or suicide or abetment of suicide etc.

Various sections such as 304B, 313-316, 305, 319, 321, 326, 327, 349 498A etc speak volumes for the protection of women. Similarly the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment Act) 1986, The
Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987, The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 are various Acts for the Protection of Women but there is a huge gap yet to be filled in between theory and practice for the so called Betterment and Empowerment of Women.

Poverty and illiteracy along with social and economic backwardness forces women to work in the informal or unorganized sector. They are neither secure in terms of job nor wages nor working conditions or welfare amenities are concerned. Most of these women belong to the casual and seasonal employment and do not have one employer as such either due to the reason that their employment was sought with the help or through an agent or supervisor or some known acquaintance due to which their direct approach to an specific employer is missing and it is one of the major reasons for manipulations and exploitation. To add to this bad situation they are not affiliated to any trade union, have irregular working hours as well as irregular places of work and most of all they lack the legal protection or governmental support. Even though the Government comes up with different schemes these vulnerable are unaware of those schemes due to lack of literacy and ignorance.

Women are given low and unequal wages. Sexual harassment is common and rampant. They do not have any paid leave, or maternity leave or social security. Due to poverty they are not in a position to save for their future and as a result they have no pension or insurance or health safety. Many a times they take the help of their children too to increase or support their employment.

Both formal and informal surveys reveal that on an average unorganized sector workers do not earn more than Rs.30 to Rs.50 per day. In order to earn more they work longer and harder due to which their family gets disrupted. It is also said that the Globalization factor has brought about more females to the working ground.

India is rich in a number of labor laws naming a few would include the

1) The Trade Unions Act, 1926
2) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936
3) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948
4) The Factories Act, 1948
5) Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
6) The Building and Construction Workers Act, 1996
7) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
8) Social Security Act, 2008

The Equal Remuneration for Equal Work Act, and the Protection from Sexual Harassment Act and in general Penal and Criminal laws. However the practical application of these laws is difficult mainly due to the casual or temporary nature of work of these women working in the unorganized or informal sector.

The International Labor Organization, 2001 says that women represent:

- 50% of the population
- 30% of the labor force
- Perform 60% of all working hours
- Receive 10% of the world’s income
- Owns less than 1% of the world’s property

Many a times in spite of all the hard work done at home as well as at workplace girls are given less to eat as compared to their male counter parts. They are many a times also denied access to proper education and health facilities are often given secondary priority due to the very fact that the girl has to go to some other house one day after marriage. Violence against women is accepted to be a part of woman’s life right from her birth to death and this mentality imbibed among the other parts of the society inflicting violence and pain on these vulnerable get a boost for whatever they doing to be right full of social acceptance. And who is to be blamed for this??????? - The State interventions, ineffective laws, society culture, male ego, male attitudes, society acceptance or dominant interests within the community who legitimize violence against women as normal.

Violence has been a part of a woman’s life from time immemorial. No society can ever claim in totality that it has been violence free especially in cases of women. In fact the Society proudly
promotes everything a man does to be right. He is considered to be the sole earthly controller of not only the woman’s property but also her body and that it is the duty of the wife to keep her husband happy in all terms under any circumstances.

The Government of India’s National Crime Records Bureau., 1994 recognizes that one of the precipitating factors in violence against women is their low status in society. In reviewing statistics regarding violence they state: Women continue to be victims of domestic violence, family violence, violence in the community and at the work places. Illiteracy, ignorance, lack of awareness, poverty, added with traditional oppression and customs place the Indian women at uneven status or environment.

Violence is often socially sanctified and imbedded with attitudes and social acceptance and an accepted inescapable reality of women’s life which are not only taught to her in her childhood but practiced after marriage leaving no option but to bear it without complaining.

