Chapter-VIII
CASE STUDIES

Many women have experienced and continued to be abused in their homes. This chapter presents case studies of those women who have experienced pain and trauma in their relationship. Ten case studies were taken to have a comprehensive survey of the intensity of domestic violence that occurred within the families of Himachal Pradesh. It focused on the uniqueness of the individuals undertaken, their history, and their situation in life.

Case Study-1

Arti was born in a small village, of district Kangra to a family comprising of a father, who was a laborer and worked hard to fulfill daily needs of the family. Her mother was a housewife and had three brothers and a sister. She was the youngest of all and she belonged to scheduled caste. Under the prevailing condition her father somehow managed to provide education to all his children. Luckily there was no discrimination on the basis of gender in the family and she was the dearest among all the five children. She was good at studies and sports. She always wanted to be a good sportsperson which was like a dream for her and had keen interest in basketball. She was the member of her school’s basketball team. After completing her matriculation, she had to remain back at home for a year due to financial problems faced by the family. She was very determined and focused on her dream of playing basketball and successfully represented national state open basketball tournament and got selected in the sports hostel for further pursuing her career in basketball but unfortunately, she was not able to join the hostel.

In our typical Indian societies, especially in villages, a girl child is not allowed to build their career and it was beyond one’s imagination to allow them to stay far
away from their homes for years. After a one year gap she was selected in Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in steno typing both in Hindi and English for two years course. During the course she lost her father to whom she was very close. The loss of her father was a big loss to her as she became morally low and suffered from depression, anxiety and loneliness. After completing her ITI she applied in a private school and was appointed as a clerk and worked there for six months. Late she joined her elder brother who was working in a private company in Delhi to do beautician course at a private firm for six months and simultaneously did one month certified government course. After the completion of the course she returned to her village and started working in a beauty parlor owned by someone else. She worked there for three to four years and provided financial help to her family. She even trained other ladies who wanted to be skilled as a beautician. She started earning three thousand per month. According to her she was well known for her work i.e. she earned a lot of name in her village in that field.

Then her relative brought a marriage proposal for her of a Himachali man of their own community. The boy had not even passed secondary examination and was working in a private company at Baddi and was settled in Pathankot. The proposal suited his family and in a couple of months she got married.

She stayed in a joint family and everything was going very good in the beginning. Her husband loved her and they had a good relationship and understanding between them. Even her father in law and sister in law used to show much concern towards her but after two three months of her marriage her mother in law started behaving weirdly in the family. She started making issues of petty things, whether it was related to cooking, cleaning or other household activities.
“In order to avoid the dispute in the family her husband took her along to Baddi, where she too started working in a small company”. During her stay with her husband at Baddi she came to know that he was addicted to alcohol and drank every day. Earlier, she was told that he used to drink occasionally. He was even involved in taking drugs, capsules, bhaang etc. She also came to know the bitter truth that he had an extra marital affair with a woman staying next door. One night she caught him red handed when both of them were sleeping on the terrace and the lady next door too was sleeping on her terrace with her husband. In the midnight, her husband asked the other lady to come down into the room and they both went downstairs into their room. Quietly she slipped down into the room and switched on the lights and found both of them sexually involved which was unacceptable to any wife. She was shocked to see that. Rather than being apologetic and her husband scolded her for interrupting them as he was having a very good time with the lady. The lady had to keep silent as she was afraid of the people staying in the community would not allow them to stay there anymore. Irony lies in the fact, even being hurt emotionally, she had to accept her husband and the situation without making any issue.

She said after a few days, her husband met with an accident and got major fractures in his legs and arms and they had to come back to Pathankot to stay with their parents. As expected her mother-in-law accused her for everything that happened with her son. She became a curse on the family and on her husband. This was an old orthodox situation of the Indian societies, mothers-in-law blame their daughters-in-law for every ill happening in the family. Now as her husband was without job and the burden of the family was on her father-in-law who had a very small source of income, her mother-in-law thought she was a burden on them and wanted to send her out of the family. She instigated her son by talking ill about his wife and a breach was
visible in their relationship. But she always had a positive attitude as she knew that her husband was good by heart and thought that everything would be settled if she conceives a child.

