CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

“I hope you live a life you’re proud of. If you find that you’re not, I hope you have the strength to start all over again.”

– F. Scott Fitzgerald

Violence against women and girls in India manifests in various ways and varies in prevalence and forms based on numerous factors including geographic location. Some manifestations include: sexual violence, domestic violence, caste-based discrimination and violence, dowry related deaths, crimes in the name of honour, witch-hunting, sati, sexual harassment, and violence against women. These manifestations of violence are rooted in multiple and intersecting forms of and inequalities and discrimination faced by women, and are strongly connected to their social and economic situation. One interlocutor explained violence against women and girls as operating on a continuum that spans the life-cycle from the womb to the tomb.

Violence against women was recognised as a fundamental infringement of human rights in the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and was a major topic at the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women (UN Women, 1995). The serious consequences of domestic violence have also been renowned by the World Health Organisation (Krug et al. 2002).

Over the past few decades, the matter of domestic violence emerged as a primary concern among the rising community of researchers and policy makers who are fascinated in women’s health and their status. It has also come out as an innermost concern because such violence obstructs the women's economic and social growth, development and capacity for self-determination. Though, women in developing countries experience violence in various forms throughout their lives, and even domestic violence is the most pervasive form of violence against women (Heise et. al., 1999).
Several people consider domestic violence to be simply a man beating up his wife, or “wife-battering”—but it is not that simple as it is perceived sometime. The best definition of domestic violence is a purposeful pattern of coercive and assaultive behaviors that someone use against their intimate partner causing physical, economic, or psychological impairment. Domestic violence is generated by several causes. Statistics reveals that most of its victims are women. The victims of this type of violence are protected by law, in addition through norms of penal nature, as through special laws created in order to protect the victims. However, victims are still reluctant when it comes to call for the legal guarantees and protection provided by the law, either for lacking the awareness of the respective legal terms or because they maintain to trust a waiting for the intervention of their friends and/or close relatives. Domestic violence is whatever physical or verbal act deliberately perpetrated by one family member against another member of the same family that would grounds physical pain, psychological, sexual or material damage. Preventing women from exercising rights and basic freedoms is assimilated as domestic violence.

If we take account of the total population that only 20 percent of the women are working in organized sector and out of 25.5 percent entire employed women while men are almost 53.3 percent. The news papers are full of stories of violence such as cruelty of wives by husband and relatives, homicide of women, marital rape, and sexual violence. The steps taken by the government to all such victimization are not sufficient to check such incidents especially sexual hazards. The reality of the present society the woman has always been facing discrimination, regardless of what she has achieved or done a great job. Women are always understood as a physically and emotionally weaker than the males, while at present women have established their strength and potentiality in almost every field of life verifying that they are no less than men as a result of their hard work whether at home or at working places. It is also seen that women elected as sarpanchs, ward members or any other office-bearers are not liberated to take their own decisions; in spite of their remote control is mostly in the hands of their husbands. Behind closed doors of homes all across our country, women are being exploited, tortured, beaten and killed. It is occurring in rural areas, towns, cities and in metropolitans as well. It is passing
through generation to another. But offences against women which reflects the wired reality that women are just not safe and secure anywhere. A few examples of daily news are worth mentioning here:

- A husband killed his wife because of wearing jeans & t-shirt of his wife in Maharashtra
- Deepshikha Nagpal physically abused by ex-husband Kaishav Arora; actress approaches police
- Husband chops off wife’s fingers in Manipur; absconding.
- Daughter-in-law should not be treated as domestic help: Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court said a bride must be respected in her matrimonial home as it reflects the sensitivity of a civilized society.

Therefore, according to a latest report prepared by India’s National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been recorded against women in every three minutes in India. Every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide. The problems such as dowry, domestic violence, sex selective abortion, female infanticide are still prevalent. Now the time has come when effective and preventive measures necessitate to be taken to ensure that women are protected in India.

Recently, More than 9,700 cases of atrocities against women, including domestic violence and rape, have been registered since April 2015, with Uttar Pradesh considering the highest number of such cases; the government reported and largely these many cases have been reported with the National Commission for Women. Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi said reasons for violation of women rights include “domestic violence, outraging the modesty of women, dowry harassment, property dispute, rape”. As per the state and union territory-wise data, Uttar Pradesh has seen the highest number of women rights violation cases so far this financial year at 6,110, followed by Delhi (1,179), Haryana (504), Rajasthan (447) and Bihar (256).
Together, in the last three financial years and so far this fiscal, the total number of such cases in Uttar Pradesh stood at 44,328. “The National Commission for Women has registered 16,584, 22,422, 32,118 and 9,786 cases of violation of rights of women in 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively,” Gandhi said.

➤ Status of Women in Indian Society

Status of women in Indian society is accepted to connote evaluation; hence honor, esteem, respect and prestige are its synonyms. It must be viewed in its relative context. In a country like India which boasts of its glorious heritage, were woman has not only enjoyed the equal status but has also been described in many scriptures more than the better half. She is the one who face most of exploitation from the hands of her husbands or other male members.

“Kariyesumantri, bhujesu Mata,
Shayanesu rambha, shamadaridere priyah dharma patni”.

Women where were given very important place in Indian society. It is said that wife is the better half of the husband ‘Ardhangni’. Indeed, the Indian philosophy views “women as participator or performer of dharma”. Both man and woman are inseparable and inevitable as the “Ardhanareshwar” form of lord Shiva. It also signifies the creation, sustenance and destruction of life on the earth. It was also presumed that people get marry with a woman because their all domestic and religious deeds are in complete if he is not associated with his female partner as concept of ‘Laxmi’ and ‘Vishnu’, ‘Parvati’ and ‘Shiva’. When Indian society talk about female as ‘DEVI’ or ‘MATA’ then how violence or exploitation against women is exist. Therefore, it is surprising to say in country like India women are considered Devi while domestic violence rates are found high. It is one of the biggest social problems in India.

It has been traced the history of women victimization started from the Epic period just after the end of Vedic period. It was the period when people started leaving in collective society which was converted into cities and latter on, estates, i.e. emergence of urban societies and civilization has been originated. The one important factor associated
with this development was an inner instinct of one man to control and dominate the other person. The custom “slavery” was developing day-by-day and the people of this period were psychologically or mentally enjoying pleasure to defeat others or torture them. They acknowledged the superiority of the person in order to penalizing. Gradually, this mental thought of domination created into two parts such as superior and inferior. The sense and thought of superiority became the curse for women of this period. The kidnap of ‘Sita’ and misbehave with ‘Drupdi’ respectively. Ramayana and Mahabharata period are best example of the women victimization.

