CHAPTER-II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In India very little research has been done on the subject of domestic violence despite the fact that the women's movement in India came to the fore campaigning against the issue.

But in India, very little research work has been done on domestic violence. Firstly, there is a general tendency to overlook the incidence of violence within the family where only the serious cases attracts public attention. Secondly, research in this area has been mostly restricted to violence against women, dowry-related violence and wife battering (Devasahayam, Abel and Jothimurthy, 1991; Devasia and Devasia, 1984; Devi Prasad, 1990; Devi Prasad and Vijayalakshmi, 1988; Lata, 1989; Mahajan, 1989; Samuel, 1998).

Researchers appear to be reluctant to engage in research where they actually have to ask how or why did you resort to violence? Researchers may also feel that they will not be able to obtain reliable and valid answers to such questions.

Violence within the family is widespread, even if it is little recognized fact of life, As Steinmetz and Straus (1973)1 stated: Of all the myths about the family the one which is furthest from the actual state of affairs is what we call the myth of family non-violence. Most people think of physical violence between family members as something which happens only rarely. The facts are just the opposite. Leaving aside war and riots, physical violence occurs between family members more often than between any others.

Gelles (1974)2 pointed out: Standing in sharp contrast to the picture of the family as the source of love, sympathy, understanding and unlimited support is the realization that the family is also a source of assaults, violence and murder. The veneer of the family as a harmonious, gentle and supportive institution is cracking from increasing evidence that the family is also the scene of varying degrees of violent acts ranging from the punishment of children to slapping, hitting, throwing objects and sometimes a homicidal assault by one member of the family on another.
Mehta, Lokeshwar, Bhat, Athavale and Kulkarni (1979) conducted a study on rape in children and reported that out of 130 cases of rape, there were eight uncles and two fathers involved in committing the But along with the growth of this paradigm of gendered violence, data was emerging that undermined its central premises. Even in the 1980s, extensive studies were conducted by researchers (such as Strauss, 1980; Henton et al, 1983; Kalmuss, 1984; Gelles & Strauss, 1988; crime on children.

Castelino (1985)\textsuperscript{3} studied 133 postgraduate students from varied disciplines regarding their views on incidence and prevalence of sexual victimization at childhood stage and its long-term influence on social and sexual behaviour. Among the sexually victimized, 11 were victims of incest (sexual activity by a relative in case of ten females and one male). Only 16 per cent of the females were victimised by strangers and the study revealed the well-established fact that sexual abuse largely occurs within a child's intimate social network. Castelino found that sexual abuse occurred primarily in their own homes, the older partner's or a friend's (reported by 73 per cent of the females and 80 per cent of the males).

Trivedi (1986)\textsuperscript{4} found that the victims were mostly young (18-30 years), less educated than their spouses, dependent on husbands or in-laws for their living and mostly died from burn injuries.

Ahuja conducted a study on crimes against Women (1987)\textsuperscript{5} and revealed that the offender and the victim were closely related to each other as members of the same family in 93.9 per cent cases. Of the 31 cases of this type, the victim was related to the assailant as wife, illegal wife, daughter-in-law and sister-in-law in 83.9, 6.4, 6. and 3.3 per cent cases respectively. A large number of murders (9 out of 10) were done by husbands of their wives. The size of the family or the presence or absence of children have no relationship to wife battering (Ahuja, 1988)\textsuperscript{6}.

As per the researches; most cruelty is induced by the husband, the others being, mother-in-law, and other in-laws. In a few cases, neighbours and relatives have also instigated the violence (Parihar, 1988; Aggarwal and Thatte, 1988; Sriram and Bakshi, 1988; Sinha, 1989). There have been researches indicating the close inter-relationship between the alcohol family web and the gamut of interactions related to violence (Chakradhar, 1988)
Brinkerhoff et al, 1988; Sugarman & Hotaling, 1989) consistently reported that there was large measure of reciprocity in DV i.e. women were as likely as men to use violence against partners. The evidence was so prevalent it could not be ignored, and led to a minor change in the Duluth paradigm, whereby it was suggested that when women use violence, it is only in self-defence. But even this addition of self-defence to the paradigm was negated by research.

Ranjana Kumari studied (1989) dowry victims and revealed that one in every four woman was murdered or driven to commit suicide and more than half (61.3 per cent) were thrown out of their husband's house after a long-drawn out period of harassment and torture.

Violence against women has its roots in unequal social structures and is further intensified by social and economic inequalities that are brought in by increasing privatization and globalization. There are very few studies done on domestic violence in India. More than 25 percent of women who are battered are often severely injured who visit medical emergency rooms. One in four pregnant women has a history of partner violence (Journal of the American Medical Association, 1992).

A case study done in a hospital of Western India revealed that out of 450 female foetuses, 430 were aborted. Juneja (1993) pointed that some women came under family pressure for abortion of female foetuses but some on their own. A four year study was done in Ambedkar district of Tamil Nadu which indicated that the villages in which female infanticide occurred were less developed. Study also confirmed 19 cases of female infanticide (George Sabu et. al., 1992).

In Matlab Thana in 1984, Bangladesh, for instance, a long term study found that: Homicide and suicide motivated by the stigma of rape, pregnancy outside of marriage, beatings, or by dowry problems accounted for 6 percent of 1,139 maternal deaths....The figure rises to 21.5 percent if deaths due to botched abortion are included, many of which are likewise related to shame over pregnancies outside of marriage.

According to Mahajan (1995), we have limited knowledge on family violence. Not much research has been done, he says, and for a variety of reasons.
Firstly, the semi-sacred nature of the family in our society makes research into family violence a taboo. Secondly, research into the family has been largely devoted to the study of the joint family which diverted attention away from family conflicts in general and physical violence in particular. Thirdly, paucity of research on family violence can be attributed to the apathetic attitude of society which has relegated intra family violence to a form of individual pathology and has led members of the family to believe that physical conflicts in the family do not constitute violence.