After a month she came to know that she was pregnant and informed the family about her pregnancy. Mother-in-law was not at all happy with the news, whereas her husband showed a mixed feeling. At times he was happy but when his mother tried to talk against his wife his reaction would immediately change towards her. He used to say that he would kill both the mother and the child by kicking/punching her in the stomach. These words by her husband brought her morale down and she was completely disappointed. She had to accept all this without uttering a single word. She was not supported by anyone in the family nor was accompanied to the hospital for her routine checkups. Moreover, she was not even given proper food, and other healthy products for the growth of baby and it was all beyond her imagination. One day the doctor told her that the baby was in the opposite direction and the delivery would not be normal and to avoid any complications, a caesarian was inevitable. She informed her family about all these and nobody in the family showed any kind of concern towards her. They took everything lightly as they were least bothered about her and wished that both of them should die and they would be freed forever from her burden.

Finally, the labor pains started but nobody bothered to take her to the hospital. After two days of continuous pain, just to avoid the expenses of hospital they took her to some lonely place where she was looked after by a local village midwife (Daai), who had some knowledge of prenatal care. The Daai used two to three bottles of mustard oil to let the baby come out which was painful to her. Unfortunately, after bearing a lot of pain she gave birth to a dead child. The cruel people did not bother to
show her the baby, nor the gender of the baby. What can be more tragic than this that after carrying a child for nine months in her womb the family didn’t even allow her to see her child?

The child from whom she had many expectations and who could have given her reason to stay in the house was no more. The situation continued further, after such a heavy loss she was not given any antenatal care as if they were waiting for her to die. She was kept without food for three-four days, was given cold water to take bath. She remained there in those circumstances for fifteen days and ultimately decided to come back to her parent’s home. She did not have a single penny and left the home without informing anybody. While she was waiting for the bus her husband came there following her and asked her where she was going. He said her to come back but she had decided not to go back as things had become worse. She asked him for some money to pay the bus fare but, he refused. She boarded a bus and told the conductor that her mother was very ill and she had no money to pay the fair and she will give him the money when she’ll reach her home town. The conductor was good and he helped the lady and gave her his own seat in the front. The conductor and the driver got the hint that she was lying and it might be the case of domestic violence.

Finally, she was back home and her family was shocked to see her condition. Her condition had become even worse as her hands were folded, was not able to move and sit properly for a year. At that time her family and the villagers supported her a lot. She decided to get separated from her husband but it was not that easy. Her in-laws came to their village panchayat and used abusive word against her and asked if she was interested to come back then she can come along otherwise they should get divorced. Finally, they got divorced illegally which she came to know later on. Unaware of law and other things they signed a paper on which it was written that her
belongings have been given back to her, which was not true. The paper was not signed by any authority, neither by the panchayat pradhan nor the secretary. Meaning thereby that everything was illegal, the panchayat took their safe side by not indulging themselves in the issue and in true sense the divorce has not actually taken place. Her husband got married to another woman. As she was not legally divorced nor entered in the panchayat register, she was denied of second marriage and any job in Himachal. If the panchayat had signed the paper, she would have applied for a divorce in the court.

Anyhow she continued with a positive approach and completed her senior secondary recently in June 2013. By this time she had made her mind to earn some money which she started at home itself and took a project of training other ladies in beautician course. She was enthusiastic to open her beauty parlor and was soon going to file a case against her husband who had settled an illegal life with his second wife.

After facing all these hardships she still had faith in God and hoped that everything would be settled one day. She said that God created all these circumstances in order to give her a better future. She pass the message to other ladies in the village to live the life lively as it’s a lovely gift of God. “If you are not into a healthy relationship with your spouse it’s better to stay alone.”

Case Study- 2

Jiya was born in a middle class Hindu family. Her father was a contractor and mother was a housewife. She had two brothers. She was the eldest of all and belonged to schedule caste family.