Cultural norms within India that have been drawn in as enhancing gender differences resulting violence are attitudes relating to male superiority to women and male domination of women. These are well illustrated within a well-known Indian text (i.e., Manusmriti or Manu's code), in which it is written that females must be subservient to males throughout their lifetimes: in upbringing, to their fathers; in young middle age, to their husbands; and in old age (and assuming the deaths of their husbands), to their sons. Women are considered as living almost entirely for the males in their lives, with one of the most theatrical cultural practices connecting this attitude being the practice of sati--self-immolation of a widow on her husband's funeral pyre. Though sati has been declared illegal by the Indian government, there have been a few existing cases reported. In addition, the widows implicated in these recent sati cases have been viewed by the populace at large with reverence, and, in one circumstance, the funeral pyre was later changed into a religious shrine. This cultural mind-set relating to male superiority is so tough that many in India accept as true that husbands are entitled to have power over their wives, even by means of physical reprimand. For instance, in recent research carried out within northern India, the majority of study respondents (i.e. males and females, and Muslims and Hindus) reported that husbands were vindicated in beating wives who were defiant of their husbands' wishes.

Traditional taut related gender roles are one such cultural norm within various region of India that may enlarge the likelihood of domestic violence against women. These roles are framed in such a manner that sons are more likely than daughters to be of advantage to their parents, both money-wise and in other ways. At the time of marriage,
the bride is supposed to bring a ‘dowry’ (i.e. a gift of cash or property from her parent family) into the family of her husband; thus, the groom's parents gain wealth while the bride's parents lose wealth. Although dowry demands have been outlawed by the Indian government, these laws are hardly ever enforced and the practice of dowry is still prevalent. In recent years, the amount of dowry has greater than before noticeably in some regions thus, the bride's family is not always capable of providing a dowry large enough to please the groom's family. In this state of affairs, the groom's family may make additional, and repeated, dowry demands. Not meeting such desired demands places the bride at danger of dowry death; either due to homicide (i.e. the bride is killed by the husband and/or his family) or suicide (i.e. the bride kills herself to getaway the constant harassment by the husband and his family). If such a dowry death happens that the young widower is liberated to remarry and to gain another dowry, further enhancing his family's wealth.

The value of a society can be judged by the position given to women in the social order. Numerous factors that rationalize the importance of India's ancient culture are the respectable place granted to women. The Mugal persuade on India caused great declination in the status of women. They were underprivileged of their rights of parity with men. Raja Ram Mohan Roy commenced a movement against this disparity and subjugation. Britishers got in touch with of Indian culture also brought enhancement in the status of women. The important factor in the reinforcement of women's place was determined of Mahatma Gandhi who encouraged women to play a part in the Freedom Movement. As an outcome of this reclamation of freedom, Indian women have framed themselves as freedom fighters, teachers, air-hostesses, nurses, doctors. They were also participating in administration and politics. Despite this betterment in the status of women, the evils of dowry, illiteracy, negligence, and economic slavery would have to be fully eliminated in order to provide them their rightful position in Indian society.

India, which was at the top of spiritual and moral thinking begun to realize a moral downfall day-by-day from the epic period and this moral declination in society developed day-to-day in different forms of stereotypes such as ‘Zohar Pratha’ among Rajput and ‘Pardha System’ in Mughals which was transformed into ‘Sati Pratha’ or ‘
Devadasi System’ in south. These customs were transforming to other but still exist in various contexts. Consequently, the result was more than 50 percent of the total population is still suffering the aftermath of the downfall of a well established an ancient system which can be witnessed by an official data the more that 33 percent of the girls are married at the age of below 18 years. If we take account of the total population that only 20 percent of the women are working in the organized sector and out of 25.5 percent entire employed women while men are almost 53.3 percent.

➤ Rule of the Thumb and Wife Beating

Much of history has acknowledged the existence of violence within relationships. All through history, women were considered the possessions of the men in their life. At some point in ancient Roman times, wife beating was a legal and accepted form of discipline of women by their husbands. A reference to this link is found in 1881, in a book by Harriet H. Robinson: Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement. She states there, "By the English common law, her husband was her lord and master. He had the custody of her person, and of her minor children. He could 'punish her with a stick no bigger than his thumb,' and she could not complain against him." Most of her statement is undoubtedly true: married women had little recourse if a husband treated her or her children badly, including many acts of battery during ancient times.

➤ Downfall of family Institution

Family-institution is significant element of democratic societies. It is a connection between the individuals and the society. The social system is formed by interconnection between the families. Sound foundation of decency and morality and good tendencies in the family obviously endows one with connected intrinsic worth and practice. Cultivation of the strong tendencies of mutual respect, mutual aid and sharing of responsibilities, creativity, tolerance, sincerity, etc in a family make sure happiness of all its members even in the state of adversities or poverty of conditions. Joint conflicts, clashes of ego, and selfish attitudes within the family in contrast, make one’s life complicated and may lead to domestic violence, psychological disorders or family-breakups etc, in spite of plenty of materialistic comforts, external means of leisure and possessions. One’s overall
personality growth too depends on the surrounding set in the family. Realizing the expected role of familial environment in the development of individuals and the society, ages ago, the Indian rishis - the specialist of the Science of Spirituality, Psychology and Sociology - had given due significance to the family institution in the Indian Culture. In its unique form, the Indian culture and social system grant equal value and share of accountability to both the parents - the mother and the father. The married couples, having a reliability of character, mutual understanding maturity, sense of responsibility & concern towards the children, family and the society, are termed sadgrahastha here. In such an ideal couple, the husband and wife, as true lovers and well-matched life-partners, should naturally help successive modification and appreciation of each other’s personality too. Acharya Sharma a prominent philosopher has described sadgrahasthas as the strength of a society and a nation. Because it is these people who are the architects of the upcoming generations of citizens. His visions, determined from thorough consideration of human psychology and its interconnection with the cultural and social system. Every married or ‘would be’ married couple must acquire knowledge about sadgrahasta and get adept guidance on how and why should they turn into sadgrahasthas?

These days, when the social and cultural systems are in fronting of the most awful ever calamity of all round decline and the whole world is suffering from different sorts of dilemmas, crisis and dangers in numerous respects, every attentive mind realize somewhat concerned and doubtful about the future. Policy makers, experts and thinkers have carried out thorough discourses and analyzed the condition at an immense number of national and international forums. The multiplicity of reasons and remedies have been traced and also applied in actions. The magnitude and complexity of the crisis are so elevated that despite sincere efforts from numerous directions, since several years, no possible control or solution appears to be in the offing. If one seriously gives attention to the deeper roots of the capricious expansion of a lot of misfortunes and irregularities and delineate the genesis of the problems in any area of life, there would appear one major cause - evil tendencies and weaknesses of human wits. Hatred of thoughts - beget by selfish and, passion for power, possessive attitude, comfort, and sensual pleasures - though manifested in various forms with different degrees of sophistication and support
of clever intellect, impureness, spoiled and adulterated and flawed the original environment of happy and healthy life.