Development and Communication Studies in Punjab (1995) estimated that for each rape case registered with the police, nearly 70 went unregistered. Likewise, for every reported case of molestation, nearly 375 cases were not registered. Unregistered cases were reported by the victims to panchayats, municipalities, mahila mandals and voluntary agencies.

According to the national Crimes Record Bureau (1996), Ministry of Home affairs, government of India, a shocking 71.5 percent increase in cases of torture and dowry deaths during the period from 1991 to 1995 and it clearly reflected an increase in reporting of violence. In 1995, torture of women constituted 29.2 per cent of all reported crimes against women. As far as our country is concerned, majority of dowry victims are forced to commit suicide and mostly forced by women of older age.

In India, S. Srinivas and B. Vijaylakshmi (1996) collected data with regard to abuse and neglect of elderly in families in the city of Visakhapatnam. The result indicated that the most likely victims of the elder abuse were widowed women, elderly with poor economic background and dependent. As regards the forms of abuse, verbal abuse of the elderly was reported more frequently followed by material abuse and neglect. A sizeable portion of the respondents have reported physical abuse. It was also found that abuse has negative implications on social, psychological and behavioural aspects of elderly people. Further, the frequently reported abusers were the son, the daughter-in-law and the spouse.

A major study done by RAHI (a NGO) conducted a study on Recovering and Healing from Incest in July 1997 revealed that out of 600 respondents, 76 percent were abused, of which 40 percent were incest cases. Abusers belonged to family
members (36 percent), known persons (46 percent), strangers (16 percent) and others (2 percent).

Domestic violence is common in India. In a study of rural women, 37 percent of women in Tamil Nadu had been beaten by their husband, and 45 percent of women in Uttar Pradesh (Jejeebhoy & Cook, 1997)13

While it remains difficult to assess exact figures, a study 14 of the casualty register in the hospital shows that one third of all cases are definitely of domestic violence and another one third are possible cases of domestic violence.

A New Delhi study on violence showed that in almost 94 percent of cases, the victim and the offender were members of the same family. In nine out of ten cases, husbands murdered their wives15.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS II-1998-99) reported that 21 percent of women in our country have experienced violence since the age of 15, and 19 percent have been beaten or physically mistreated by their husbands. The other forms of domestic violence are not even accounted for. The latest NFHS-III (2005-2006) has not shown any decline in the incidence of domestic violence. As much as 37.2 percent of married women reported experiencing spousal violence, with 30.4 percent of those affected living in urban areas. Studies show domestic violence is not only rampant but that it forms the largest category of crimes against women (NCRB, 1995-'99)

Subadra's16 study of wife battering in Chennai (1999) shows that 60 percent of the women sought help only after six months from the onset of abuse in the hope that things would change for the better. 53.3 percent resorted to an extreme step of attempting suicide & of which 76 percent had done so more than once. Over 60 percent of the respondents had left their matrimonial homes due to reasons ranging from the increased violence, incurable alcoholism, intolerable levels of suspicion and so on. 42 percent of the women continued to be harassed by their violent husbands even after leaving their marital homes. Study further revealed that 44 percent of respondents had not experienced any change in their situations even after reconciliation, while another 41 percent perpetually feared the out break of violence again.
Visaria (1999: 10) reports that two-thirds of women surveyed in rural Gujarat had experienced some form of psychological, physical, or sexual abuse. Domestic violence —is prevalent and a largely accepted part of family life in India.

Referring to India in general, Bhattacharya (2000: 22) wrote —Socialization ensures that women accept their subservient roles in the household and perpetuate the discrimination against their female offspring. Patrilineal ideology stresses male superiority within the household and places the women under the control of men throughout her life. On the other hand, the ideology of pativrata ordsains women to treat their husband like deities. Similarly, IIPS and ORC Macro (2000: 71) 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.

Another study conducted by Nair et. al. (2000) in rural Gujarat showed that slapping (80 percent), kicking/punching/ hitting with an object (74 percent), pulling by the hair/dragging (27 percent) and forced sex (27 percent) were the types of reported physical abuse. The victims were mostly wives (78 percent) and the perpetrators were their husbands. Frequent physical violence was much less reported than verbal and psychological harassments.

In an survey by INCLEN (2000) it was found that over 40 percent of married Indian women face physical abuse by their husband 1 in every 2 women faces domestic violence in any of its forms physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic.

Leela Visaria (2000) studied five villages in Kheda district is a preliminary exploration of the prevalence of domestic violence against women, the correlates of violence, the forms of abuse and the reasons given for abuse. The findings of the study dramatically underscore the universality of the experience within the home across age, community, and education. It also points to several interesting dimensions such as the lower incidence of violence among joint families, the difference in impact of higher educational status of men compared to that of women on levels of violence,
and the complex linkages between correlates of violence, forms of abuse, and reasons
given for abuse. Her study also indicates some of the possible links between the
gender division of labor within the household and incidents of violence. The study
highlights the lack of options for women in rural communities to address domestic
violence. Yet her analysis makes evident the possible points of entry for intervention
strategies that would strengthen family and community responses.

highly prevalent in India and the women usually try to hide it. Particularly wife
beating or physical mistreatment is a very common phenomenon in many Indian
homes. The percent age of women who are exposed to violence by their husbands is
45 percent in India.23 Despite this widespread prevalence, such violence is not
customarily acknowledged and has remained invisible. Background conditions of
females are found to play a significant role in domestic violence.

Visaria (2000) indicated that India possessed several communities which are
distinct in their geography, language and culture. In several places of India, violence
faced by women on regularly basis goes unreported even in newspapers, where as
newspapers often carry reports about young women being burnt alive or dying due to
unnatural causes in unnatural circumstances24.