After completing her graduation, the family decided to get her married as they had received a proposal for her from a reputed family and the boy was teaching in a school. As the boy was earning, her family accepted the proposal and she got married.
After the marriage everything was going good as her mother-in-law and father-in-law were very supportive and the family environment was also good. But her husband hardly talked to her and they did not have any physical relationship. He just used to reply her to the questions she asked him and nothing more than that. After a week her husband told her that he is having a relationship with one of his female colleague in the school and wanted to marry her but his parents refused that proposal. He told his wife that he can’t accept her to be his wife and cannot give her that space. She was shocked and she decided to discuss the matter with her in-laws and they told her that after few months everything would be fine and insisted her to develop sexual relationship with him. She said that she was treated like a servant in that home, had lost the charm of life, reduced weight and was always tensed. Her parents always enquired about her condition but she never disclosed anything for three months and nobody from her home was allowed to visit her. After two months there was no change in his behaviour and her in-laws had also started harassing her by imposing restriction on food, clothing, sleeping, going to her parent’s home and even mother-in-law did not allowed her to talk to her parents in her absence. Finally, she told the whole matter to her parents in the month of August which was known as “Kala Mahiana” and in this month a newly married woman had to stay with her parents as it was considered had omen for mother-in-law and daughter-in-law to stay together.

After knowing all these things her parents complained the matter to panchayat and in panchayat’s presence her husband gave a false statement that she was not a women and she had some problem. It was a very embarrassing situation for her. But the panchayat people were very supportive they scolded him for blaming and asked him about his affair with the teacher. After that her father filed a case under Domestic Violence Act and at present the case is with court. She is not satisfied with the courts
proceeding as in the act it was mentioned that the case will be solved in 60 days but from last one and half year it is pending with the court. Every time they gave next hearing date but she wanted justice and strict punishment for her husband. At present she is doing bachelor of education (B.Ed.) and wants to settle on her own. She never discusses the matter with her friends as she does not want others to have pity on her.

She said that women should not remain silent against violence as she faced toughest time for six months without any fault and waited for some change in her husband and wanted to save family and herself from the black spot of divorce and dishonor. But now she is quite happy after leaving that relationship.

**Case study-3**

Urmila has been married for 15 years. She has a daughter aged 14, studying in 8th class. The couple hailed from middle class Hindu family and their marriage was an arranged marriage.

Urmila and Ravi with their daughter lived in a rural village. Both were graduates. Her husband was running his own computer centre and earned Rs.8000-10000 per month. She was working in a mart as a sales girl and earned Rs. 3000 per month.

She had led a happy life until a few years back, when her husband entered into an extra marital relationship with one of his female student in the computer centre. When she came to know about this, she confronted him on the issue. Her husband became furious and abused her.

They had frequent quarrels pertaining to his affair. He did not even come to his home for days together. Whenever he came they had a row and he would inflict verbal, physical and psychological violence on his wife. Many times she had blue
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marks on her body. He even stopped giving financial support to Urmila and his daughter.

The marital discord had affected her badly. She felt cheated by her husband. She was worried about her future and that of her daughter. It was very difficult for her to pay rent, school fees and all the other expenses of both of them. She also suffered from sleeplessness. The situation had adversely affected the child as well.

She filed a case with panchayat but her husband did not attend the panchayat proceedings. Panchayat people were well acquainted of her character and about the extra marital affair of her husband. Twice she compromised with him and he was warned still nothing changed. One day he threw her out of the home along with daughter and she had to spend whole the night at her neighbours house.

After one year she told the entire situation to her parents. Her parents and brother supported her financially as well as emotionally. She stayed with her parents for one year. Her parents tried to counsel her husband but he was not ready to talk.

Then she filed a case to protection officer. Protection officer was a woman she asked her about the violence and called her husband to come to the office but he did not showed up. She was very nice and cooperative women. So with her consent, protection officer filed a petition in the court against the conduct of her husband. While the proceeding with her husband was going on his parents tried to talk with the girl he had an affair and her parents. Unfortunately, that girl got married somewhere else and then the man changed and was ready to compromise and thereafter they started living a happy married life.
Case Study-4

Sushma (30) and Raj Kumar (42) have been married for 15 years. Both of them hailed from low-economic Schedule Caste, Hindu families. She got married when she was 15 years old. Their marriage was an arranged one. Sushma was illiterate whereas Raj Kumar had studied till standard V.

Raj Kumar and Sushma worked as daily wage labourer. Her husband earned Rs. 2,000 per month and she earned Rs. 3000 per month. The couple had two children, a son and a daughter. The family environment was very oppressive there was no cooperation and love in the family. For four years she stayed in joint family. Her mother-in-law abused her and treated her like a servant and instigated her husband for abusing her. Raj Kumar was alcoholic and much of his income was spent on alcohol. After marriage within a week he verbally abused and slapped her and these episodes of violence never stopped. Every day he drank and abused her like animals. Her husband had some perverse sexual behaviours. He would frequently force her into sexual acts against her will. He would assault her physically if she resisted. He considered her a sex object and made relation at the time of menstruation. She discussed this with her mother-in-law but she replied that she was no different from other ladies. It was very shocking that a woman did not understand other woman.