- **Breaking Marital Alliances and Increasing Domestic Violence**

  Many years ago, when a ‘Household’ used to be a holy institution; a place of austere practices as main concern. Therefore, they were always found overfilled with innate cooperation and an unconditional reciprocity of affection, love and regard. They were, consequently, ‘Mini-democratic houses’ in a way, for they always reflected the principles of ancient sublime culture. At present, there is a flood of ominous events in our so-called high societies. A recent comment of a Supreme Court’s Judge in relation with a judgment reads: ‘The graph of domestic violence is rising rapidly these days and the cases of divorce are becoming common. It seems as if virtues of the household are on the threshold of disappearance’. There are not one or two but a considerable number of incidents putting a stigma on our Rishi-devised family-centered system.

  There is one such instance highlighting the crazy trend of today’s so-called advanced cultural life-styles. The story is linked to a highly educated and working married couple Sumit and Sunita, who had been class fellows. Their first love soon converted into an unassailable because they felt like that at some point. After getting approval of their parents they finally got married. The girl was beautiful, earning a handsome salary and well-versed in the household chores. The happiness, however, turned out to be short-term; she was brought into the compass of suspicion just for her beauty and long office span. The same parent-in-laws who were at one time singing encomium of praise for their daughter-in-law became irritated to her activities, nature and even her very presence in the house. Soon there started a habitual war of words and altercations, often ending into scrambles.

  Even Sumit began to lift his hands on her; once he drubbed her head against the wall. The remarks of the mother-in-law were that: she was no more tolerated and she wanted another bride with soft nature, close off from any other outside interference, exposure, and mixing up. Now since she was unable to accomplish those necessities she was no more welcome to the home. Therefore, circumstances left Sunita with no choice
other than a divorce. Now what may be the causes for such rushed changes? A deep reflection would disclose several factors disrupting an otherwise happy and smooth family-life.

Some of them, rather most important ones, are: promiscuousness of males/females, male chauvinism, and high profile world and maliciously possessive male mind. The tale is not concocted one; in its place, it is a arrant truth and reproduce the possessiveness of the human male class which has been like that conceivably ever since pre-historic times. It is due to this demon lodged in their hearts that usually lose their sensitivity and start to suspect our innocent wives. Domestic homicide cases have increased in the previous decade by about 15%. They are mostly the outcome of menacing whims, fraudulent love-full promises, resentment, jealousy etc. Most prominent extra-marital affairs, mostly for the sake of carnal pleasures, are also persuasive causes for curse of the harmony of homes. So-called modern advanced societies are providing sufficient opportunities and impetus for collapse of sacred Indian culture. Glamorous parties, co-offices, co-education, and outdoor free-style excursions are adding fuel to the fire. But alas! These have become the acceptable norms of the day.

Present-day women the “women- empowerment programs” have distorted the situation altogether. As a result, present-day women are becoming ever more independent and free in their action and thinking. Obviously this kind of empowerment cannot strengthen their soul force modestly and a maternal love, for it is not based on spiritual and cultural foundations. It is, on the other hand, based on quite a diverse kind of empowerment that encourages the fires of retaliation, perhaps. Today’s women are career oriented, securing jobs in about every field and working equally with men of every rank; from schools and colleges to hospitals, police, judiciary, armed forces and diverse administrative services. They want no more to look back to their earlier history of the bondage and suffocation. An increasing number of them are thus found to be wrong or sinful in entering into sexual relationships without marriages and even having children through such alliances. The sacred institution of marriage and extended family is thus being shattered. The righteous attributes of womanhood – motherly love, affection and care, compassion, other-centeredness, etc are being disdainfully discarded.
Sociologists emphasize that breaking up of joint family system and emergence of ‘nuclear family pattern’ has also furthered the devastation of the social order. In the joint family system, every member could freely exercise sober autonomy within the group and also share in pleasures and pains of other members of the group. Everything has now changed for the worse and there is a reign of stress, dejection, tension, depression, and suffocation everywhere. Should a wife be suspected just for her beauty or just for her outdoor hours in her office? Is the suspicion an ending point, stopping any further efforts at reconciliation just because she sometimes fails to be in steps with her husband’s family? Again is it right to take recourse to divorce or begin to abuse her just because she is incapable of bearing a child; often a child of the gender desirable? These questions need severe reflection for finding possible solutions. For nurturing ideal families, women have an extremely vital role to play. They have proved that they are in no way inferior to men in intelligence, competency, and management skills, etc. Indeed they have been endowed with superior gifts of warmth, love, sensitivity, compassion and self-sacrifice. Therefore they must consciously cultivate and set off these life-nurturing virtues and save the society from whole collapse; and suffuse it with the life – nurturing waters of peace and harmony in all spheres of life – home, neighborhood, workplace, society and the world at large.

➢ **A Global Picture of Domestic Violence**

International responses to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women have been grounded mainly in the human rights framework, which understands the pervasiveness of violence against women to be an obstacle to equality, development, and women’s full enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms (Beijing Declaration paragraph 112, 1995). A variety of international instruments and agencies provide a mandate for taking action to end violence against women. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women calls on States to exercise due diligence to, among other things, prevent acts of violence against women whether they are perpetrated by the State or private actors (Article 4.c), and to develop comprehensive preventive approaches (Article 4.f). The call for prevention is not absent among them:
• The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action calls on States to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women (Strategic objective D.1), and specifically to exercise due diligence to prevent acts of violence against women, to adopt, implement and review legislation to ensure its effectiveness in ending violence against women—emphasizing prevention, and to adopt measures to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women.

• United Nations General Assembly Resolution - in response to the Secretary-General’s in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (United Nations, 2006) - urges States to take positive measures to address structural causes of violence against women and to strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms, and to exercise due diligence to prevent all acts of violence against women, including by improving the safety of public environments.

• UNIFEM, a United Nations agency that provides technical and financial to foster gender equality and operates the UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence against Women has noted that “Strategies to stop [violence against women] before it starts are essential, but lack resources and visibility.”

(See http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/at_a_glance.php.)

• The World Health Organization has entitled for improved attention to primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence, through the recommendations of the World report on violence and health (Krug et al., 2002), World Health Assembly Resolution 56.24 on implementing the report’s recommendations (WHA 2003), and in the recommendations of the WHO Multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence against women (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005).

International law mandates that States take steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to exercise ‘due diligence’ to prevent the violation of their rights. The ‘due diligence’ standard requires States to take positive action to prevent and protect women from violence, punish perpetrators and compensate victims of violence. In order to comply with this standard, States must inter alia enact, implement and monitor legislation on violence against women.
State Compliance with Due Diligence Obligations

1. Ratification of international human rights instruments

2. Constitutional guarantees on equality for women

3. Existence of national legislation and/or administrative sanctions providing adequate redress to women victims of violence

4. Policies or plans of action that deal with the issue of violence against women

5. Gender sensitivity of the criminal justice system and the police

6. Accessibility and availability of support services

7. Existence of measures to raise awareness and modify discriminatory policies in the field of education and media

8. Collection of data and statistics on violence against women

Report of the UN Special Rapporteur Radhika Coomaraswamy, 1999; E/CN.4/1999/68

International Principles on Effective Implementation of Laws on Domestic Violence

• Zero tolerance of domestic violence

• Legal provisions to protect women, including provisions on reliefs and remedies

• Provisions facilitating access to justice and support services

• Implementation of laws in a manner that gives effect to women’s agency

• Effective implementation measures including links with action plans/strategies/policies, adequate budgetary allocations, preparation of protocols, provisions for training and capacity development of enforcement agencies

• Measures for prevention including awareness creation, publicity campaigns, etc.