Women in the reproductive age group of 15 to 44 years are at highest risk; 52
per cent of women in India suffer at least one incident of physical or psychological
violence in their lifetime. It happens in every class, caste, region and religion.25 It cuts
across age, education and marital status. It happens in both the natal and marital
family.

According to Morrell (2001) male partner violence against women lays on a
continuum which includes diverse acts such as: sexual harassment, violent rape,
hitting with sticks and other objects, assaulting with fists, stabbing with a knife and
murder. Research has confirmed the link between male violence and the rise in HIV
and AIDS statistics among women. This is due to the fact that male violence robs
women of power to have a say over their sexuality26.

Moffitt and colleagues (2001) found27 that personality characteristics (such as
approval of the use of aggression and poor self-control) identified 3 years prior to the
onset of partner abuse were significant predictors of which women would later use physical aggression against partners and others. These personality traits were the same as for the men in the sample. They also found for both men and women that a history of antisocial behavior was predictive of partner violence, regardless of their partners’ use of physical aggression against them.

These findings corroborate similar studies by Anderson & Umberson (2001) contend that violent practices are deployed by men against women in attempts to maintain a particular self image and self evaluations in the face of real or imagined threats to prove that they are percent real percent men and their women are under their control 28.

Census of India (2001) indicated the husbands as the perpetrators in case of most of the females (72.73 percent). Twelve (36.36 percent) females reported that the perpetrators were intoxicated during the act of violence. Slapping was reported by most of the females as the specific act of physical assault (72.73 percent). Another study conducted by Nair et al. in rural Gujarat showed that women also shared the notion that husbands have the right to 'discipline' their wives by using force. Majority of the men (72 percent) as well as women (79 percent) said that the wife should always follow her husband's and in-laws' instructions and be obedient.29

BETI Foundation (2001) concluded that mindset about women has not changed much in vast rural areas of the country and in majority of urban India. Women continued to be subjugated: under control of father from birth till prior to marriage, under husband during her married life and under son after demise of her husband. She is discriminated against men ever since she opens her eyes in the world. Moreover in these days due to modern technology like ultrasound test and amniocentesis, she is discriminated ever since she exists in the womb of her mother and has to die before birth. As she grows up violence is perpetrated on her and making her life even more miserable.30

A study in three states (Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) with varying development and gender indices to explore the links between male attitudes towards masculinity and its links to violence indicated several overall categories of the markers of masculinity across the states. Violence against women was found to be a
form of assertion of masculinity vis-à-vis other men or a way to exhibit masculinity at home that is ‘failed’ or thwarted in public. Men consider it their right to spend their money as they wish, to keep their women under control, and to force sex upon them, which apparently enhances sexual satisfaction and masculinity. Men who were found to agree with a higher number of a set of justifications for domestic violence (disrespect, infidelity, nagging, disobedience, etc.) were more likely to have inflicted one or more kinds of violence on their wives during the preceding year. Nearly 60 per cent of the men surveyed felt that to use force and control during sex was a characteristic of the ability to satisfy women, who are believed to be sexually insatiable, and therefore, this is also a characteristic of masculinity (ICRW, 2002). What is significant about this study is that the men being interviewed and reporting violence do not perceive anything negative about their use of violence. They do not report feelings of regret, or a loss of control.

Another survey (ICRW, 2002) showed that while physical violence decreased with higher levels of education, sexual violence showed an inverse relationship to men’s education (inflicted by 32 per cent of the illiterate men as compared to 57 per cent of the men who had had six or more years of education). Similarly, a higher socioeconomic status corresponded with decreased levels of physical violence, but increased levels of sexual violence. The lowest SES group in the survey reported 35 per cent; the highest reported a nearly double figure at 61 per cent.

The national family Health Survey (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 the 12 months preceding the survey (IIPS and ORC Macro2002).

Bontha et al. Conducted a population-based study (2002) in Eastern India covering both married women (n = 1718) and men (n = 1715) from three of the four states of Eastern India were selected by using separate pre-piloted structured questionnaires for women (victimization) and men (perpetration). Women were asked whether their husband or any other family members committed violent acts against them. And men were asked whether they had ever perpetrated violent acts against their wives. Three principle domestic violence outcome variables (physical,
psychological and sexual violence) were determined by response to a set of questions for each variable. It was found that the overall prevalence of physical, psychological, sexual and any form of violence among women of Eastern India were 16 percent, 52 percent, 25 percent and 56 percent respectively. These rates reported by men were 22 percent, 59 percent, 17 percent and 59.5 percent respectively. Men reported higher prevalence of all forms of violence apart from sexual violence. Husbands were mostly responsible for violence in majority of cases and some women reported the involvement of husbands' parents. It was also found that the various acts of violence were continuing among majority of women who reported violence. Some socio-economic characteristics of women have significant association with the occurrence of domestic violence. Urban residence, older age, lower level of education and low family income are associated with occurrence of domestic violence. Multivariate logistic regressions 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).31

Much of the domestic violence experienced by Indian women is a result of sexist traditions and attitudes that are deeply entrenched in Indian society. With the aim of understanding the source of this abuse, research has been carried out through surveys and the use of NFHS data on the attitudes of men and women towards domestic violence. It is widely acknowledged that men are an integral part of the effort to prevent and respond to domestic violence (ICRW, 2002).

Bates et al. (2004) conducted a study in rural Bangladesh showed that 67 percent of the women had ever experienced domestic violence and 35 percent had done so in the past year.32

Further research carried out by the WHO in India suggests that the incidence of domestic violence is high during pregnancy. One study reports, for example, that of the 40 per cent women reporting physical violence, 50 per cent experienced violence during pregnancy, an experience that is uniformly reported by women across all socio-economic strata (Population Council, 2004).
Another very serious repercussion of the subordinate position of women and the patriarchal nature of Indian society is that women refuse to seek care or legal action against abuse. The main reasons underlying women’s reluctance to seek care relate to gender norms and power imbalances, embarrassment and shame, preference to rely on home remedies, and lack of control over economic resources required to seek care (Population Council, 2004).

