

Forms of Domestic Violence: Causes & Concerns

With Special Reference to Rajasthan

B.R.Dugar

Department of Nonviolence and Peace

Director, Research

Jain Vishva Bharati University

Ladnun (Rajasthan) INDIA

Abstract:

The Paper analyses the forms of violence as faced by the victims of domestic violence which is presented under the heads – physical and sexual violence, psychological & emotional violence, economic harassment, exploitation caused by demands for dowry, physical abuse during pregnancy; and extent of violence faced by the victims, strategies to protest domestic violence & abuse, etc. This paper also includes the identity of the perpetrators and the methods they adopt to use power & control over the life of victims.

Key Words: Domestic Violence, Violence against women

Introduction

Life in the family is a mix of both positive and negative aspects. It is a double-edged weapon. On the one hand it fosters love, compassion, and fulfilment, while on the other it is a place of exploitation, oppression, and violence. There is an element of both in varying degrees, if not either one or the other. There is a general view that every member of the family has to contribute to building of a healthy environment for the proper growth and development of the family and its members. However, it rarely happens so and studying family processes that foster oppression and violence against women and girls and the various dimensions involved in it is in fact necessary so that necessary action could be taken at an appropriate level – both micro and macro. Therefore, one goal of this paper is to develop an understanding of the processes and the context in which domestic violence occurs in daily family life and the various forms of abuse and exploitation are identified – physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, economic and institutional. This effort would probably help in deciphering and highlighting the concerns of victims which could possibly lead to developing interventions and support services at the family and community level in the context of appropriate

policies and legislative frameworks. The other goal of this paper is to understand the nuances involved in intimate partner relationships so that the subtle ways in which intimate partners and their other family members adopt to harass and exploit could be culled out even if they are happening in the case of a few or one or two individual victims. This is essential for developing appropriate strategies for tackling domestic violence given the complexity of the issue and the secrecy in which it is continuing to happen in the so-called safety of our homes. This will possibly help to make a difference in the quality of life of individual victims who seek and need help & support and redressal of their cases through the formal systems of justice delivery.

Although some researches which have already been done highlight many factors that may contribute to family violence, considerable work has to be still done, both in terms of developing an empirical understanding of the causes and nature of family violence, and in changing peoples' attitudes about this significant social problem. However, there is still a lack of understanding in the public domain as regards the forms of domestic violence and myths continue to persist as regards its causes.

Marital violence is a multi-factorial phenomenon and characteristics of the abuser, the victim, the marital relationship and the wider social context have all been found to contribute to the occurrence and maintenance of the cycle of violence (Frude¹, 1990; Holtzworth-Munroe, Meehan, Rehman & Marshall², 2002). A personal history of abuse; a high level of the aggressiveness; orthodox and conservative attitudes; gendered beliefs; antisocial personality disorder; alcohol abuse; and doubting the character of the women have all been found to characterise abusers. Victims, on the other hand, have been found to be feeble and low in self-esteem, inadequate levels of education; lack of employment and economic security; a general sense of helplessness; inadequate social support from the neighbourhood, and the like that has contributed to the perpetuation of the abusive relationship.

Research methodology

▪ Area, Universe and Units of the study

The study has been conducted in select cities in Rajasthan and it covers cases of domestic violence that have been registered by women or their kin in –

- a) NGOs which are working on gender issues and domestic violence or those who are providing services to the victims of violence
- b) Police Stations within the city limits of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Udaipur in Rajasthan

▪ Units of the study

- a) The study focused on woman victims who were helped by NGOs (Service Providers) and in seeking justice and for the redressal of their cases or those who registered cases of violence in a police station within the city limits of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Udaipur in Rajasthan or sought redress through the courts and those.
- b) Information from the representatives of NGOs who are working for victims of domestic violence were collected as regards the difficulties faced while maneuvering the cases of their clients in seeking redress from the police or legal agencies.
- c) Police personnel handling cases of domestic violence were interviewed to assess their attitude to women victims who sought their help. Information relating to the difficulties these officials face was also culled out.