Adapted from the UN Handbook on Legislative Approaches to VAW
Indian Approach to Provide Safeguards and Protection to Women

The purpose of the constitution has been to protected justice; Social, economic and political. There are Fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution to the citizens and other individuals. Legislations have been enacted to bring the status of women in conformity with the vision and mission of the Constitution. It was anticipated and is universal fact the women (India concept) face lifelong the search for safety and security in walks of life. Under the constitution of Indian women are guaranteed equality, freedom, opportunity and protection as their constitutional rights. The phrase “We the people in preamble of the Indian constitution guaranteed justice – social, economical and political and a large number of legislations have been promulgated in pursuance and compliance of these constitutional provisions. Artical15 of the constitution prohibit discrimination against any citizen on the ground of religion, race, cast, sex and so on and, Article -15(3) provides to make special provisions for women and children. Article 51 provided under certain duties to renounce the practice derogatory to the modesty and dignity of the women.

Despite of so many legal provisions and safeguards the entire life of women seems to be based on protection by male in some laws or otherwise in the form of father husband and son. Lord Canning in the famous work due to process of law has rightly quoted “Women feels keenly as men and his opinion was also supported the UNO reports- “Women constitute half of the worlds’ population, perform nearly one third of its work hours and receive one tenth of the world income and less than one hundred of the property.” It can be summarized whether woman has right on herself or even not.

It found that these safeguards and protection of laws are still unable to provide due protection to a woman and she is suffering as well as fighting hard not only to protect her modesty and dignity but also her survival in the society with due prestige. She is major victims of domestic violence and protection from this kind of violence is need of the hour, so far, to safe dignified and most essential existence of women in the society.
Domestic Violence as Human Right Issue

Charlotte Bunch (1992) quoted that "The concept of human rights is one of the few moral visions ascribed to internationally" (as cited in Dorothy Q. Thomas & Michele E. Beasley 1993). Domestic violence violates the beliefs that lie at the core of this moral vision: the inherent pride and value of all members of the human family, the immutable right to freedom from fear and desire, and the equal privileges of men and women. Yet, till now, it has been complicated to visualize of domestic violence as a human rights issue under international law.

In 1992, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted a comprehensive general recommendation (No. 19) in which it is formally recognised that violence against women constitutes a form of gender discrimination that impairs or nullifies women’s enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms under international law. Radika Coomaraswamy, the former United Nations Special Reporters on Violence against Women, explains that there are three ways in which domestic violence can be understood as a human rights violation: due diligence, equal protection, and torture (Stop violence against women).

Domestic violence as a human rights abuse depends not only on proving a pattern of violence, but also on indicating a systematic failure by the state to afford women equal protection of the law against that violence. Without in depth statistical reports concerning both the incidence of wife-murder, battery, and rape, and the criminal justice system's reaction to those crimes, it can be tricky to make a solid case against a government for its breakdown to guarantee equal protection of the law. And insufficient documentation of human rights abuses against women is common to countries throughout the world. For example, in India, other human rights problems included the Court excess delayed or denied justice, as well as through lengthy pretrial detention and denial of due process. There were instances of violation of privacy rights. Domestic violence, dowry-related deaths, Rape, honor killings, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women continued serious societal problems. The lack of cooperation between women's rights and human rights groups on both national and international levels.
The human rights approach to domestic violence may also have the effect of improving international protections for women. Though, until recently, "women's issues" have been observed as marginal to the "actual" issues of human rights, insertion domestic violence inside the mainstream of the theory and application of international human rights drew attention to the extent and seriousness of the crisis. This not only indicates the past failure of the human rights community effectively to counter the problem, but throws light on the urgent need for the international human rights system to function more efficiently on behalf of women. The most compelling advantage to utilizing a human rights approach to oppose domestic violence may be that it simultaneously raises women's issues in the greater part of human rights practice. Applying this approach to domestic violence produces the insight that the assimilation of women's rights issues into human rights practice is a revolutionary and evolutionary process, and that the process itself will provide new ideas and identify unsuspected obstacles at each step along the way. Collaboration with developments in other domain of law and activism, this dynamic ultimately may help transform the international human rights system that it prides the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protects more than just the rights of man.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Rules (DVR) in 2006 in order to meet the requirements of the DVA that demands greater governmental participation and budgetary allocation for the implementation of the new legislation. The DVR deals with the appointment of the authorities prescribed by the DVA, the procedural requirements of the DVA and with the consequences of the breach of its provisions.

In India, prior to 2005, domestic violence was addressed mainly under criminal law, namely Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code. However, due to its restricted scope and coverage including the lack of civil remedies, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA) was enacted to recognize women’s rights to civil reliefs in situations of domestic violence and to recognize women’s right to reside in the shared household. The PWDVA defines ‘domestic violence’ in a comprehensive manner and covers all women in domestic relationships living in a shared household.
Legal Definition of Domestic Violence in India

Domestic Violence: The term "domestic violence" includes elaborately all forms of actual abuse or threat of abuse of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic nature that can harm, cause injury to, endanger the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, either mental or physical of the aggrieved person and different dimensions violence are:

- Physical Violence

Any act or conduct of such nature which cause bodily pain, harm or danger to life, limb or health or impair the health or development of the aggrieved women such as pushing throwing, kicking, slapping, biting, beating assault, burning and murder etc.

- Sexual Violence

Includes sexual assault, harassment and exploitation

- Verbal or Emotional Violence

This may be more subtle in action or behavior than physical abuse, score of which are not visible but can be felt and proves to be more emotionally damaging. It may be in the form of isolation, excessive possessiveness and trusting, screaming, embarrassing, making fun for or mocking.

- Economic Violence

This includes withholding economic resources defrauding of money exploitation or women resources, with holding physical resources such as food clothes, shatter preventing the women from working.

Special Features of This Act

- It provides for the appointment of protection officer who can provide the aggrieved person with legal aid, medical examination and safe shelter.

- The Act stipulates that the magistrate shall look on the application with 60 days from the first day of hearing.
• It provides for rights of women to secure and reside in her matrimonial house or shared household whether she has a title by the order of the magistrate.