Lack of economic resources is often considered to be an barrier due to which not only do we find the vicious cycle of poverty in the economic sense but a vicious cycle of exploitation also in the socio-legal sense starts which is again more dangerous for the growth and welfare of women. Many a times due to family pressure, poverty or even due to unemployment of husband a woman is forced to take up any sort of employment mainly for fulfilling the dire needs of her family. This family constraints can never be hidden at workplace and the exploitation there too starts which many a times does not get confined to long working hours with low wages but also sexual harassment at the hands of agents, supervisors or even employers. However the plight of woman is that the woman puts in more hours of work, cannot change her employment due to her illiteracy, unskilled nature of work and need of money and to add to the problem she is forced to do all household work in spite of sickness or any mental or physical pain. Her family too does not support her but she is criticized for working long hours yet getting low wages, her character is many times questioned and all these have a circular flow in a woman’s life without any end. She is manipulated and exploited at her workplace as well as at home.
To come out of these many problems only law can be of no use. Consistent and sincere efforts on the part of the State at the first stage to enact effective legislative provisions coupled with conscious raising and awareness raising programs can help to improve the status of women to some extent. Coupled with the State efforts by different NGO’s in spreading awareness and spreading education in the sense of skilled work for these vulnerable would help.

In 1975 the United Nation’s Declaration of the Decade of Women paid attention on women’s concerns. It focused on education as well as skill acquisition which if streamlined accordingly would empower the women to a great extent. The Declaration strongly believed that if women themselves would understand their own conditions, know and acknowledge their rights and learn skills usually denied to them growth would follow.

Education and Awareness when coupled together especially in the legal sense can work wonders for many especially women. Legal empowerment involves creating awareness and educating the illiterate and ignorant or vulnerable group about legal rights which is believed to defeat all malpractices prevalent in the society. Accordingly trying to implement this notion the 7th Five Year Plan of India in 1985 set up Ministry of Human Resource wherein 27 major Schemes related to women and child development were identified to ensure the access the flow of funds to these exploited and vulnerable.

The real challenge for the Government would be to ensure that the labor laws and other penal laws on paper should be effectively implemented along with effective implementation of deterrent domestic violence and other laws so as to check these occurrences of Violence in future. Gender based violence including rape, molestation, eve teasing, sexual harassment at work place, economic exploitation etc should be urgently looked into along with social security laws and policies for women should be formulated. Only Awareness, Education, Effective and Deterrent Laws and help of NGO’s can change the living condition of working women especially in the unorganized sectors.

Laws as well the legal system throughout the world promote justice and through various amendments as well as newly drafted laws try to take one step ahead to improve the situation of human’s everywhere especially the women. However it is well known that alone by itself law or
legal system cannot change the society. Most of the times violence is considered a private issue and no one likes or wants to speak of it.

The women mainly suffer in silence. They are in some way or the other made to believe that they are at fault. It is said marriages are made in heaven but it is also known that the partner can make it hell on earth. Behind the closed doors of many a home, women in the presence of other women are abused, physically, emotionally and verbally are shattered and killed by their very own. In such a case when the woman bears it up alone silently and does not take recourse to the police or the law machinery, how can the laws be protective for those who do not avail of it. This is one more reason that the others or offenders are motivated to repeat the crime again.

Violence knows no class or age or social economic religious or racial boundaries. It is often a myth wrapped in soft linen that women from higher class or well educated or working in the organized sector do not face violence and especially do not face domestic violence. However the truth remains that a woman will always remain a woman and a man a superior being for her. Women overall do face violence in any form, domestic violence as well as sexual harassment at workplace.

However most of the cases of Sexual Harassment go unreported either due to fear of the perpetrators or societal fear or need of job or various reasons. The persistent growth of violence directed against women but at personal level and the institutional level is mostly largely attributable to the traditional exclusion of women from the process of decision making and development. They are mostly beautifully quoted as home makers but their home making is only limited to the kitchen or procreation that too of a male child. Although there is medical and scientific reasons as the birth of a child and the determinant factor is only the father for the gender of the child, still in many families women are battered on account of not giving birth to a male child.

Men inevitably very proudly control the woman’s lives, lifestyle as well as the living. Seclusion of women in household matters, confinement to household limits, illiteracy, unskilled nature of work and the very lessons throughout childhood and adulthood and even thereafter that she has
to go to some other family and her husband and her in-laws would be her everything and they have to adjust and live a life given by them is the root cause of all problems and violence at home.