After the death of her mother-in-law they separated from other family members. Her husband used to beat her regularly. At times she had to hide herself in neighbour’s house to protect herself. Her neighbour wanted to help her but due to her husband’s misconduct they never dared to interfere though they were sympathetic towards her. Her husband used to beat her after opening her clothes so that she could not run outside the room. During the unwanted/unwilling sex he used to hit her and bite her on her whole body. He used to behave inhumanly by passing urine in her
plate so that she could not eat anything. He broke her wrist. He even assaulted his children physically.

Sushma had silently suffered the physical, sexual and mental violence for about ten years. After ten years, she left the home with her children and started staying with her parents.

She complained the matter to panchayat so many times about his behaviour but they only advised her to compromise and it was very humiliating for her to present this matter in front of males. She even made a complaint in Police Station but it was difficult for a woman to disclose the sexual matter. Police officials had written her complaint and send her to NGO office. NGO workers were very cooperative and they recorded her story in a copy and she disclosed everything to them. They provided her free legal service and forwarded her case to the court for maintenance, protection order and residence order. But her husband never showed up to in any hearing resultantly every time court gave a new date for next hearing. Unfortunately from the last one year even she did not attend the court proceeding because for every hearing she had to spend money for the bus fare and missed her job in that day. She was the only breadwinner for her children and she now thought that it was useless and a mere wastage of time and money going to the court. She was not attending any hearing now and the case is still pending in the court.

On the other side, now she is happy because she is spending time with her children without any kind of fear and indulgence of his husband.

**Case Study-5**

Priya (25) was born in a lower class Rajput Caste family. Her family consisted of a mother who was a housewife, a brother and a sister. She was the eldest of all. She lost her father when she was in 6th class. After the death of her father, her mother was
the only breadwinner of the family. Her mother got widow pension and was worked as a labourer. Somehow her mother managed to provide education to all her children. Priya got married when she was 24 years old. Their marriage was an arranged one. Priya and her husband were secondary pass.

Her husband was employed in a private firm and earned Rs. 5000 per month. The family environment was very troublesome. There was no cooperation in the family. She stayed five months in a relationship. Her mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law used to abuse her for dowry and instigate her husband to abuse her. Her in-laws were very greedy and were not satisfied with the dowry given by her parents at the time of marriage and even demanded for more things and cash. Her in-laws harassed her by imposing restriction on food, clothes, sleep; visiting her parents’ home, and even mother-in-law did not allowed her to talk to her parents in her absence. Mohan was alcoholic and much of his income was spent on alcohol. After marriage within a week he verbally abused and slapped her. From that time, whenever he was drunk, she knows that he would come in an angry mood and the night would end up with her physical violence.

He used to beat her with a belt, a wooden stick or anything that would come his way. She remembered him beating her with a belt using the metal part of it. He also used shoes and on several occasions, used his bare hands. Several times he burnt her hands with cigarette and beaten her like animals. She didn’t disclose any thing for three months because she knew that if she left her husband that it would be difficult for her younger sister to get married. She lost her weight and charm within three months. Her mother continuously requested her mother-in-law to send her to her maternal home. At last she allowed her to go to her parent’s home for two days, but in the evening of the same day her husband and uncle came there and started
misbehaving with her and hit her on her head with a jug. That day her mother came to know about the cruel behaviour of her husband. Next day her mother talked to her mother-in-law but her mother-in-law too misbehaved with her. Then her mother complained to the panchayat about the misconduct of her son-in-law and his uncle. They misbehaved even in the panchayat. Panchayat somehow managed the situation and compromised them to stay together and assured in future he and his family shall not misbehave with her. With this assurance she went back to her in-laws, but the situation to got more worse. Every time they commented and taunted her for dowry and for the complaint and beaten her. She got mentally disturbed, lost her weight and not able to sit and stand herself. Then a panchayat member called her mother and informed her about her situation and told that if she wanted her daughter alive then she should bring her back from her in-laws and her mother took her back to the home.

