Conclusions & Discussion

The present study conducted in the state of Haryana and five districts namely Mewat, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hisar & Ambala of the state of Haryana by selecting 140 respondents (72.29% urban & 27.71 % rural) from different religious groups (Hindus 80.72%, Muslims 13.57% & Shikhs 5.71%) affected by domestic violence were selected by using multiple random sampling method from the Women Cells, Family Courts, Police Stations, Counselling Centres from the list of the reported cases of the victims.

Socio-economic Profile

1. Our data is in accordance with findings of Trivedi (1986) who stated that victims of domestic violence mostly belong to the age group of 18-30 years and less educated. The similar position can be concluded that the tendency of domestic violence is more among the women of the age group 20-30 year i.e. during the initial years of after the marriage. Though the education is not a significant variable in the context of domestic violence against women but data in our study shows that semi-educated women are more prone to the domestic violence. The majority of victims of the domestic violence are still living with their husbands or in-laws. Even after the incidence of domestic violence, majority of women still want to sustain their marital relationship, similar observations were depicted by Neerja Ahlawat (2005) that economic insecurity, social stigma attached with separation are some of the important factors that force women to bear domestic violence.

2. In contrary to NFHS-III (2007) data, in the present study, General and B.C. caste women are more victims of domestic violence. It may be a inferred that SC women have less awareness, courage and resources to report the domestic violence against them. In our study, Hindu women reported the highest level of domestic violence followed by Muslim and Shikh women.

3. Our findings are contrary to Ahuja’s (1988) observations that the size of the family or presence or absence of children have no relationship to wife battering. Women living in nuclear families are more vulnerable to domestic
violence, it shows that size of the family and presence or absence of other members has connection with domestic violence. In joint families, other members may interfere during any dispute and tend to resolve the matter but in nuclear family settings no such mechanism may available. Sex of the children also plays an important role in the nature and extent of domestic violence. Women having only female children faces more violence than those who have male wards. Preference to the male child may be a cause for it.

4. As Sahoo (2007) stated women married at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence, similarly trends are reported in the present study, women having their marriage at younger age faces more domestic violence. Physical and psychological maturity at the time of marriage directly concerned with the domestic violence in the family. Incidents of domestic violence are more among the couples having less age differences. It is very interesting that husbands older than their wives are caring and loving.

5. Socio-economic character of women have significant association with the occurrence of domestic violence as Babu Bontha & Kar (2009) observed that prevalence of violence decreased along with the increase of women's education and family income. The cases of domestic violence do not have clear cut limits of income classes in our study. It occurs in every class but middle class women are more susceptible to domestic violence. Women having unpaid occupation are more exposed to domestic violence. The concept of invisible hand is imperative in the issue of domestic violence.

6. Traditionally established custom of dowry still has its over whelming effects on the life of Indian women. As Sahoo, et al. (2007) reported that the lack of dowry from the natal family justified domestic violence. Similarly, in this study, the women who got married to the persons demanding dowry before marriage faces more domestic violence. The cases of dowry demands both before and after marriage are still prevailing in Indian society despite having stringent legal provisions against that. Dowry demands are also the major cause for domestic violence.
7. Bontha Babu & Kar (2009) concluded that husbands were mostly responsible for domestic violence in majority of the cases. Similar position is reported in the present study where the husband is the main perpetrator of domestic violence. Some women reported the involvement of his parents, brother(s) and sister(s).

8. While tracing the level of awareness among the respondents about knowing someone experiencing domestic violence in the family circle, it was observed that neighbours are the main source of information to know the incidents of domestic violence. Women hesitate to disclose the domestic violence cases among her family circle and relatives but talk about the cases of domestic violence among neighbourhood boldly.

9. Women are fully loaded with the knowledge and awareness about their rights and husbands limits. Despite of the appropriate awareness about women’s rights and implementing agencies, shockingly many women still affirmed the husband’s right to punish them and consider it personal and private affair. The present study bears its correlation with the findings of the study conducted by Nair et al. (2001) which showed that women also shared the notion that husbands have the right to ‘discipline’ their wives by using force.