In many cases it is extremely difficult for a woman to prove her case either of domestic violence or eve teasing or stalking or any other crime due to lack of evidence or witness and this is the most demotivating factor for most of the women not reporting the crime to the police.

Many of the times the crimes committed against women are a result of arguments over money, suspicion, instigation by others, jealousy, non acceptance of proposal of love or marriage, women’s education being higher than of the husband, or her earnings are more causing ego issues, disputes over children, alcohol of the husband, extra marital affairs of the husband, no reaction of the girl or woman leading to the feeling that the act is accepted especially in cases of eve teasing or stalking, need of male child, need of money etc. Reasons can be many but the vulnerable target is only one that is the Woman.

A survey which was conducted on a nationwide level by the ICR on Women in the year 2001 reveals that almost 52% of the women suffer violence of some type or the other in their lifetime. The National Crime Records Bureau in an analysis reveals that in the year 1999, 36% of the total crimes against women were cruelty by husbands and dowry related.

Recent studies also reveal that in many states which we term to be progressive crimes against women has risen four-fold in the past couple of year. Cases of Female feticide, Female infanticide or forced prostitution are also on a rampant rise inspite of laws.

The Study conducted by the ICR on Women as well as the International Clinical Epidemiology Network in the year 2000 reveals that 75% of the victimized women who are especially the victims of Domestic Violence do not reveal or seek help of the police or any other person only
and mainly due to the family honor and that they have no other place to go or any other family member to support or bank on.

Similarly studies by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences as well as the National Law School in the year 2000 on the research and examination of records of the Special Cell for Women and Children reveals that most of the women do not reveal their insider traumatic stories to anyone else unless the violence becomes severe or extremely unbearable.

Women issues especially all cases of women related to violence is a social development issue and it has damaged the very being of a woman. Violence of any or all types damages, kills and deprives mothers, sisters, daughters, daughter-in-laws all women their basic and legal right that right to live with dignity. There are young children who are raped or sexually assaulted, kidnapped, sold for prostitution and the very old are too battered by their husbands or many a times by their sons a price they pay for being a woman. This human rights issue needs urgent correction, rectification as well change in the unequal power show of relations and mindset of people and then the society.

Many a time women refuse to accept divorce as the only solution or alternative or remedy for their problems. They fear that inspite of divorce their safety would be at stake. Similarly the fear of single parenting and fear of society or the thought of having a violent father instead of no father at all or tolerating the violence for the sake of the children leads to living in the dread state of life.

There has been a progressive increase in the plan outlays over the last 6 decades of planned development to meet the needs of women and children. The outlay of Rs 4 crores in the First Plan (1951-56) has increased to Rs.7810.42 crores in the Ninth 5 year Plan and Rs.13,780 crores in the 10th 5 Year Plan. There has been a shift from “Welfare” Oriented Approach in the 1st 5 Year Plan to “Development” of women and “Empowerment” of women in the consecutive 5 Year Plans.

The 11th 5-Year Plan proposes to undertake special measures for Gender Empowerment and Equity. The link, importance and the purpose of this research are between violence and lack of economic resources and dependence is circular. On the one hand the threat and fear of violence
keeps women from seeking employment and compels them to agree on low paid exploitative jobs and on the other hand, without economic independence women have no power to escape from an abusive relationship. The reverse of this is that women’s increasing economic activity and independence is viewed as a threat which leads to spousal violence due to ego or insecurity problems of the spouse.

The 12th 5 year plans also proposes excessive development programs for the women. Other than these the Government also through its policy decisions and various schemes tries its level best for the manifestation of women as empowered through employment and economic independence. Inspite of the Schemes women either on account of illiteracy or ignorance do not avail of the same and the situation at home as well as at workplace remains the same (Report of the Working Group on Women’s Agency & Empowerment by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India constituted in 2011).

Many a time the state machinery and the police are not gender sensitized or show insensitive behavior towards crimes against women. In most cases even when eve teasing or stalking is tried to be reported they are asked to go back as either they do not consider it as a crime or don’t want to take more load of cases. Even in cases of rape, the police attitude towards the victim is harsh, rude and worse than the offender itself. The words used by them further puts down the dignity of the woman. In certain cases the woman is lectured on her dressing or style. Many are also laughed at by the police who demotivate the reporting of crime or violence.