She made a complaint to the police but they didn’t register her case because her husband had bribed them not to file a case. When she insisted for lodging a complaint then a police personnel asked to her for some unacceptable favor. Furiously she said to the police personnel that if you can’t protect and provide justice to the victims then they should wear bangles and stay back at home. Then the policeman got angry on her. She then decided to visit the superintendent of police office and made a complaint against the officials who refused to register her complaint. Only after that they registered her case and forwarded to protection officer for further process.

Protection officer asked her about the violence inflicted on her and with her consent protection officer forwarded her case to court. During this period her husband hired gundas (hooligans) for killing her. After two months of court proceeding she filed a case for divorce also. Within one year she got divorced from her husband and
at present she is working in a mobile shop and earning Rs. 3500 per month and supporting her mother also.

**Case Study-6**

Suman (30) and Bunty (35) have been married for 16 years. She got married when she was 14 years old. Her marriage was an arranged marriage. Suman and her husband were from lower class, choudhary (OBC) caste, hindu families. Suman was illiterate whereas Bunty had studied till middle (8th) standard. They had two daughters.

Her husband had his own business and earned Rs. 6000 per month. Family environment was very troublesome. Bunty was alcoholic and much of his income was spent on alcohol. After marriage within a week he had started abusing her and even slapped her. When he was intoxicated, he was a violent man. After getting drunk her husband found some or the other reason to beat her. Her husband used to kick her, threaten her, used weapon to beat her and even poured kerosene to burn her. Her husband even forced her to have sex in front of their children. Her husband opened her cloths in front of their daughters and if she restricted him, her husband would beat her and hit her at her sexual parts. Her husband frequently forced her into sexual acts against her will. Her husband assaulted her physically if she resisted.

Her children grew up with a feeling of insecurity because they had suffered a lot of abuse from their father. Their study had been adversely affected due to financial constraints.

Unable to bear physical, sexual and psychological assaults with many episodes, she left her husband’s home and came back to her parents’ home. She filed a case with panchayat so many times about his conduct except sexual abuse. panchayat people were well acquainted with her husbands’ character. More than ten
times, compromise was done and instructions were given to him. Every time her husband promised not to beat her but nothing actually changed. Her neighbours tried to protect her at times but her husband used very bad language for them and the neighbours too stopped interfering in their matter. Then she filed a case with Police still her husband was not punished for his demeanor and the case was forwarded to some agency. They criticized her for raising such petty family issues publicly and no fruitful result came up in her favour.

At last Suman decided to take divorce from him and it was decided that the elder daughter would stay with his father and the younger would stay with her mother. After divorce she began to stay with her grandmother. The very next day of divorce she found her daughter standing outside the grandmother’s home. Her elder daughter told that father forced her to sleep with him she refused to do so. The next morning when her daughter told the last night incident to a lady living in her neighbourhood, the lady gave her daughter money to run away. Now the elder daughter is also staying with her.

Suman is working in an office as a maid and earning Rs. 2,500 per month. It’s very difficult for her to manage all the expenses with this small amount but still she is happy because she is free from that bad relationship. She is staying happily without any fear of physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

Case Study-7

Anu was born in a family where her father, was a senior pharmacist in government hospital, her mother was a housewife. She had two brothers. She was the eldest of all. She belonged to schedule caste and was from a middle class Hindu family. She was a graduate.
She got married when she was 26 years old. Her marriage was a arranged marriage. Her husband Ramesh was secondary pass and worked in Army. After her marriage, Anu lived with Ramesh along with Ramesh’s mother, father, sister and brother. The couple has one son. Problems started for Anu from the very first day. Her mother-in-law hated her because she was not satisfied with the dowry given. Her mother-in-law made her work hard whole day. She was forced to do all the household chores. She was given little time to rest. Anu used to wake up at 4 am and worked hard till late in the night. Her mother-in-law scolded her for small mistakes. She was affected psychologically. She was like servant in that house. At times she was denied of food, clothing and shelter.

Her brother-in-law tried to sexually abuse her, he hugged her from behind and offered her to make relations with him, she shouted loudly and complained to her mother-in-law and to her husband on phone but nobody believed her.