According to the Indian National Crime Records Bureau’s unique ‘crime clock 2005’ which tracked criminal activities over 2004, the country reported one molestation every 15 minutes; one crime against women every three minutes; one dowry death every 77 minutes; one rape every 29 minutes; one murder every 16 minutes; and one sexual harassment case every 53 minutes. Of the 155,553 crimes committed against women in 2005, 68,810 were domestic violence cases. Its statistics also show that one dowry death takes place every 77 minutes and one case of cruelty by husband and relatives every nine minutes.

International research has signaled that violence against women is a much more serious and widespread problem than previously suspected. A review of studies from 35 countries carried out prior to 1999 indicated that between 10 and 52 per cent of women reported being physically abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, and between 10 and 30 per cent reported that they had experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner. Between 10 and 27 per cent of women and girls reported having been sexually abused, either as children or adults. Data from developing countries was, however, generally lacking. When women first began talking about the violence done to them in their homes, it emerged that they had been suffering over periods ranging from two months to 20 years. The enormity of the problem was revealed by the WHO in a multi-country study titled *Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women*, 2005. Women from 15 countries as diverse as Bangladesh, Japan, Serbia, Montenegro, Thailand and Brazil were interviewed. It emerged that the lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence or both by an intimate partner ranged from 15 per cent to 75 per cent in the different sites. The survey pointed to the ‘culture of silence’ that prevailed in the matter of domestic violence. In all the countries, the interviewer was the first person many of the abused
women had ever talked to about their partner's physical violence. The experience of supporting survivors of domestic violence over decades has shown that it is rarely a one-time occurrence and tends to escalate in severity over time when there are no direct interventions. Almost all physical violence is preceded and accompanied by emotional violence. It is a matter of power and control within the family and marriage and an inherent feature of maintaining the power imbalance.

Violence in this instance is a resource for demonstrating and showing that this person is a man (Barnett, Miller-Perrin & Perrin, 2005). It is interesting to note that these findings tally with feminist ideologies which concur that male violence against women is a product of the patriarchal nature of our society and that violence is used as an instrument to demonstrate dominance over women.

Researchers like Loseke, Gelles & Cavanaugh (2005), concede theories that fail to acknowledge the presence of patriarchy in domestic violence and there by issues are flawed and meaningless. Studies have shown that in the past three decades, largely through feminist activities the issue of domestic violence has been raised to the public consciousness as a serious societal problem. Furthermore, research findings internationally have been consistent with feminist propositions.

Garcia et al. (2005) conducted study on Violence against women & recognized it as an important public health problem, owing to its substantial consequences for women's physical, mental and reproductive health.

In Haryana, there little work has been done on the issue of domestic violence. Dr. Neerja Ahlawat (2005) in her study based on case study method on rural setting in Haryana, viewed violence against as any action, policy or attitude which is any way is violence on ones personhood or which dehumanise one. Analysing the prevalence, nature, attitude and reaction towards domestic violence, she brought some observations by identifying some serious consequences of the domestic violence resulting in 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. Economic insecurity, social stigma attached with separation are some of the important factors that force women to bear domestic violence. Another significant observation was that it never recognized or reported.
NFHS-III collected information from married and unmarried women age 15-49 about their experience of physical and sexual violence. Married women were also asked about their experience of emotional violence. NFHS-III findings underscore the extent and severity of violence against women in India, especially married women. At the same time, there has been a phenomenal eight-fold increase in the number of rapes committed in India since 1971, the year from which data for rape cases have been collected by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).  

NFHS-III, which interviewed 1.25 lakh women in 28 states and the national capital during 2005-06, found that just over one-third of the women who had been married at any point in their lives said that they had been pushed, slapped, shaken or otherwise attacked by their husbands at least once. The survey also found that one in every six wives had been emotionally abused by their husbands, while one in 10 had experienced sexual violence like marital rape on at least one occasion (NFHS III, 2007). According to statistics, an Indian woman is abused by her partner every nine minutes and dies at the hand of her partner or his family every 77 minutes for not providing dowry (Hombrecher, 2007).  

According to the NFHS figures, domestic violence is most common in Bihar—here, the percent age of abused ever-married women is 59 per cent, with 63 per cent of the incidents being reported among urban women. Bihar was followed by Rajasthan (46.3 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (45.8 per cent), Manipur (43.9 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (42.4 per cent), Tamil Nadu (41.9 per cent), and West Bengal (40.3 per cent) (NFHS III, 2007). Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, and Jammu and Kashmir have prevalence rates that are higher than 20 per cent. Kerala and Gujarat have low numbers of 10.1 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively. The lowest incidence of abuse—6 per cent—was found in the tiny but highly progressive hill state of Himachal Pradesh. (Population Council, 2004; NFHS-III, 2007).  

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 (NFHS III, 2007). The levels of abuse vary within religions as well: according to the NFHS III data, Buddhist women
reported the highest levels of violence (41 per cent) followed by Muslim and Hindu women (34-35 per cent), and Sikh and Christian women (26-28 per cent). Women from the Jain community reported the lowest levels of violence—13 per cent (NFHS III, 2007).

Nearly 51 per cent of the 75,000 Indian men surveyed in the NFHS think that hitting or beating their wives is acceptable for certain reasons, particularly if she disrespects her husband or in-laws. Neglect of the household by the wife or suspected infidelity on her part are also causes for violence. A smaller number think that poor cooking skills or refusing to have sex with the husband are also justifiable reasons for the husbands to physically assault their wives (NFHS III, 2007).

In addition, a lower proportion of urban women (17 per cent) have experienced violence as compared to 23 per cent of the rural women. Urban households may also be correlated with a higher standard of living, levels of awareness about gender equality, education, and lower dowry demands (Sahoo, et al., 2007).