With the ever growing rate of violence and crimes registered against women in India especially during the last few years the functioning of the administration of criminal justice needs to be relooked into and needs an urgent change. In order to preserve and protect the women from any type of violence along with other factors and changes the work of the police and other machineries of law and justice need to be proactive rather than reactive.
1.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1.1.1 DEFINITIONS AND KEY CONCEPTS OF VIOLENCE

Violence against women can never be defined as a single term as it is collection of different acts, prejudices, biases, cultural, economic and social factors that influence it on a large scale. It varies from different countries to different religions and social customs. Although different in its say violence in all its form is common to the main fabric of society so called Woman! Some Human Rights Activists blame Violence on poverty and inadequacy of education and others argue it to be more due to patriarchal society.

A different type of violence takes place at the individual or family level as well as the society. All these include rape, honor killings, domestic violence which also includes intimate partner violence, dowry, molestation, kidnapping, abduction, forced marriages, prenatal sex selection, female infanticide, female feticide, forced prostitution, forced abortion, violence by authorities, female genital mutilation and many more too in the name of state or religion such as war rape or devdasi etc.

The United Nations (1993) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." The definition refers to gender based violence as the root cause of all violence. The Declaration broadens the scope of the definition to include Crimes and Violence happening within the four walls of the family as well as in the general society as such.
The Scottish Government’s definition of violence against women can be interpreted as follows:

- Violence against women are actions which harm or cause suffering or indignity to women and children, and whereas those carrying out the actions are mainly men.
- In most of such case women and children are predominantly the victims of different forms of violence - including emotional, psychological, sexual and physical abuse.
- Coercion and constraints - are interlinked where such suffering and deprivation of rights and liberty not only takes place within the family but at the community level too.
- And this is manifested by the acceptance of the Society at large of this injustice and all such unjust acts are condoned by the State and they have their roots in gender inequality and are therefore understood as gender-based violence.

In 1993, The World Development Report of the World Bank estimated that women between the age group of 15 to 44 lose more Discounted Health Years of Life (DHYLs) due to rape and domestic violence rather than due to breast cancer, cervical cancer obstructed labor, heart disease, AIDS, respiratory infections, motor vehicle accidents or war.

When this same violence in all or many forms are perpetrated towards the most vulnerable class of women that is the women working in the unorganized sector who out of illiteracy and poverty are forced to work and are rampantly exploited battered cursed burnt to death and are mostly unwanted it can definitely be termed as the most heinous crime and an urgent change is required to make a change in their lives. The Informal or the Unorganized Sector is one which takes in its ambit all jobs which are not recognized as normal income sources meant for savings and a source of national income. They are mostly unregistered and do not come directly under the control of State or Central Government.

1.1.2 DEFINITION AND KEY CONCEPT OF UNORGANIZED WORKERS

The National Commission for the Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) has defined the unorganized or informal employment as follows: “Unorganized workers consists of those working in the unorganized enterprises or households excluding regular workers with social
security benefits, and the workers in the formal sector without any employment/social security benefits provided by the employers”.

The NCEUS also focused on the following definition of unorganized sector as “The unorganized sector consists of all unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals or households engaged in the sale and production of goods and services operated on a proprietary or partnership basis and with less than 10 total workers”.

The workers or employees working in the unorganized sector do not many times have just, fair and uniform wages. They also lack any sense of social benefit or security like maternity benefit or leave with pay during maternity or and health care benefits or even any sense of employment security like protection against arbitrary dismissal or work security in terms of protection in case of occupational hazards or occupational diseases or accidents or illness at work. They do not come under direct control of state or central government rules hence massive exploitation and discrimination takes place.

The First Indian National Commission on Labor (1966-69) defined unorganized sector workforce as “those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments”.