Her mother-in-law even tried to turn Ramesh against Anu. She did not allow her to interact with her husband on phones and at home whenever he came on leave for a month or two. Her husband was alcoholic. After marriage within a week he verbally abused her. When he was intoxicated, was a violent man. After getting drunk he used to beat her and made issues of petty things. Her husband blamed her not only for dowry but also for not doing household work properly and even mentally harassed her for not respecting his mother. He used to beat her, kicked her, and threatened her and it went on daily. In that house there was no security she could not bolt her room. She closed her room with the help of bamboo and spent her nights in fear.

Her in-laws and husband became more violent day by day. They tortured her mentally but luckily a nearby shopkeeper gave her some money. With the help of the money she went to the police station to register her complaint against her husband and
in-laws. But no one reported from her in-laws house to the police station therefore no action could be taken by the police officials. After few days she again visited the police station and came to know that no complaint was registered by the police officials. So again she gave an application and demanded acknowledgement for that application then they told her to wait for some time. For registering her complaint she waited for four hours but the police officials humiliated and criticized her for raising family issue. Police has done nothing as they are corrupt and have taken some money from her in-laws for not investigating into the matter and blamed her for everything. They only forwarded the case to protection officer. Protection officer asked her whether she wanted to forward her case to court or not. With her consent protection officer forwarded her case to court. She appointed her own lawyer. She found an honest and cooperative lawyer.

Anu with her son is staying with her parents. Society always blames the woman and it is so shameful that in our society a woman is itself an enemy of other woman even her mother did not support her and made comments for the case. Her mother did not allow her father to go with her to the court because they were scared that else everyone in the society will come to know about the case and it’s very shameful for them. If she asked for some money from her mother she replied that at present she did not have even a single penny but if her brother asked for money she gave him. Parents can earn and save money for sons not for daughter.

She is getting Rs.3000 as maintenance and she is working in the school and earns Rs. 2500 per month.

Ramesh has done second marriage but he has not registered it with panchayat so she can’t prove his marriage in the court.
Her parents are also insisting for marriage and always ask for boy of her choice. But she is not interested in marriage and she even develops a thought that nobody will accept her with her son.

**Case Study-8**

Rekha (36) and Praveen (42) have been married for 18 years. They both belong to the Scheduled caste and their marriage was an arranged one. Rekha’s parents had given all the household items and cash as dowry in marriage.

The couple has two sons. Praveen is a shopkeeper and earns approximately Rs.4500/- per month. Rekha and Praveen along with their two sons live in a kutcha house within the city limits.

Praveen is an immoral person with no values. He is an alcoholic, takes drugs, and engages in gambling. To make matters worse, he suspects that Rekha is having an extra marital relation. He would frequently come home drunk late in the night and would pick up a row with his wife.

Praveen would lose his temper in the middle of a quarrel and would start hurting Rekha physically. He also abused her verbally. His physical assaults were so brutal that sometimes, Rekha had to be hospitalized. Many times she was also denied of basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Rekha wanted to work and earn money for herself and children education but he did not allow her to work anywhere because he was suspicious just seeing Rekha talking to someone made him furious. He was short tempered and assaulted her physically.

As a result of the violence inflicted on her, Rekha now suffers from psychological depression. She has lost interest in life and is careless about her appearance.
Their children have also been badly affected by the violence. Their studies have been adversely affected mainly due to financial constraints. They are unable to pay fees timely. She said they didn’t pay fees for the last three month because his husband spends money on smack and alcohol.

Domestic violence has taken its toll on the relationship of the couple. She filed a case with the police and sub-divisional magistrate about the smack and drug supply but they disclosed her name to Praveen. So he abused her very badly that his wife filed a complaint. Police personnel’s are corrupt they take money from smackers that’s why they take no action against them.

Police has forwarded her case to protection officer. Protection officer asked her that whether she wants to file a case with the court or not. She refuses to file a case because whatever his husband earns most of that part he spends on smack and alcohol. By knowing this that her husband can’t pay anything as maintenance she refused to take any further action. There is no place to go; her parents are old and dependent on her brother and sister-in-law. She has to spend time for building future of her children. Now days she sits with her husband in the shop to save something for family.