10. Four types of violence viz. physical, psychological, economic abuse and sexual violence are identified to be experienced by the respondents during present study. Physical violence shared a major part in domestic violence. Nearly one third victims experienced any form of these violence during life time while rest three fourth victims face intensification of domestic violence during last 12 months. The women between age group of 20-30 yrs. have more vulnerability to experience physical and psychological violence. Similarly, women who got married at less age, faces all types of violence more than others who married at the higher age. Similarly NFHS-2(1998-1999) found that at least one in five women experienced physical violence since age 15 and at least one in nine experienced such violence in the12 months preceding the survey.
11. Alcohol consumption and alcoholism also often act as catalysts for domestic violence, causing drunken behaviour, unemployment and a strain on household finances (Koenig, 2006). Likewise, in the present study, consumption of alcohol/drug is the major factor responsible for the all types of domestic violence. However, some other factors like extra marital affairs, disrespect to in-laws, debt, insistence to leave job and neglect of children etc. are also associated with domestic violence. There is a vast gap between the lifetime experience and the experience of the victims during past 12 months of the survey in terms of the nature and forms of domestic violence against the victims.

12. The control and access over these resources imply some process of decision making whenever such occasions arise. The decision making becomes the site for power struggle between husband and wife. Family decision-making implies that more than one member’s input and agreement is involved (Scanzoni & Polonko 1980). In this study,¹ in the families of the victims, the decision regarding education and marriage of the children buying gold or any other costly items, daily routine affairs, sexual and reproduction are shared by husband, wife and all the family members. However, decision regarding health care, visiting natal home and relatives and outside employment are taken by the women, husband’s participation in the above said matters is marginal.

**Forms of violence- During past 12 months of the survey**

13. Dhulia, V. (2009) found that in India on the whole, one-third of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 have experienced sexual violence. In total, 35 percent have experienced physical or sexual violence. This figure translates into millions of women who have suffered, and continue to suffer, at the hands of husbands and other family members. In the present study, the intensification of different forms of domestic violence

including physical, economic, psychological and sexual violence during the past 12 months forces the women victims to report their cause to the recourse agencies. During the past 12 months, the victims experienced, physical violence like beating, objects thrown upon them, threat to kill them. They experienced psychological violence like disrespect humiliation in front of children/family members, disrespect of her natal family and infidelity allegation etc. Economic neglect, debt and sexual abuse like forced sexual relations are also experienced by the victims.

14. Sahoo, et al (2007) stated that age can also become a factor influencing domestic violence. Younger women and younger brides are more likely to agree with reasons for abuse, as are those with considerably older husbands. In this context of connection between the nature of violence experienced by the women and age gap of couple, there is dissimilar trend that as the age gap between husband and wife increases, the chances of physical violence decreases.

15. Survey by ICRW (2002) showed that a higher socioeconomic status corresponded with decreased levels of physical violence, but increased levels of sexual violence. Similar position is found in this study that the physical violence is less than others in higher income group but psychological violence is higher thereby. Economic neglect is higher in upper middle group.

16. Physical violence is common in every caste but comparatively physical and economic violence is higher in the lower castes. The psychological violence is higher in middle and upper castes. Lower caste victims also experience a higher rate of more than one types of violence. The same trends was also reported in NFHS III (2007) that women belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities reportedly experienced the most spousal abuse, with one in three among them reporting having been beaten by their husbands.

17. The forms of domestic violence do not alter in accordance to the educational status of the victims. But, NHFS-III (2007) study noted that the likelihood of
recent physical violence was significantly lower among more educated husbands and wives.

18. Home makers, casual workers/labourers and victims engaged in agriculture face more physical violence than others while psychological violence is more in salaried and shop keepers/businesswomen. The higher number of home makers and agricultural occupationals reported economic neglect/abuse.

19. The Muslims and Shikhs reported higher rate of physical violence than Hindus. None from Shikhs community reported sexual violence. Aproax one third victims of domestic violence in each religion experienced more than one types of violence.

20. The study of Bontha V. Babu and Shantanu K. Kar (2009) revealed that the physical violence has significant association with state, residence (rural or urban), age and occupation of women, and monthly family income. Similar associations are found for psychological violence (with residence, age, education and occupation of the women and monthly family income) and sexual violence (with residence, age and educational level of women). In context of residential locality, the victims from urban area comparatively experience a higher degree of all types of violence (except economic violence) than the rural.

21. Various studies have revealed that family structure (joint/nuclear) is the determinant factor for any form of domestic violence. In our study, joint families have higher number of victims of psychological and economic violence while in nuclear families the victims face physical, sexual and more than one types of violence.