Other major provisions under this act include:

i. Any women who is or has been in a domestic or family relationship if is subjected to any act of domestic violence can complain under this Act.

ii. Under section 5 any aggrieved women can complain to the concerned protection officer, police officer service provider or magistrate.

iii. Under section band 7, shatter home and medical facilitates can be provide to aggrieved woman.

iv. Under section 17, every aggrieved woman has right to reside in shared household.

v. Under section 18, protection order by magistrate can be given favour of aggrieved women.

vi. Under section 20, monetary relief does can be given to aggrieved woman to meet expenses or loses.

vii. Under section 22 interim compensation can available to aggrieved woman.

viii. Under section 30, imprisonment up to 1 year a fine up to 20,000 or both for breach of protection order by respondent.

ix. Under section 33 protection officer can be prosecuted up to 1 year imprisonment or with a fine up to Rs. 20,000 or both for failure of his duties.

Despite the above given enormous response still an extensive range of violent activities at domestic front are occurring in private and public places both, as reported through print and electronic media from time, which indicates the need to reconsider domestic violence, not only as a problem of individual victims but as a societal issue of concern.

Though, India has one of the highest numbers of laws on women’s rights, but there have been limited attempts at monitoring and evaluating the implementation of such laws. Relevant to the context of violence against women is the Lawyers Collective’s six-year long initiative to monitor the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA). The rising instances of domestic violence and
pressure from women activists and NGOs have led the Government of India to pass the new protection law called The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA). A report given by Pin-Hsien Wu, (2009) found that one prerequisite of betterment the implementation of the DV Act is to increase women’s awareness of it. Also, observed lack of trainings for each role of departments involved in the implementation of the Act.

Lastly, another significant jurisprudential contribution of the PWDVA is that it uses a judicious mix of civil and criminal procedural law to ensure that protective orders are expeditiously obtained and effectively enforced. Hence, applications for reliefs under the PWDVA lie to Magistrates, who are part of the criminal justice system. They are empowered to grant injunctions of a civil nature, which they are not otherwise entitled to do in criminal jurisdiction. This means that other members of the criminal justice system are also implicated in the implementation of the PWDVA, such as lawyers, legal service providers and the police. The role of the police, though limited, is specifically recognized under the PWDVA, as they are required to inform victim/survivors of their rights and assist courts in enforcing their orders. Protection Officers, service providers, the police, courts and lawyers, together constitute the infrastructure required to give effect to the objectives of the PWDVA and the means for victim/survivors to activate the law.

- **Nature of Domestic Violence**

The nature of violence was divided into four categories like **physical, economical, psychological** and **sexual violence**. Several studies have acknowledged how perpetrators often purposely try to harm their wives’ efforts to obtain and maintain paid employment. Such tactics are often considered to as economic abuse and comprise damaging or destroying women’s work garments or books and other items linked with their jobs or job training, inflicting facial cuts and bruises or other observable injuries to keep them from departing to work, promising to care for their children but not showing up or becoming occupied at the last minute, and stalking women whilst they are at work (Brush, 2003; Logan et al., 2007; Moe & Bell, 2004; Raphael, 2000. Prateek S Shrivastava and Saurabh R Shrivastava (2011) conducted a community-based cross-
sectional study with the objective of studying the fraction and different forms of domestic violence, factors affecting it, and to study support seeking behavior of these women. The study participants were married women in the age group 18 to 45 years living in an urban slum area of Malwani, Mumbai. Employ stratified random sampling, 274 subjects were selected and semi-structured questionnaire after obtaining their informed consent. The proportion of domestic violence was 36.9%. The most common form of violence was verbal in 87 (86.1%) followed by physical in 64 (63.4 percent).

Based on a national self-reported victimization survey, the incidence of psychological abuse in intimate relationships in Canada is estimated at 17%, almost three times the level of physical and/or sexual violence. While the harms of physical domestic violence are well documented, psychological abuse in intimate relationships is usually studied as a collateral aspect of physical/sexual violence, rather than as a separate phenomenon. Particularly in terms of its relative effects, psychological aggression has not been “disentangled” from physical aggression (Follingstad, 2009).

➢ **Cause and Factors link to Domestic Violence**

A cause is defined as a person or thing that acts, happens, or exists in such a way that some specific thing happens as a result. In short it can be called as the producer of an effect. Contributing Factor is a condition that influences the effect by increasing its likelihood, accelerating the effect in time, affecting severity of the consequences, etc.; eliminating a contributing factor(s) will not eliminate the effect.

Cause and Factor are two terms that are often understood in the same sense. Actually they are not interchangeable. They show important differences between them. A cause is the agent that is responsible in producing an effect. On the other hand a factor is an agent that is affecting an object, a procedure or a process.

- **Individual-level factors**

Understanding the Individual risk-level factors associated with domestic violence help frame some of local analysis questions.
- **Relationship-level factors**

  There are many relationship-level factors such as men who report having several sexual partners are also more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence or sexual violence. Multiple partnership and infidelity were also strongly associated with both the perpetration and experiencing of intimate partner violence. (Abrahams et al., 2004; Chan, 2009; Dalal, Rahman & Jansson, 2009; Jewkes et al., 2006).

- **Community-level factors**

  The *World report on violence and health* notes that how a community responds to partner violence may affect the overall levels of abuse in that community (Heise & Garcia- Moreno, 2002). In a comparative study of 16 societies with either high or low rates of intimate partner violence, Counts, Brown & Campbell (1992) found that societies with the lowest levels of intimate partner violence were those that had community sanctions against it, and where abused women had access to sanctuary either in the form of shelters or family support.

- **Societal-level factors**

  Traditional gender norms and social norms supportive of violence and one of the most common theories to explain the perpetration and experiencing of intimate partner violence and sexual violence is the maintenance of patriarchy or male dominance within a society (Taft, 2009). Patriarchal and male dominance norm reflect gender inequality and inequities at a societal level, and legitimize intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetrated by men (Russo & Pirlott, 2006). While they are located at the societal level, these gender norms play out at the level of community, relationship and individual behaviours. Societal norms related to gender are believed to contribute to violence against women and gender inequality and other inequities by creating power hierarchies where men are viewed by society as economically.
Dependence of Women on Men contribute to Domestic Violence

A number of previous studies on domestic violence against women establish a relationship between economic dependence and the incidents of violence. However, only a few endeavors have been made until now to provide theoretical rationalization of this relationship. Married dependence reinforces the likelihood that women will tolerate physical abuse from their husbands. As a consequence, it is obvious that the more economically dependent women are, the more violence they face from their partners. It is also apparent that the larger the discrepancy between the actual and desired household responsibility for the women, the higher the number of violent incidents. One other major cause of violence cited in many studies is women's poverty and economic dependence on men. While the participation of women in employment has increased over time, the areas in which most women are employed are low-paying with poor working conditions and little or no bargaining power. Thus women often enter into marital or cohabiting relationships with the hope of attaining financial support and security. In marriage the expectations of support are vested in and reinforced by the formalization and legal recognition of the union, while for cohabiting partners the financial support is premised on the provision of basic needs for women and their children. Many studies on violence against women focus on identifying the signs of violence which support women's victim status.