▪ Sampling frame and sampling method

- i. Cases registered with the NGOs/Police over the past 5-10 years formed the sampling frame from which the units studied were selected on the basis of stratified random sampling method. These helped in assessing the nature of the problem of victims and the type of abuse or harassment faced as recorded in the FIR.
- ii. Some police personnel who represented the police stations within the city limits of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Udaipur in Rajasthan were also interviewed. Purposive sampling or snow-balling technique (non-probability sampling method) was used because those who were handling VAW cases only could throw light on this topic. However only a few police personnel interviewed were willing to cooperate in giving details.
- iii. Random sampling was adopted to select and interview victims of domestic violence who sought the help of NGOs for redressal of their problem. All such victims who approached NGOs for help comprised the sampling frame from which a total of 200 victims were selected and interviewed.

▪ Data collection Methods and Tools

Data collection was undertaken with the help of multiple tools and instruments to collect primary information from diverse sources. The principle of triangulation determined the need for collection of data from a variety of sources and the use of variety of tools. A mix of

Interview Schedules, Interview Guide, and Questionnaire was used for collecting information from victims, NGO functionaries and the Police respectively.

Forms of domestic violence

India is a unique society that has all the ingredients for regression than development. Orthodox and age old practices run parallel and even dominate certain areas of life that create and sustain conditions of backwardness; inequity and iniquitous patriarchal relationships; social evils like child marriage, dowry, female feticide, etc.

Table No - 1

Relation between Economic status and Demand for Dowry

Sl. No.	Family Income *	Demand for Dowry		Grand Total
		Yes	No	
1.	Less than 2000	1	4	5
2.	2000-4000	3	25	28
3.	4000-6000	5	37	42
4.	6000-8000	5	22	27
5.	Above 8000	30	58	88
6.	No Income	2	8	10
	Grand Total	46	154	200

* Income per month in Indian Rupees

It is evident from the above table that the demand for dowry is more prominent in the higher income groups than in those families which have low or very low income levels. The phenomenon and problem of dowry is typical to middle income groups in middle income groups. This has to an extent been validated by this study.

Table No - 2

Period of Violence faced by Respondents

Sl. No.	Period of Violence	Freq.	Percentage
1.	0-6 Months	5	2.5
2.	7-12 Months	10	5.0
3.	1-2 Years	38	19.0
4.	3-5 Years	55	27.5
5.	5-7 Years	31	15.5
6.	More than 7 Years	61	30.5
	Total	200	100.0

The above table shows that 30.5 percent of respondent are the ones who have been tolerating domestic violence for more than 7 years and they constitute the highest number of respondents suffering violence for the maximum period of time. The next highest that is 27.5 percent of the victims faced violence for period of between 3 to 5 years. The third highest number i.e., 15.5 percent of respondents tolerated violence from 5 to 7 years; while 19 percent were being harassed for a period ranging from 1 to 2 years. Only 7.5 percent of victims faced domestic violence for around one year or less.

It was found from the survey that most of the women tolerate violence for quite a long period of time because they first tried to solve the problem on their own, did not complain about the ill-treatment to anyone and tolerated it till it became unbearable. They tolerated the abuse and accepted the abusive relationship for extended periods because most of the victims thought that everything would be all right one day or the other. However, when violence went on extending without any sign of abating and that too when it became unbearable only then did they file complaint with the police or Protection Officer or the Mahila Thana or sought the help of the NGO service provider or others.

Table No - 3

Violence Faced by Respondents during last month

Sl. No.	Violence during last month	Freq.	Percentage
1.	Psychological	80	40.0
2.	Emotional	64	32.0
3.	Physical	40	22.0
4.	Economic	12	06.0
	Total	200	100.0

As regards the nature of violence that the victims had faced in the last month from the date on which the survey was undertaken, it was found that almost all the victims had faced some form of violence or the other except those who had stayed away from the abusive relationship. However, from among the various forms of violence faced when the victims were asked to rank the most dominating form of violence they had faced it was revealed that psychological and emotional violence was faced by majority of them and next in line was physical and economic violence. The above table shows that during last month 72 percent of victims of domestic violence studied faced psychological and emotional violence, taken together. It was interesting to note that only 22 percent reported of physical violence that was inflicted upon them. The study proves the fact that on a daily basis psychological and emotional abuse or violence is more prevalent than physical violence. Of course verbal abuse, neglect, lack of care and attention, etc. may be creating the ground for and leading to physical abuse. Only 6 percent of respondents reported to have faced economic exploitation.