22. NFHS III (2007) revealed some most common reasons of domestic violence like disrespect for her in-laws' followed by ‘if she neglects the house or children’. The reasons least agreed with are ‘if she refuses to have sex with him’, followed by ‘if she doesn’t cook food properly’, if she goes out without telling him, if she argues with him, or if he suspects her of being unfaithful. Slightly different causes are found in our study i.e. the Alcoholic Nature of the husband is the major cause for Domestic Violence followed by
Superiority complex of the husband/male family members & disrespect to in-laws. Subsequently, Extra-marital Affairs of husband, suspicion & insistence to leave job of the victims, Neglect of children are the common cause for domestic violence irrespective of rural and urban locality distinction. However, the district wise cause of domestic violence i.e. major cause in Hisar is alcoholism/drug abuse while superiority complex of male in Rohtak. Alcoholism/drugs addiction is cited highest cause for domestic violence for victims educated upto intermediate followed by the victims educated upto degree and above. Dis-respect to in-laws, non association with husband towards sexual urges, objection upon husband remaining outside & insistence to leave job is major cause for higher educational group. Among illiterates, superiority complex of the husband/male family members, neglect of the children and dowry problem is major cause than all other categories. Home makers experience all types of reported violence except to leave jobs etc. Casual workers are more victims of violence by the reasons of alcoholism/drugs addiction &, dis-respect to in-laws. Superiority complex of the husband/male family members is highest amongst shopkeepers/businessmen. All working groups are victimized by the problem of suspicion by the husband or other family members. The salaried are victims mainly for avoiding house hold responsibilities, neglect of the children and disrespect toward in-laws. The crucial fact that the only self employed respondent also the reported victim of Alcoholism, disrespect to in-laws, neglect of the children, suspicion, ignoring sexual urges of husband and avoiding house responsibilities. Among all age groups the problem of alcohol and drugs consumption was there on the top, but it is much higher in age groups of above 35 yrs, 31-35yrs. & 15-20 yrs. The reason of Disrespect to in-laws is highest in the upper age group whereas superiority complex of the husband is at the top by lower age group followed by dowry problem. The problem of alcohol and drugs consumption is major cause of domestic violence among the victims of all status except widowed who state the reason of disrespect to in-laws and suspicion upon character and the superiority complex of family
members. More divorced and separated victims state non-association with husband towards sexual urges as cause. The problem of dowry is also cited divorced and separated victims. Extra marital affairs of the husband the cause of domestic violence among separated and divorced victims. Each community is affected with the problems alcohol/drugs addiction but Hindus are more as compared to Shikhs and Muslims. The problem of dowry is higher in Shikhs as compared to Hindus and Muslims. The problem of superiority complex of husband is more prevalent in Shikhs than Muslims and Hindus. Half of the shikh victims also cite the reasons of neglect of the children and non-association with husband towards sexual urges. The problem of superiority complex of husband/family members, dowry and suspicion is more in joint families and the alcohol/drugs addiction is almost similar in both joint and nuclear families. The extra marital affairs of the husband, neglect of the children and objection upon husband remaining outside the home without informing wife/family members is higher by the victims from nuclear families. The major cause of domestic violence among all caste is alcoholism followed by superiority complex of the husband/male family members. The problem of disrespect to in-laws, neglect of children, extra marital affairs of the husband, suspicion & avoidance to household duties is important among Scheduled caste. Dowry, husband remaining outside the home without informing wife/family members, non-association with the husband towards sexual urges and forcing to leave jobs etc. is reported higher by the general caste victims. The problems of Alcoholism is major cause of domestic violence in all income groups except higher income group, but dowry, non-association with the husband towards sexual urges and avoidance to household duties is more prevalent cause for domestic violence in Higher income group. Superiority complex, disrespect to in-laws is higher among the lower income group than others as cause for domestic violence. In lower middle group the suspicion and objection upon husband remaining outside the home without informing wife/family members is more.
Reaction to domestic violence

23. UPS & ORC Macro (2000) wrote that in patriarchal societies such as India, women are not only socialized into being silent about their experience of violence but traditional norms teach them to accept, tolerate, and even rationalize domestic violence. Umesh Kamath (2010) also observed that majority of the victimized women preffered to the silent sufferers. Contrary to the above observations, in the present study, majority of the victims of domestic violence react by talking the matter to parents and relatives. Two third respondents react to domestic violence by going to their parent's home, one third approach police/women cell /NGO, slightly less than one third start objection/ counter fighting with the perpetrator, one fifth disassociated with husband/family members in family matters as they had lost interest in leading a life with them, victims start preparation for separation and also start to develop them for self reliance and express other types of reactions like thought of ending their lives, avoiding foods or plan to teach a lesson to the perpetrator etc.