Economic Hazards, Employment, and Domestic Violence

It has been found that higher socioeconomic status is associated with lower risk of domestic violence, and women who are employed and, thus, working women to be less likely to experience domestic violence than unemployed women. But research points out that the association between employment and domestic violence is a complex one. As the economy has worsened, then, many domestic violence survivors have likely found that they cannot count on family and friends to help them in tangible ways because these individuals are experiencing greater financial distress themselves.

Studies investigating women's employment with regards to domestic violence victimization experiences demonstrate that women with the past of domestic violence
victimization do not be different in their present employment status and in their wish to work from women without a history of domestic violence victimization (Lloyd & Taluc, 1999; Riger & Staggs, 2004).

It is said that still, employment can encompass a protective effect for women. Employment provides not only significant financial resources, but also may elevate a woman's self-esteem, by this means providing her with psychological resources to deal with or end an abusive relationship (Brush, 2003). Research also confirms that abused employed women who received social and substantial support from co-workers and supervisors experienced less social loneliness, improved health, and fewer negative employment effect (Staggs, Long, Maaon, Krishnan, & Riger, 2007).

- **Cycle of Violence**

There is substantial evidence that a generational *cycle of violence* occurs in domestic assaults. The theorist most often cited for application of the transmission of violence theory to domestic abuse is Lenore Walker. In *The Battered Woman*, she described three separate phases of an abuse cycle represented in a pattern that is repeated time and again in a battering relationship (Walker, 1979): Phase I, *tension building*, is characterized by poor communication and minor incidents of abuse. In this phase, women are compliant and attempt to minimize problems in the relationship. The male feels increased tension and takes more control through dominance, causing the victim to withdraw. *Acute battering* is referred to as phase II. Here the batterer who is highly abusive evidences a loss of control. The woman suffers stress and injury. Phase III is often referred to as the *honeymoon phase*, when kindness and loving behavior emanate from the contrite batterer. As the tension drops between the perpetrator and victim, a renewed love is experienced. He is often apologetic and attentive to his partner. She at first has mixed feelings, and then feels guilty and responsible for the outburst. He continues to manipulate the relationship through promises of change. It is not unusual during the final phase for the batterer to shower gifts and flowers on the woman. The cycle usually repeats itself, however, and the violence is believed to escalate over time.
Being victimized more than once increases the risk of subsequent assault (Straus et al., 1980).

➢ **Criminological Research**

Criminological Research does have certain distinctive features. To begin with doing criminological research usually engrosses the study of things that are illegal. The criminological researcher is likely to learn about illegal acts and meet people who have committed such acts or who have to victimize by such acts. A criminological researcher is also quite possibly going to be dealing with sensitive issues, and with people who have had traumatic experiences. In some situations the research can have an emotional impact on the researcher, for example, undertaking research on women victimization in domestic violence is likely to be a worrying experience. So the subject matter of criminology is distinctive and different from many other disciplines. This makes the observance of ethical principles especially important in criminology. It also means that the criminological researcher needs to develop a range of interpersonal skills. Conducting criminological research is not just a matter of using certain methods of inquiry; it is about the way such methods are used as part of a more wide-ranging enterprise that constitutes the scientific method.

This disciplinary multifariousness means that the methods employed in criminological research are likely to reflect the sorts of techniques used in the parent disciplines. Numerous of these parent disciplines utilize social science research methods, and therefore have related features, but it can lead to a rich multifariousness of approaches. For example, that someone is undertaking a study of sentencing in the courts. A psychologist might use experimental techniques to current magistrates and judges with a sequence of cases in which the features of the cases are varied in such a way as to explore what is likely to influence offenders most. A sociologist might spend time observing what happens in court, or looking at the backgrounds of offenders. An economist might come up with models of sentencing that take account of various ‘expenditure’, a term which goes broader than just financial costs.
Other field of study might glance at how crime is disseminated geographically. A feature of criminological research is that not only does it include an important topic, but also has this richly diverse character.

➢ **Victimization**

Victimology is the study of victimization, including the relationships between victims and perpetrators, the interactions between victims and the criminal justice system: that is, the police and courts, and corrections officials; and the associations between victims and other social groups and institutions, such as the media, businesses, and social movements.

➢ **Women Victimization**

Throughout history and across cultures women have been victims of various forms of discrimination, abuse and exploitation, all leading to their criminal victimization. Many legal systems and cultures have long permitted the physical chastisement of wives and female dependents by men. Honors killing (the socially condone killing of wife, daughter or female relative who has dishonored the family by engaging in what is viewed as sexual misconduct) has been prevent in societies where the gap between the permissible sexual conduct for men and women is greater.

It would suffice to say that the file of women’s victimization runs throughout the history of mankind. The problem is not culture-specific, it is persistent world-wide the sad part is that the problem has long gone unnoticed or was only taken for granted. What is of immediate concern is the fact that despite all positive changes in their status, women are increasingly being subjected to greater violence and aggression, both physical and mental.

Women has to face victimization in every phase of the life but this study is being taken into account where victimization is related with a woman after marriage and the various factor of such victimization starts with the proposal of marriage process such as condition of marriage settlements, dowry or promises to provides cash or kinds before celebration or after the marriage life, in detail and other short of victimization. This is
particularly true when the victimization is emotional, rather than physical. Emotional abuse is often perceived minimize, yet it can leave profound and lasting scars. Women Victimization in Domestic Violence does not discriminate and it occurs within the entire age’s ranges, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status, yet the problem is often excused, overlooked, or denied.

Several early studies dealing with domestic violence highlighted solely on the female victims and the social factors that supported the women victimization (Smith, 1989. Consequently, a voluminous literature now exists that depicts domestic violence as a unitary social phenomenon stanching from a patriarchal social order where women are represents as the victims and men perceived as the abusers (Dobash & Dobash, 1979). Such research has had a momentous impact upon the advancement of recent changes in civil law, enforcement of criminal law, and the ways law enforcement and social agencies respond to the needs of battered wives (Victim Support, 1992).

The latter situation is also called "the beaten woman syndrome" and it is a situation of women’s victimizing by the husband who is lagging her for a long time. At some point it becomes unbearable, a situation to which she would respond with violence, suppressing her husband's life. The wives’ victimizing is due mostly to the aggressive and repressive behaviour their husbands, but there could be situations when the wife contribute herself to cause the violence through her provocative attitude exteriorized during unfavorable situations.