There has been a continuous rise in the total incidences of crimes committed against women over the years in India. The crime against women increased during 2004 by 9.8 percent over 2003 by 13.7 percent over 1999. The IPC component of crimes against women accounted for 93 percent of total crimes and the rest, 7 percent, were Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes against women. What is most disturbing is the fact that about 8.9 percent of the rape victims in 2004 were under 15 years of age, while 11.0 percent were teenage girls (15-18 years). Moreover, this is not the exact picture of the gravity of the situation as a large number of such cases simply go unreported because of the social stigma attached to it. The Cruelty by Husband and Relatives category accounts for the maximum proportion (37.7 percent) of the crimes against women. It shows an increase of 14.6 percent in 2004 over 2003. Importation of Girls is another crime which has registered a big increase of 93.5 percent compared to 2003.38

Overall, in the multi-site study conducted by 9,938 rural, urban slum and urban non-slum households, approximately 50 per cent of the women surveyed reported experiencing some form of violent behaviour within their marriage. Forty per
cent of the women reported experiencing at least one form of physical abuse and, of these, 65 per cent reported severe physical abuse, which included being kicked, hit or beaten. Further, 43 per cent reported psychological abuse. In the Gujarat Institute of Development Studies (GIDS) study done on 346 women in the Kheda district of Gujarat, 66 per cent of the women reported physical and/or psychological abuse. While the studies are not strictly comparable due to differences in methodologies, it is possible to conclude that they confirm a high prevalence of violence — at least one out of every two women has experienced violence in marriage.


Whitaker et al (2007) used research data from the National Longitudinal Adolescent study, published in the prestigious American Journal of Public Health, found that percent Almost 24 percent of all relationships had some violence, and half (49.7 percent ) of those were reciprocally violent. In non-reciprocally violent relationships, women were the perpetrators in more than 70 percent of the cases percent .

Factors Contributing to Domestic violence: While carrying out a survey on domestic health in Uttar Pradesh, Koenig, et al. reviewed studies that have identified the witnessing of violence between parents by a child emerging as a strong predictor of subsequent domestic violence (Koenig, 2006). This implies that children who have grown up watching their mothers being abused are more likely to abuse their partners when they grow up. Women who have grown up with domestic violence in their maternal home may also be less resistant to it in their own conjugal relationship after marriage. Various other studies have revealed that sons of violent parents or men raised in a patriarchal family structure that encourages traditional gender roles are more likely to abuse their intimate partners (Sahoo, et al., 2007) Alcohol consumption and alcoholism also often act as catalysts for domestic violence, causing drunken behaviour, unemployment and a strain on household finances (Koenig, 2006).

NFHS 3 revealed that the reason most commonly agreed to by women that justifies a husband beating his wife is ‘if she shows disrespect for her in-laws’ (41
percent), followed by ‘if she neglects the house or children’ (35 percent). The reasons least agreed with are ‘if she refuses to have sex with him’ (14 percent), followed by ‘if she doesn’t cook food properly’ (20 percent). Agreement with the other three reasons, namely, if she goes out without telling him, if she argues with him, or if he suspects her of being unfaithful ranges from 25-30 per cent. One in two women agree with any specific reason justifying a husband beating his wife and more than one in two (54 percent) agree with at least one reason justifying wife beating (IIPS, 2007).

Another study noted that the likelihood of recent physical violence was significantly lower among more educated husbands and wives (who had undergone seven or more years of schooling). Specific statistics show that over 47 per cent of the women who reported domestic violence had had no education, as compared with a corresponding figure of 12 per cent among women who had had 12 or more years of education. The figure was 16 per cent for women who had completed high school (NFHS III, 2007).

The prevalent trends also indicate increased levels of violence in households where the women are employed. Women married at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence, as are women who may have young (female) children, or have paid less for their dowry (Sahoo, et al., 2007).

The standard and situation of living also plays a large role in the prevalence of domestic violence. This is reflected by 29 per cent of the women with a low standard of living (as determined by the permanence of the house, toilets, electricity and water supply, access to medical and educational institutions, etc.) who have experienced violence as compared with 20 per cent of the women with medium and 10 per cent of the women with a high standard of living. What is more alarming is that three out of every five women considering at least one of the given reasons for abuse as justified. Among the women polled, 41 per cent believe that husbands are justified in slapping their wives if the latter neglected the house or the children. About 30 per cent of them felt that leaving the house without permission, suspected infidelity or disrespecting their in-laws deserved abuse (NFHS III, 2007). A low 7 per cent felt that the lack of dowry from the natal family justified domestic violence (Sahoo, et al., 2007). 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. More educated women and those who are engaged in non-agricultural employment are less likely to consider the reasons for domestic abuse as being justified (Sahoo, et al., 2007).

Ownership of property also acts as a deterrent to domestic violence. A survey carried out by the ICRW concluded that owning property enhances a woman’s ability to voice her opinions, make household decisions and protect herself from abuse. It gives her the economic stability and social stature she needs to negotiate or exit a violent relationship (ISST, 2007).

According to NFHS III data, only 22 per cent of the women who faced domestic violence sought intervention from the police (NFHS III, 2007). This reluctance to seek medical care is compounded by provider attitudes and skills. Many healthcare providers do not recognise a case of domestic violence, or choose to look the other way when confronted by it. They do not have adequate training to assess or probe suspicious injuries in a sensitive manner, and consequently the opportunities to identify and provide support to battered women are lost. This lack of skill and sensitivity is reflected in the under-reporting of domestic violence in facility records and reports, and in treating and managing such cases (Population Council, 2004).

