PREFACE

Though 21st Century saw tremendous changes and various laws were passed for the betterment and amelioration of women, the new found opportunities melted away like thin ice before the subtle and camouflaged on slight of the male chauvinism. At least four world conferences have been held with regard to protection of rights of women, but nothing concrete has happened. She is still regarded second rate citizen. She is subjected to all kinds of humiliations, discrimination and violence. She is also denied opportunities in life. Even at the threshold of the 21st Century, having so many legal and constitutional rights, a woman has not been given her due place in society. In present chapter an attempt has been made to explore nature, extent and pattern of violence against girl child, married women, men and elderly women. Apart from introduction and conclusion, the study has been organized into five chapters.

The introductory part deals with concept of domestic violence, its meaning, definition, nature, types, causes and also traces the effects of domestic violence. Domestic violence is the pattern of behaviour that one member of a family exerts over another as a means of control. It includes physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation and emotional, sexual or economic abuse. Thus, domestic violence may be physical, psychological and sexual. Not only lexicon meaning, sociological, socio-psychological and legal meaning has been given but also an operational definition of violence has been used for the present study which means "force, whether overt or covert, used to wrest from the individual (the woman) something that she does not want to give of her own free will and which causes her either physical injury or emotional trauma or both". The consequences of domestic violence on the victims mainly on women, children, family members and society have also been taken up.
Chapter 1 explains the theoretical aspects of domestic violence. A number of theories such as feminist, family system, cognitive behavioural, psychological, socio-psychological, socio-cultural and integrated approach theory have been discussed. It is felt that multi-factor theory best explains the problem of violence against women as it comprehensively takes care of all the factors like social norms and social organization which socializes the individual, the personal characteristics of the offenders and individuals, the inter-personal characteristics of offenders (socio-psychological view) and ecological factors.

The chapter 2 reveals that bulk of studies relating to domestic violence concern mainly wife battering. Here, the existing literature concerned has been reviewed. In the last of the chapter relevance, methodology of the present study has been mentioned.

Chapter 3 deals with institutional measures to curb the problem of domestic violence with reference to formal and informal arrangements in India. This chapter also discusses legal response to domestic violence in India as there some pro-women laws providing civil and criminal remedies exist for the protection of domestic violence including the newly enacted The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Under Chapter 4, the socio-economic profile of the respondents has been discussed.

Chapter 5 makes data analysis and interpretation with regard to the data collected from the primary and secondary sources on domestic violence and its social implications.

While concluding we have discussed at length the domestic violence against women is increasing at an alarming rate in day-to-day life. No doubt, the law has tried to check the domestic violence, which is evident from the very Acts passed by the legislature and the amendments made in the provisions of the existing law from time-to-time, but it has failed to evoke the desired initiative from the victim on account of slow, inappropriate ineffective implementation of laws. The result is that victims prefer silent suffering over loud protestations. The problem of domestic violence defies quick fix solutions due to its over reach
in all strata of society. But efforts can be made to remove the scar of domestic violence from the face of society by developing some kind of consensus, warranting a strong and vigorous State and voluntary action. Structural changes are also required which will empower women and make them independent and hence less vulnerable to violence.