- **Women as victims**

The reasons why women become victims of domestic violence may also be rooted in childhood experiences. This theory is also supported by the increased satisfaction from victims when they feel that they are more in control over the actions of the criminal justice system. Victims may develop a “learned helplessness,” a syndrome in which the victims believe that they have no control over their environment and are powerless to change their circumstances (Toth et al., 2008). In an abusive relationship, the victim may adopt several strategies to avoid severe victimization, such as sexual compliance or attempts to appease the batterer. For those women who do try to escape abusive
relationships, they were subjected to severe victimization and deterred from further attempts to leave their abuser (Beirne & Messerschmidt, 2000). Therefore, these women learn to cope with abuse and not to report the abuse for fear of retaliation from their spouse. However, whenever a victim is able to take control of their own safety, protect their children, and maintain financial stability without their spouse, they feel more empowered to control their environment, decreasing their risk of future victimization has already shown a social acceptance of this practice, and law enforcement, a mainly male dominated profession, has been historically reluctant to arrest men who physically assault women.

➢ Men as offenders

This concept is supported by several factors that have been shown to predict domestic violence, namely the offender having been battered as a child. Research suggests that domestic violence occurs within a framework of coercive control because of male mind-set and beliefs in the rightness of male dominance and control over women (Johnson, 2001). Another factor that has been shown to predict domestic violence that also supports this theory is the prevalence of domestic violence among military personnel. When an offender is arrested, if there are no immediate and severe sanctions from the criminal justice system, the offender may feel that their actions were viewed as justifiable because no punishment was inflicted for their behavior. When an offender learns that there are no negative sanctions for physically assaulting their spouse, they may continue this activity with increasing violence. Childhood exposure to domestic violence has been linked to an increased risk of future violent behavior. The National Coalition against Domestic Violence (2007) reports childhood exposure to domestic violence as the strongest risk factor for the transmission of violent behavior to the next generation, and those boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to be batterers as adults.

Male dominance and Control as tool Male dominance contention that all types of domestic violence whether emotional, economic, emotional or physical come from the abuser’s desire for power and controls are widely supported.
This theory is further supported by the increased frequency of domestic violence in certain socio-economic conditions, such as low-income men more likely than higher income men to batter women, and unemployed men more likely than both full-time and part-time employed men to batter women. This leads back to the assertion that lower-class men are more prone to commit violent acts against women to reinforce their image of “manhood.”

➢ **The Social and Legal support System**

Social (informal) sources of support play a most significant role in the help-seeking process of women experiencing domestic violence, as they are the most outstanding sources selected for support. People within the victim's social network, along with family, friends, colleagues or neighbours share a vital role in the usually help-seeking process of domestic violence victims (Davis 2002; Davis & Srinivasan 1995; Leone, Johnson & Cohan 2007).

The popular of legal (formal) sources are approached and, rather than in its place of, informal ones (Leone, Johnson & Cohan 2007; Liang et al. 2005). Formal support is mainly significant when effort to stop the violence for all time as informal sources can be exhausted quickly (Liang et al. 2005). whilst family and friends are likely to help by listening and providing tangible short-term support (e.g. a place to stay, financial assistance etc), the supporters ability to assist and their perceptive of the complex nature of the situation can be limited (Lempert 1997; Liang et al. 2005).

➢ **Involving the Legal or Justice System**

Another popular means of help seeking were efforts to involve the legal and justice system. Of the women, 13 (68%) reported taking such actions as calling the police, requesting that their partner be in detention, and cooperating with examiner and district Magistrates to bring criminal charges against their abusers, and 11 women (58%) reported filing for restraining orders, seeking divorces, and attempting to maintain full custody of their children on separation. These rates are comparable to previous studies (Gondolf, 1998; Gondolf, Fisher, & McFerron, 1990) and to the National Crime
Victimization Survey, which found that 58% of women called the police after being assaulted by their partners (Rennison & Welchans, 2000).

- **Response of criminal justice system**

  There is response of criminal justice system therefore, lack of trust in, or concerns about the criminal justice system can also prevent women from engaging with the prosecution process (Apsler, Cummins, & Carl, 2003; Barata, 2007; Erez & Belknap, 1998; Moe, 2007). Victims may also find that engaging with the process is overly complicated, emotionally draining, and burdensome with perceptions that the outcome is not worth the “hassle” (Bennett et al., 1999; Erez & Belknap, 1998). Coupled with prosecutorial burn out and vicarious trauma, more information is needed on how to assist victims in overcoming barriers to participating with prosecution and providing prosecutors with information.

- **Domestic Violence Prevention**

  It is vital to get serious and strong effort in order to addressing the problem of domestic violence. UN Women is a UN body that promotes gender equality across the world. As an organization that aims to empower women and protect their privileges, UNW offers worth to the prevention of domestic violence as it is mostly inflicted on women. UNW has been known to acquire accurate information and statistics on the topic of domestic violence against women. UN Women also advocates for the integration of violence in key international, regional and national frameworks, such as the post-2015 development agenda.

  Strategies to surmount these barriers are needed to make certain that victims, mainly those within the majority of vulnerable groups, are competent to access support services to diminish the risk of violence. For instance, women who receive shelter services have been shown to experience shorter span of violence than women who experience violence but do not entrance support shelters (Panchanadeswaran & McCloskey 2007). Betterment of service provision and support for victims is a vital factor in reducing the impact of social isolation. Simultaneously important is the need for
services that effort with perpetrators to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, mainly voluntary programs.

- **Prevention**

  An effective prevention goal the underlying factors that perpetuate gender-based violence and a culture where perpetrators are not always accountable for their violence. Hence, proactive measures that comprise education and awareness campaigns, training course and additional complementary policy to reduce gender stereotypes, biases and societal norms that treat gender-based violence as a confidential matter are necessary to curbing abuse and impunity and empowering women. In order to deal with the root causes of gender-based violence, it is essential to address gender inequality and cultural perceptions of women, poverty, and economic independence.

- **Protection**

  Keeping potential victims of violence safe from harm is a key component of due diligence. Adequate legislative frameworks, policing systems and judicial procedures are critical to creating a safe environment and enable women to report acts of violence and obtain effective measures of protection from harm. Such measures should be based on the needs of survivors, while guaranteeing the rights of those accused of perpetrating violence, and may include the adequate provision of restraining or expulsion orders where appropriate. Where violence has occurred, it is important to avoid recurrences and ensure that victims receive adequate and timely support services.

- **Remedy and Compensation**

  While effective criminal justice responses ensure that perpetrators of gender-based violence face the consequences of their action, remedy and compensation focus on the needs of victims and survivors. The aim is to address the harm or losses suffered and mitigate the effects of violence to the extent possible. Providing adequate reparations means that gender-based violence survivors have access to meaningful criminal and civil remedies. Governments must also facilitate access to appropriate rehabilitation and support services. Further, appropriate remedies often include compensation for physical
and psychological injuries, loss of employment, educational opportunities and other benefits, as well as any legal, medical and other costs incurred as a consequence of violence.