A very clear and lucid definition provided by the Ministry of Labor, Government of India can be categorically classified the unorganized labor force under 4 different categories as per the terms of occupation, nature of employment, distressed categories or groups and service providers. Further classification can be mentioned as under:

1. Unorganized Labor in terms of Occupation : Fishermen, small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural laborers, building and construction workers, leather workers, artisans, weavers, workers in saw mills, in brick kilns or stone quarries, oil mills, beady rolling etc
2. Unorganized Labor in terms of nature of employment: Bonded laborers, migrant workers, attached agricultural workers, casual or contract workers etc
3. Unorganized Labor in terms of specially distressed workers: Scavengers, Loaders or unloaders, toddy tappers, carriers of head loads as well as drivers of animal driven vehicles and

4. Unorganized workers in service or as service providers: Domestic workers, fishermen and women, barbers, vegetable and fruit vendors, newspaper vendors etc. (Institute of Rural Construction and the Center for Journalism and Mass Communication, Visva Bharti, 2013)

In addition to these broad categories of workers there also exists a huge section of unorganized labor force which includes cobblers, hamaals, handicraft artisans, lady tailors, physically handicapped self-employed persons, auto drivers, carpenters, power loom workers handloom weavers, sericulture workers, tannery workers etc.

It is also observed that such category of unorganized labor force in India is overwhelming. They are largely affected by cycles of seasonal employment, seasons, middle men, and people collecting haftas as well as illiteracy and lack of support from any trade unions or collective power.

The Informal or Unorganized sector can take the form of some unit or work operated by single individuals working as self-employed persons either alone or with the help of certain unpaid family members. The possibility that the activity may be undertaken either inside or outside the owner’s or employer’s home is quite evident.

These can also be termed as private unincorporated enterprises or partnerships or co-operatives formed by members of different households with the help of workers who are unregistered. The workers belonging to these unorganized sectors may be engaged in agricultural as well as non-agricultural activities
1.2. DIFFERENT TYPES OF ABUSES

Where patriarchy and social acceptance walk hand in hand violence is inevitable. Where women are controlled by social norms, religious beliefs, traditions and unfounded scientific theories inferiority creeps in thus de-motivating the women to move ahead in life. They are always secluded from major decision making and are considered doormats. Women are subjected to different types of abuses ranging from physical to economic thus hampering welfare and growth.

**Physical abuse** in the form of slapping, battering, arm twisting, burning, choking, stabbing, strangling, choking, threatening with weapons or sharp objects, kicking, forced abortions, forced marital rape, forced prostitution as well as female genital mutilation etc. Sexual abuse is also not uncommon where coerced sex through threats or at gunpoint etc.

**Psychological abuse may take the form of** non-conversation, leaving alone women or abandoning her at home or abandoning her from any family or social get together or confinement at home, constant surveillance or threats to take away the children or the custody of children, isolation, verbal or often maintaining silence by the perpetrators can be an abuse or aggression and humiliation.

**Economic Abuse** may include different acts of refusal to contribute financially towards need of family, refusing to provide with food and other basic needs, denying proper medication or denial of funds etc.

Gender bias is rampant in the form of discrimination in terms of nutrition, health care as well as education, which if reflected deep is not only a woman’s issue but an issue for the very humanity to deal with urgently. Although these abuses may be associated to domestic violence they are carried forward in the society in one form or the other and the vulnerable are exploited in the name of work, wages, permanency or security. Men or Society inevitably and proudly control the woman’s lives, lifestyles and living as well that too badly suiting their convenience.
1.2.1 FEATURES AND FACT LIST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

- Violence has affected each and every woman in her lifetime at some point of time or the other either in the family or at the place of work.
- Violence is socially and culturally manifested and sanctified through beliefs, rituals or practices.
- It is a human rights issue which needs quick remedy
- It is prevalent across the globe amongst all castes, class, religion or education
- Violence not only instills fear for sometime but the victim carries it for lifelong.
- Violence is a display of unwarranted power over women which satisfies male ego.
- It can range from physical to emotional to sexual to psychological to economical covering all areas of a women’s life.
- It restricts progress and growth of women and in turn of the world at large.
- Law enforcement agencies are not gender sensitized towards the problems of women
- It is open exhibition of power play which the male exhibit.