Case Study-9

Kranti was a bright student during her school days. But, she had to discontinue her studies after Std. XII due to her family circumstances. Her father died when she was studying in 6th standard. So all the family expenses are met by her elder brother and his wife always comments that she was burden on them and mentally harasses her mother. One day a hawker was selling bangles and he gave a proposal for marriage to family for Kranti. He told that the boy was working in a company and they will not
demand dowry from them. Hence within a year she got married to Shekar, who belonged to an orthodox Haryana family. They have one daughter.

After her marriage, Kranti lived with her husband along with Shekars’ mother, father, and elder brother. Her husband was not employed in any company he was a labourer and Shekar’s elder brother was rapist and was punished for two years jail. The culture of Himachal and Haryana is totally different, in Haryana women are not allowed to go outside the home and woman have to cover her face and her plates of hairs from the back also. Shekar is an immoral person with no values. He is an alcoholic, takes drugs, and engages in gambling. He would frequently come home drunk late in the night and would pick up a row with his wife. Her husband has some perverse sexual behaviours. He would frequently force her into sexual acts against her will. Her brother-in-law tries to sexually abuse her, she shouted very loudly but nobody came to protect her because it was normal practice in that area even her mother-in-law scolds her for shouting and forced her to make relations with him. In the evening she told all this to her husband but he was normal. No one from the neighbors came to protect her because it was a normal practice there. From every home there comes the noise of weeping but no one was there to protect those women including Kranti.

She was prevented from interacting with neighbours and forced to do all the household chores. No one helped her. Despite all the hard work that she did, her mother-in-law often scolded her for silly matters.

After two years she came to Himachal with her husband. She insisted him to work and earn in Himachal but due to her sister-in-law she left for Haryana. She gave birth to girl child. They tortured her physically, mentally and sexually. Unable to bear this she left her husband’s home and went to her parents’ home. Thus began a period
of her life, with many episodes, during which she would go to her husband’s home only to return to her parents’ home unable to bear the violence inflicted by her husband and in-laws. Shekar promised her that he will not beat her so again after two months she returns back to Haryana. However, there was no change in the situation and she left the house of her in-laws and her husband forced her to leave her daughter behind. Thus she was separated from her daughter. Even at her parent’s home it’s not easy to spend an easy life because her sister-in-law also comments.

She filed a case with police and court for the custody of her daughter and domestic violence. But the court is saying that Shekar is not collecting the summons and it’s very difficult for court to take her daughter back from Haryana. She is very upset for her daughter because her brother-in-law had spent two years in jail for rape charges. Her daughter is not in a protected place. She also filed a case with NGO’s but they have done nothing to protect her daughter.

Law is not meant for poor’s and women. She lost her faith on judiciary, Police and NGOs also. She has no ray of hope coming from any side.

Case Study-10

Maimuna (39) and Abdul (52) have been married for 20 years. They hailed from families of different socio-economic status. Abdul belonged to a middle class family with a family business as the source of income. Maimuna’s family was economically weaker than that of her husband.

During the first few years Maimuna’s married life was relatively happy. The couple had four children. Problems started when Abdul entered into an extra marital relationship with a lady in the neighbourhood. After this, he would frequently come late at home. Some days he would not come at all. He even stopped giving financial support to his wife. Maimuna was deeply hurt by her husband’s conduct. When she
confronted Abdul on this issue, he hurt her both physically and psychologically. He punched her and broke her teeth’s.

Unable to bear the atrocities committed by her husband, Maimuna went to stay at her parents’ home. She stayed there for six months but eventually returned because her parents were financially weak and hence was unable to support her. At her husband’s house, the violence inflicted on her continued unabated. As a result of her long suffering at the hands of her husband, she went into depression. She lost appetite and day by day her health was started deteriorating. On several occasions she even thought of committing suicide. She hates her husband and has lost interest in leading a life with him. She left the home and stayed with her parents. She filed a case with police and they forwarded the case to protection officer. Protection officer asked her whether she want to forward her case to court or not. With the consent of Maimuna, protection officer forwarded the case to the court and provided her free legal service.

She said that from the past one year the court was continuously extending the date of hearing and no punishment was given to her husband. She wanted that court should instruct Abdul to change his behaviour so that she could lead a peaceful life. She wants to stay with her husband because her parents are poor and cannot support her.

In conclusion, these cases illustrated the nature, extent and intensity of domestic violence that occur within the families with the women. Additionally, we have seen that women are not mere subject of the violence or the control context, but are active agents in coping with the consequences of violence and control.