➢ Prevalence of Domestic Violence

On June 20th, 2013 the World Health Organization (WHO) released the first systematic study of violence against women, presenting a global picture of the prevalence of partner and non-partner violence. The report, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women:* found that nearly 35 percent of women worldwide face violence by partners and non-partners. Domestic violence is a serious concern for Indian women, their families, and societies as a whole. In some section of the world, just about 38 percent of women have faced domestic violence. It is presumed that women around the world experience great amounts of violence at the hands of husbands within their family constructions. It found that women who report violence are facing it frequently and it may be a custom part of their lives.

The data was released at a time when numerous countries, as well as India was under domestic and international inspection for rape as well as assault cases, which prompted transnational conversations regarding the global impact of violence against women. The report did not coat an attractive picture for women living in India. It established that a number of countries in South East Asia and South Asia: India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, East Timor and Thailand, have the peak prevalence of domestic violence, approximately 37.7 per cent. In comparison to elevated income regions around the world, for instance North America, Australia and Europe, which reported 23.2 percent, the comparative prevalence of domestic violence against women is considerably higher in South Asia and South East Asia.

In India, these following statistics gave an idea that in 2013 more than 8,000 women were killed in dowry-related offence and above 100,000 were victims of brutality by their husbands or other male members of family. Snell-Rood (2015) studied on domestic violence in India (75 to 86 percent) of women do not disclose that they are victims of violence by their families. 3 March 2015 article released by Inter Press Service
(IPS) reports that, "the most current government household survey," about 40 percent of women have been victimized in their homes; whilst, according to voluntary survey propped up by the Planning Commission of India, the figure is closer to 84 percent. A 13 March 2015 press let loose by India's Ministry of Women and Child Development gave a picture that over the last three years, the number of cases reported under The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which came into force in 2005, has decreased. The same source specified that 531 cases were registered in 2014, 4,204 in 2013 and 16,351 in 2012. The Hindu reports that, with respect to household surveys carried out in India by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 10 percent of women in India revealed that they have experienced sexual abuse by their husbands in their lifetime (The Hindu 19 December 2014).

A 2014 report came out on violence against women in Delhi by Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath (SAM:BKS), a "Delhi-based coalition of homeless or destitute people and civil society groups" i.e. "actively occupied in the campaign for the rights of the homeless"(7 Jan. 2010), most homeless women and girls have left their homes to get away domestic abuse and violence by their husbands, their maternal family or their in-laws (Jan. 2014, 1). In March 2014 report on violence against homeless women in Delhi, published on the website of the South Asia Regional Programme Housing and Land Rights Network, reports that domestic abuse can "greatly" increase a women's chances of becoming homeless (Chaudhry et al. Mar. 2014, 6). In a telephone interview with the Research Directorate, an associate professor of political science at Carleton University, whose research interests comprise South Asian politics and who has co-authored a book on domestic violence in Mumbai, said that "violence against homeless women in India is rampant" (Associate Professor 27 Apr. 2015). It is still too soon to speak to the effectiveness of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Though the Act is a federal law, its effective implementation depends on respective state governments' response. Not all states have allocated the resources to develop the infrastructure and hire the personnel that are needed to implement this Act effectively (27 Apr. 2015). Sources indicated that a lack of access to essential services
and public facilities is one of the foremost issues encountered by homeless women. (Satija and Datta 2015).

According to report on 14 December 2014 article by the Times of India pointed out that the state government implemented a time limit for the appointment of protection officers in each district in order to implement the Act. The High Court "intended for the government to make regular appointment of protection officers" in order to support victims of domestic abuse get justice and shelter speedily (TOI 14 Dec. 2014). Information as regards the enforcement and effectiveness of protection officers could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time limitation of this Response. The same source affirms that poor women have the most trouble "navigating" through the legal system and "the police are less likely to help the poorest women". The Associate Professor further added that "women who live in states which have not allocated resources to enforce the Domestic Violence Act have even greater obscurities accessing recourse to violence including domestic violence". Mutual information could not be created among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time restraint of this Response.

With regard to article 2013 on protection for victims of domestic violence, Biswajit Ghosh, the University of Burdwan, whose research interests related to women and children's rights and domestic violence in India, states that the ability to provide timely justice to women is affected by the "apathetic and often negative roles of the police" and their inability to stand by victims and implement justice for women. SAM:BKS pointed out that in the dearth of short stay homes and facilities for victims and survivors of domestic violence, women are bound to live on the streets (Jan. 2014, 13). The same source thrown light on existing shelters are not satisfactorily equipped to support children of working women or those who would like to study (Jan, 14). Domestic violence continued to be a problem, and the National Family Health Survey revealed that more than 50 percent of women reveled experiencing some form of violence in their home. The NCRB reported that in 2014 there were 122,877 reported cases of “cruelty by husband and relatives,” an increase of 3.2 percent from the previous year. Advocates
reported that many women refrained from reporting domestic abuses due to social pressures.

Survey statistics are imperative for assessing the extent of the dilemma since many women do not report violence to any agency. Even as survey-based statistics also endure from a certain amount of under-reporting, generally, they are considered to offer a rationally reliable outcome measure on violence against women. Population-based surveys on violence against women have a comparatively recent history and they are very important in advancing knowledge and research in this field. While in many instances resources for their implementation may have been provided by a public entity, a lot of them have been conducted by academic, or NGO, research teams with limited involvement of national statistics offices (NSOs).

Factors that have been found to be related to domestic violence that include previous history of violence, severity of the violence, alcohol consumption by the offender, and, to a small extent, and socio-economic status (e.g., Berk et al., 1984; Bachman & Coker, 1995; Jones & Belknap, 1999). Fischer and Rose (1995) reported that barriers to reporting domestic violence and subsequent protective services use included fear of involvement of authorities, embarrassment to families, and distrust or unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system. Other reasons that have been cited include societal norms, fear of retaliation, economic or psychological dependence, past poor interaction with the police, economic effects of reporting, and inability to make a decision because of post-traumatic stress disorder (Felson et al., 2002; Buzawa and Buzawa, 1996a)

Impact on Society

The knowledge of the costs related to domestic violence aid further strengthens the idea that domestic violence is not a personal issue and is a societal problem. Many times it also wasted on the trials and both or one of the parties generally loses their employment whilst they are engaging the case because they are unable to give adequate time to their jobs. However, the utmost societal impact is faced by the children who are observing and experiencing an abusive relationship. Social scientists state that there is an
enormous probability that child whose parents have an abusive relationship means to domestic violence in their own relationships as well. These children grow up to be individuals striving for control in their relationships and intending for it by violating the other partner. Understanding the fact that children are the future of the country, raising a generation that is comfortable with domestic violence as a phenomenon is no doubt horrendous. The abusive relationship between the parents and the domestic violence often shadow on the personality of the child and has an impact on the way he holds and regards relationships. For valuing relationships and for giving them their due respect, it is very vital that a child is raised in surroundings where he is taught to respect relationships and nourish them. Moreover, violence among the parents also causes stress and is harmful to the emotional health of the children. Stress at an early stage in life hinders the learning abilities of the children and worsen their health. (Sternberg at al, 1998)