The report for the year 2008 of State human rights department of US revealed information on women in India indicating that the law provides for protection from all forms of abuse against women in the home, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, or economic abuse. Domestic violence includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse. The law recognizes the right of a woman to reside in a shared household with her spouse or partner while the dispute continues, although a woman can be provided with alternative accommodations, for which her spouse pays. The law also provides women with the right to police assistance, legal aid, shelter, and access to medical care. The law bans harassment by way of dowry demands and empowers magistrates to issue protection orders where needed. The law criminalizes spousal rape. Punishment ranges from jail terms of up to one year and/or a fine of approximately 19,800 rupees (approximately $450).
Although working women help in bringing financial stability to a family, their professional life often subjects them to increased domestic violence in India, according to a study carried out between 2005 and 2006 on 750 married women aged between 16 and 25 in Bangalore, found that those who became employed during that time had an 80 per cent higher chance of being abused by their husbands than women who remained unemployed. It also found that women whose husbands had difficulty finding or keeping a job were more than twice as likely to experience domestic violence during that period. The women subjected to the study were interviewed three times during the two-year period. Fifty-seven per cent of women participating in the study reported having experienced domestic violence prior to joining the study. Additionally, 19 per cent of women who had not experienced domestic violence prior to the study experienced it at some point during the two-year period. The findings also showed that women in love marriages were almost twice as likely to experience domestic violence than those in more traditional arranged marriages, highlighting the adverse impact of flouting social norms.41

A cross-sectional study42 was undertaken in Tiswadi Taluka of Goa, India consisting of face to face interview of 379 married women during September to December 2008 & 26.6 percent spousal violence was reported by the respondents. Factors predisposing the women to victimization included early years of marriage, poor educational status for men and women, working women (OR=3.3; 2.1,5.5), and alcohol consumption by the husband (OR=7; 4.2,11.8). Women with higher monthly income compared to their husbands seemed to be protected (OR=0.28;0.16, 0.48). Majority of the victimised women preferred to be silent sufferers. The help seeking behaviour was not proportionate to the severity or the duration of violence but seemed to be influenced by variables like women’s employment, education and income. The study emphasised the role of social factors in perpetuating domestic violence by intimate partner. Change in the social attitude that permits and legitimizes such acts through awareness is the only long lasting panacea.

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.\textsuperscript{43}

Consequences of Domestic Violence: Besides perpetuating a tradition of gender inequality and human rights violations, domestic violence has many non-fatal health consequences. These include organ damages, chronic disabilities, mental disorders, depression and adverse pregnancy outcomes (Prakasam, 2008).

The Rakshak Foundation (2008) states that due to the prevalence of these cases, the conviction rate...is close to zero percent. The Telegraph reports that the high acquittal rate can be partly attributed to the long trial process of five to ten years.\textsuperscript{44}

\textsuperscript{43}The AIMWA fact sheet on domestic violence against men cites an online survey conducted(2009) between April 2005 and March 2006, which found that out of 100,000 men surveyed during that one year, 98 percent of men faced severe domestic violence at the hands of their wives and in-laws in the form verbal, physical, emotional, mental and financial abuse. The survey also revealed data that shows that married men have a higher rate of suicide than married women. In addition, the number of suicides of people with a living spouse is higher for men than women, while similar numbers were found between men and women in other categories, indicating that intimate partner violence a major reason for Indian men committing suicide.\textsuperscript{45}

The UK Home Office cites a 2009 Human Rights Watch report on police in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, which found that officers treat claims of domestic violence as a private matter. In interviews with police, Human Rights Watch found that the majority of officers said that they do not treat domestic violence as a normal criminal offense to be registered and investigated, with the perpetrators arrested or monitored. Instead, they encourage compromise between domestic violence victims and their spouses or spouses families. Although the report focuses on domestic violence against women, the police may have a similar attitude in cases involving male victims. Nevertheless, it is also reported by the UK Home Office that police officers in India have undergone domestic violence awareness training.\textsuperscript{46}
Ritu Menon (Personal communication, 2010) pointed out that although there is a surfeit of data on gender violence, crucial correlates are missing. Without these, real analysis is difficult. We know there is a lot of violence, but we do not know much else - which income group do these women belong to? Which social group? What is their individual and household profile? We have no context, except in the case of domestic violence.

Uma Challa, President of the All India Forgotten Women’s Association, stated in April 2010 that Section 498A of the IPC concerning dowry and cruelty is the most heavily misused law in the country. Challa notes that several authorities have indicated that almost 98 percent of dowry cases are false, lodged with ulterior motives of blackmail and extortion by percent vindictive wives to legally harass husbands. Husbands and mothers-in-law are increasingly reporting false accusations of marital cruelty and dowry harassment, while many individuals have reportedly committed suicide over the humiliation and trauma associated with fighting such cases, which can take 5 to 7 years to complete. Furthermore, according to the National Human Rights Commission, the Tihar jail in New Delhi is overflowing with people who have been falsely accused of dowry harassment.

The study conducted (Sharma and Vatsa;2011) among 60 married nurses in various departments of the prestigious institute found that 60 per cent of these nurses reported that marital partner perpetrated controlling behavior, 65 per cent reported emotional violence, 43.3 per cent reported physical violence and 30 per cent reported sexual violence. As per the study, pregnancy does not provide immunity against domestic violence as 45.8 per cent of the physically abused victims were kicked or beaten when pregnant. Astonishingly, up to 18.86 per cent of pregnant nurses were physically abused, 7.5 per cent were kicked in the abdomen during pregnancy and in 30 per cent cases, slapping or beating got worse than before pregnancy.33 per cent of the nurses experiencing domestic violence required medical care, the study revealed. Over half of the study subjects (56.7 per cent) reported that physical or sexual violence affected their physical and mental health and caused inability to concentrate (56.7 per cent), loss of confidence in own abilities (26.7 per cent) and inability to work/sick leave (23.3 per cent). Half of the respondents (50 per cent) reported there
was no particular reason for violent behavior of husband. Majority of respondents reported that most of the violent acts were still continuing. Far from being isolated acts of violence, several acts occurred many times, the study said.