Effects of domestic violence

24. Sharma & Vatsa (2011) and Ahlawat (2005) have identified some major effects of domestic violence on the victims like physical pain, mental and psychological anxiety leading to several problems like lack of confidence, insecurity, fatigue, poor self image, depression and desire to commit suicide and economic insecurity. The similar effects are found in our study i.e. victims of domestic violence commonly experience health problems, uncertainty, fear & lack of confidence, tiredness, disinterest in work & anxiety, social insecurity, embezzlement of their money, property& jeweler etc & Powerlessness & isolation, educational dropout, to leave their jobs, ides to commit suicide and unwanted abortions. The most adverse effect of domestic violence on children are on feeding and sleeping routines on study, fear of separation/stranger anxiety, malnutrition, avoidance & insecurity feelings, frequent illness, involvement in delinquency and regressive behaviours.
Action taken by the victims

25. Victims of the domestic violence identify different types of recourse, majority lodged the FIR followed by attending Counselling at women Cell/NGO. Some seek permanent settlement of the matter and protection order within matrimonial home from the Domestic Violence Protection Officer, some of them want divorce and want to live separately with children with maintenance allowance and only a few seek remarriage. Majority of the victims having the family composition of both male and female child/children registered FIR/criminal cases against the violence while in other category only half of the victims sought this recourse. One third of the victims with no issue (child) attempted to seek all other recourses. Average half of the victims with female child/children had compromised informally to live separate and to take counselling at Women Cell/NGO’s whereas one fourth got protection order within matrimonial home and divorce. A fair majority of the victims from Gurgaon were on the top in getting the criminal case registered followed by Ambala, Rohtak, Hisar and Mewat. The settlement to live separate permanently without court’s intervention is highest in Gurgaon and lowest in Mewat. Hisar is ahead in re-settling the families by making compromise with the help of family members and relatives. The victims from the upper middle starta are at the top in getting registering the FIR/Criminal cases in permanent settlement to live separate while lower middle income group is higher in attending the counselling at Women Cells/NGO’s, whereas higher income group is ahead in seeking the rest of the formal mechanisms against the violence. All victims (except casual workers/Labourers) are ahead in getting the help of all formal recourses against the domestic violence. But salaried, shopkeepers/Businessmen are ahead in seeking formal and informal recourses than others. The educated categories from primary to intermediate are ahead in registering the FIR etc. followed in by highly educated and illiterates. The number of seeking counselling is higher in matriculated and upto intermediate categories. The divorce rate is higher in the highly educated victims i.e. graduate and above. In illiterate, the rate of informal
compromise to live together is higher. The recourse of remarriage was equal in all. The registration of FIR is almost reported higher in all age groups except the victims of the age group above 35 yrs. Almost half victims of all age groups attend the counselling at Women Cells and one fourth permanently settle the matter for living separately except the age groups of 15-20yrs.& above 35yrs. The cases of remarriage and compromise to live peace fully in the matrimonial home is higher in the age group of 21-25 & 26-30 yrs. The access towards the formal mechanism is higher in urban segment as compared to the rural where by the informal actors such as family members, friends and relatives play a vital role in settling the matter out side the formal machinery of court, police/Women Cell etc. The rate of formal recourses taken is higher among Hindus and Shikhs than Muslims. Among Muslims, the number of respondents who arrived at permanent settlement for living separately is higher and also in the cases of remarriage as well. Amongst the Nuclear families the higher number the victims take help from Police, Women Cells/NGO's, Domestic Violence Protection Office etc. The rate of permanent settlement for living separately and divorce is almost equal in both type of family. But the rate of living separately with maintenance and informal compromise to re-settle is higher in joint families than nuclear families. Majority victims in every caste opt to lodge FIR but the number of victims seeking counseling at Women Cells/NGO’s is higher in general castes and the rate of permanent settlement for living separately and informal compromise to re-settle was higher among scheduled caste victims. The rate of seeking divorce is higher in backward caste victims than others.