1.2.2 MYTHS AND REALITIES OF VIOLENCE

There are certain myths which are not only common to all cultures and societies but also to all class of women working in the organized and unorganized sector. The first and most common myth which exists that all women working give open invitations to violence of all forms either by the way they dress or their attitude. Whereas the reality is that not all women dress up for open invitations and moreover the dress of a person cannot be a judging gauge to judge the morality and decency of a person.

The next myth is that only the women belonging to the lower middle class face violence at home and outside. The reality is that it is these women from poor background living in either chawls or slums or pavements have little or no privacy and everything in their lives is an open affair known to the society at large whereas the middle class or upper middle
class or the rich class living in building or row houses or bungalows get many a times battered behind closed doors and they pretend everything is fine.

Another myth is that the victim of violence are only working women but the reality is that either ways violence either in the form of Domestic or otherwise is not confined to working women but even experienced by those who are typically housewives or at home.

Many people are also of the opinion that Domestic Violence is rampant amongst those women who are economically dependent on their husbands or families and are exploited due to this fact at the core knowing that the battered woman has nowhere to go. But economic factors or support system may not necessarily be the reason. In fact the knowledge on the part of the husband and in laws that the woman has a strong support system especially in the financial sense batters her for want of money or Dowry.

People also believe that in case of Domestic Violence many are economically and otherwise independent and are capable of managing their lives hence the situation created at home is only concocted or malicious in nature to make their demands come true.

Many feel that especially in case of Domestic Violence women love to be battered by their husbands as it gives them a sense of security. Whereas the actual case is that any type of violence leads to a state of physical and mental harm and more of psychological stress rather than sense of security.

People dare to ask as to why does a woman either at home or at workplace continue to live or work in such a situation where exploitation is rampant and they could better walk away of the situation. Whereas the answer is closely related to the theory of learned helplessness where the mental stimulation that things will one day improve works more prominently than any other consideration in life. Also the dire need of either work or a relationship makes the women wait for something good.

Whatever people call, a provocation on the part of women or a shame which she herself is accountable for…. The answer would always remain that a woman too a human being expects
love from family and respect from society. No people on any ground or for any reason whatsoever has any legal or social right to take away the smile and happiness from her.

According to Maydeo(1990): Domestic Violence is the victimization of women violently within the limits or boundaries of family, by their husbands or by whom they have a marriage like relationship. Violence take different forms ranging from physical to mental, emotional, sexual, financial and psychological thereby shatter the woman completely.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

The study on crimes and violence against women working in the Informal or Unorganized Units or Sector is important from the point of growing violence and crimes against women. It is also believed that the most vulnerable class is the women working in the unorganized sector as they are deprived of basic social security and mostly uncovered by the protective umbrella of governmental rules.

Although many argue that they are dealt with protectively still the fact remains that in spite of the Governmental policies lack of effective implementation is the cause of concern. Other than this even the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 though talks of this sector it is a difficult scenario in the unorganized sector where people are educated and skilled leave apart the Unorganized Sector.

This Study tries to highlight the Ignorance and Illiteracy of the women working in the Unorganized Sector and focuses on how lack of education is the evil for all crimes and problems these women face at home as well as at the workplace. The Research also tries to emphasis the need to stop alcoholism which is the root cause of many social evils.

1.4 CONCLUSION
Violence in India is neither new nor unheard of. Yet there is a vast gap between reality and the law framers making or revising laws in India. This gap is prominently seen in the statistical reports and records of the varied forms of crimes multiplying in India amongst all religions, cultures and education.

The Economic reforms and policies diverted many and maximum women to take up employment especially in the Unorganized sector without any effective legislative or effective implementation policies of the government to safeguard the rights and dignity of these vulnerable either at homes or in the place of work or otherwise. A new change in policies, laws, support of citizens and of all a total change in the mindset is the need of the day.

The different types of abuses faced by women ranging from psychological to economic often is viewed by the society and male counterparts to be an exaggeration of the issue. They also feel the need to overlook such menial matters according to them so that the women can be brought on straight lines with the family. The very sensitization of women’s issues needs a drastic mental change in attitude. People thinking it to be menial or over exaggeration need to undergo change in mindset and may be the upbringing of a child would help this issue in the long run.