Data from the Demographic and Health Survey 1998–2000 has been analysed including women in the ages of 15 to 49, in 26 Indian states, focused only on violence by husbands against wives, ignoring other types of violence (such as a wife being hit by her husband's family, or a man being hit by his wife). It seems likely that it is related to whether such violence is seen as acceptable in the perpetrator's family and in the local community. There are similarities between the behaviour of some Indian men and the ‘machismo’ values reported in other cultures (especially in Latin America). It was also observed that violence is less common if women and men are well educated; acceptance of domestic violence appears to be related to the respondent's education level.49

There is high incidence of nurses facing domestic violence by their marital partners, even when pregnant, which is reported to be affecting their physical and mental health, according to a study conducted by AIIMS here.50

Research Methodology

Relevance of the Study

Despite the UN Human Rights Declaration (of which India signatory) and Indian constitutional provisions, most of the women are not aware of their rights to protection of life, liberty etc. Even if they are aware, they lack the resources in terms of money, skill, time, experience, confidence and courage to invoke these provisions.

Moreover, traditionally women believe in tolerating harassment at home. Domestic violence is to be perceived not as a law and order problem alone. Primarily it is a socio cultural problem. Its impact has far reaching effects on the family life, health of woman, life of children etc. The present study will examine the causes, its nature, manifestations and consequences, we would understand the magnitude of domestic violence as well as its implications on social structure.

Further the study would focus on the nature, causes and veracity of domestic violence in Haryana.

It may be emphasized that empirical studies in domestic violence will help in
creating greater awareness among all the sections of the society particularly the professionals, i.e. legal, social work and medical about the phenomenon of domestic violence in our country and facilitate the formulation of suitable intervention strategies for its management and prevention.

This would also assist the local bodies at the grass root levels to be vigilant against the menace and chalk out meaningful and effective measures to create a blockage to domestic violence against them by empowering them through the efforts of SHG.

The study, thus will enable the various institutions like PRIs, NGOs and the general public to capture the multifaceted effects of domestic violence and take genuine efforts to sensitize the whole society on the same. Furthermore, it would function as a handy matter to planners and policy makers while formulating welfare plans.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
2. To analyze the different types of domestic Violence and their extent.
3. To examine the different socio-economic factors responsible for domestic violence
4. To examine the consequences/impact of domestic violence on women.

**METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

The present Study employed exploratory and descriptive designs of research. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were followed mainly due to the fact it helped in-depth understanding of a social aspect. A qualitative research helped in holistic understanding of phenomena, it further enabled in using flexible methods such as interviews and discussions.

**Sampling**

The sample of 140 respondents (10 per cent of the total reported cases from 2008-1010 ) affected by Domestic Violence in the five districts namely Mewat, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hisar & Ambala of the state of Haryana were selected for the study.

**Socio-Economic Profile of Haryana**

The Haryana, a northwestern state of India, is bounded by Uttar Pradesh in the east, Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north and Rajasthan in the south. It
came into existence on 1st day of Nov. 1966 with an area of 44,212 sq. km. and as per the census of 2011, it has the population of 2,53,53,081 (male 1,35,05,130 and female 1,18,47,951) with a sex ratio of 877. Administratively, there are 4 Divisions, 21 districts, 74 Tehsil, 54 sub-divisions, 119 blocks and 6955 villages. The State has population density of 573 person per sq. km and the percentage of urban population is 28.92. The decadal growth rate of the state is 19.90%. The birth rate is 23 per 1000 and death rate is 6.9/1000. It share the Union territory of Chandigarh as its capital with Punjab. The literacy rate of Haryana is 76.60% ((85.40 male and 66.80 of female). Amongst districts Mewat has the highest sex ratio (906/1000) but the lowest literacy rate of both male and female.

Geographically, Haryana bears its natural boundaries- the Shivalik hills in the north, River Yamuna in the east and river Ghaggar in the west. The south western boundary is provided by the range of Aravalli hills, which run through southern Delhi and the Gurgaon district up to Alwar. The Union Territory of Delhi juts into Haryana and is encompassed by it on three sides. The south west of the Haryana is dry sandy and barren. With Delhi as the prize awaiting generations of invaders, Haryana served as a sort of a geographical corridor.

The economy of Haryana is mainly agriculture based. 86% of the geographical part of Haryana is dominated by agriculture. It has 3rd rank in India in the production of wheat and 4th in cotton production. It is the first state of India where 100% electrification has been completed. Here, Gurgaon is famous for automobile industries, Faridabad for tractors, Panipat in handloom, Ambala in scientific instruments, Sonepat in cycle industries, Hisar in steel production and Jagadhary in paper industries. Educationally, Haryana is also a developed state as there are 30 universities (including private) and 693 colleges. It has earned a good name in the sportmanship in the commonwealth games held in Delhi in 2010 and in 2012 London Olympic.

Socio-economic profile of the Districts under the study

Ambala

Ambala is an historic place established in 14th century by a Rajpoot namely Amba. Adjoining to Punjab, Ambala is located in the north side of Haryana with an
geographical area of 1574 sq. kms. It was constituted as a District on 1st day of Nov. 1966 and is one of the four administration divisions of Haryana. Administratively, it has 3 tehsils, 2 sub divisions and 6 blocks. There are Shivalik mountain ranges in the north of Ambala and Markanda, Ghaggar and Dagri are the rivers flowing from it. Demographically, Ambala has a total population of 11,36,784 persons (6,04,044 males and 5,32,740 females) with the decimal growth of 12.1% and sex ratio of 882 females per 1000 males. There the density of population is 722 person per sq. km. The literacy rate is 82.9% (male 88.5% and female 76.6%). The schedule castes constitutes the 25.78% of the total population. There also located the famous cantonment of the north India in Ambala. The parliamentary constituency of Ambala is reserved for SC candidates.

**Rohtak**

Historically named after the famous king Rohtash, Rohtak is located in the centre of Haryana. With an area of 1745 sq. kms, Rohtak was constituted with the inception of Haryana as a newly state as a District on 1st day of Nov. 1966. Politically, it has a general Loksabha parliamentary constituency and is one of the four administration divisions of Haryana having 2 tehsils, 2 sub divisions and 5 blocks. From the British time, this place is known as an educational hub as there 3 universities viz one academic, one health and one private university. Demographically, Rohtak bear the total population of 10,58,683 persons (5,66,708 males and 4,01,975 females) with the decimal growth of 12.6% and sex ratio of 868 females per 1000 males. There the density of population is 607 person per sq. km. The literacy rate is 80.4% (male 88.4% and female 71.2%). The schedule castes constitutes the 19.10% of the total population.

**Hisar**

Historically known as Share-e-Firoja, Hisar was established by Firoz Shah Tuglak and adjoining to Rajasthan, it is located in the west of Haryana with an area of 3983 sq. kms. It was constituted as a District with the creation of Haryana as a new state on 1st day of Nov. 1966 and is a administration divisions which has 4 tehsils, 2 sub divisions and 9 blocks. Demographically, it has a total population of 17,42,815
persons (9,31,535 males and 8,11,280 females) with the decimal growth of 13.4% and sex ratio of 871 females per 1000 males. There, the density of population is 438 person per sq. km. The literacy rate is 73.2% (male 82.8% and female 62.3%). The schedule castes constitutes the 21.99% of the total population. The parliamentary constituency of Hisar is of general nature.

Gurgaon

Gurgaon is famous industrial town of Haryana adjoining with National capital Delhi on one side and Rajasthan on the other. It is located in the south eastern parts of Haryana and came into existence as a district with the inception of Haryana as a state in Nov, 1966. With a geographic area of 1254 sq. kms., it has 3 tehsils, 2 sub divisions and 5 blocks. Demographically, it has a total population of 15,14,085 persons (8,17,274 males and 6,96,811 females) with the decimal growth of 44.15% and sex ratio of 853 females per 1000 males. There, the density of population is 1241 person per sq. km and 77.77% population is rural. The literacy rate is 84.4% (male 90.3% and female 77.6%). It possess highest female literacy in Haryana. The schedule castes constitutes the 11.32% of the total population.

Mewat

Mewat is the 20th district of Haryana renamed as Satyamevpuram which was created on 2nd day of Oct. 2004. It is located in the south of Haryana and it share boundaries with UP and Rajasthan. It has an area of 1500 sq. kms., with 5 tehsils, 2 sub divisions and 6 blocks. Nuh is the head quarter of Mewat. Demographically, it has a total population of 10,89,406 persons (5,71,480 males and 5,17,926 females) with the decimal growth of 37.9% and sex ratio of 906 females per 1000 males. There, the density of population is 729 person per sq. km. The literacy rate is 56.1% (male 73% and female 37.6%). It possess lowest female literacy in Haryana.

The four districts Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hisar & Ambala, represent the divisions for administrative purpose and Mewat which shares its boundary with UP and Rajasthan is the most backward district in terms of socio-economic indicators of developments as per census of 2001, Gurgaon is a satellite city adjoining national capital territory of Delhi representing the Ahirwal belt of the south Haryana, which
has seen emergence of an active information technology industry in the recent years, Rohtak is a traditional city representing the Deswali belt in the central Haryana, Ambala, adjoining with Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, occupies its location in the north-east of Haryana and Hisar representing Bangar and Bagri area, is located in the north-west of Haryana.

**Universe and Geographical Area:**

As a preliminary step, an enlistment survey of the registered/recorded/reported cases was conducted to identify the various cases of domestic violence. Women Cells, family courts, police stations, Counselling centers, NGO’s working for women, Social workers, Women activists and members of the general public were contacted for this purpose. Hence purposive method of sampling was employed for the study.

Based on the enlistment survey, 10 % of the reported cases i.e. 140 female respondents from the five districts were selected by using multiple random sampling method.

Source-www.haryananaonline.in
In addition, the qualitative data was collected in group meetings. The discussions with key persons were also undertaken to draw more information regarding the prevailing issues of domestic violence. The key personnel interviewed were drawn from the following categories viz. Incharge Women Cell, DV Protection Officer, Family Court, Social worker and Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local bodies.

**Techniques of Data Collection**

Interview schedule method was employed for data collection. The schedules and guides were pre-tested and suitably modified. In-depth Interviews and discussions were conducted as the techniques of data collection to elicit information from the respondents. Observation method was also employed to gather the qualitative data. Besides, the primary data, the secondary data from the following sources was collected for the study.

- Government Documents (Census reports, NSSO reports, NCRB reports)
- Women Commision Reports, NHRC Reports)
- Court records in relation to domestic violence.

**Limitations of the Study**

The prime draw back of the present study was that the data collection was confined to the reported cases only and there are a large number of cases which used to be unreported due to various reasons, were not brought under the present study. Despite, dedicated/committed efforts to gather the data that depicted the true scenario, certain limitations seemed to be inevitable. Inability of the respondents to respond to the queries was the major constraint. Due to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the issue, the possible participants might not be willing to participate in the research. The researcher, thus, intends to inform the potential participants that anonymity and privacy will be exercised. Participants may not open up during interviews in fear of findings being used against them. To avoid this, participants will be informed that pseudonyms will be utilized for identification purposes and the investigator engaged his wife who assisted him in tracing the sensitive information from the respondents.

Similarly, the data collection took a prolonged period than expected as in several cases the interviews became a catharsis itself. More hours than anticipated had
to be allotted for each interview. Moreover, the unwillingness of several respondents to disclose their experience for fear of their husbands had resulted in repeated visits to these families. Subsequently, the investigators had to go to another house, which sometimes were quite far. All these consumed a great deal of time delaying the data collection process.

Another limitation of the study was that it included only the perception or response of the woman ignoring the response of the husband, which could contribute to the exaggeration of the incidents by the woman.
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