Table No - 4

Violence started after marriage with Respondents

Sl. No.	Violence started after marriage	Response
1.	After some years	52 (26 %)
2.	After some time of marriage	48 (24 %)
3.	From marriage onwards	36 (18 %)
4.	After one year	32 (16 %)
5.	After few months	12 (06 %)
6.	After death of husband	08 (04%)

This table reveals that violence started with most of the respondents (26%) after some years of marriage and with 24 percent of respondents violence started after some time of marriage. The above data shows that in case of 18 percent of respondents violence started from the very day of marriage itself. For these women the ability to cope with violence in a new setting and among unacquainted people created lot of psychological stress in them. Whereas with 16 percent respondents violence started after one year of marriage. Some respondents (6%) were those with whom violence started after few months of marriage. The death of husband can also lead to the ill-treatment of the wife in the family. This was found in only 2 respondents whose harassment and abuse started after the death of their husband. It can, however, be said that domestic violence mostly started after some time or years of marriage.

Table No - 5

Nature of Problems faced by the Victims

Sl. No.	Problems faced by violence	Response
1.	Psychological stress	112 (56%)
2.	Physical	52 (26%)
3.	Economic	52 (26%)
4.	Depend on mother's house for expenses	48 (24%)
5.	Depend on others for meeting own expenses	20 (10%)
6.	Worried about the future of children	20 (10%)
7.	Living alone	20 (10%)
8.	Mental harassment	16 (08%)
9.	Health problem	16 (08%)
10.	Others	48 (24%)

This table shows that 56 percent of respondents faced psychological stress due to the harm or abuse inflicted on them by their spouses or in-laws and 26 percent each faced physical abuse and economic difficulties. 24 percent of respondents faced problem of dependency on mother's house for expenses while another 10 percent had to depend for their expenses on someone or the other. Stress also got increased when some of the victims started to think about their children's future if they happened to decide to live alone. Problem related to mental harassment and health inadequacies was faced by 8 percent each from among the respondents. 24 percent of respondents faced other problems like feelings of insecurity or safety, inability to afford the upbringing of children, fear of death, abortion, fear of being thrown out of the house, negative identity developed in society, dilemma to leave house or not, unhealthy atmosphere in house, inability to take responsibility of children all alone, etc. This research reaches arrives at the conclusion that most of the women victims were facing some form of psychological stress always which was difficult to cope on a daily basis along with other problems that makes life difficult for them.

Forms of violence

Physical Abuse & Violence

The most common form of violence next to psychological and emotional violence faced by women in a marital relationship is physical abuse that also takes various forms – viz. shoving & pushing, slapping, hitting with clenched fist or some object at hand, etc.

Table No - 6

Distribution of Respondents who faced Physical Violence

Sl. No.	Physical Violence	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Yes	173	86.5
2.	No	27	13.5
	Total	200	100.0

The survey revealed that majority of the victims, i.e., 86.5 percent, had faced mild or extreme forms of domestic violence inflicted upon them either by the husband or some member of the in-law's house. Only 13.5 percent said that till date they have not been physically abused even though they have faced other forms of violence i.e., psychological and emotional abuse. The form and extent of physical violence faced by victims is given in the table below.

Table No - 7

Distribution of Respondents by Forms of Physical Violence

Sl.No.	Forms of Physical Violence	Freq.*	Percent
1.	No Physical Violence	27	13.5
2.	Body blows/hitting	150	75.0
3.	Slapping	40	20.0
4.	No food (less food)	26	13.0
5.	Hitting after getting drunk	24	12.0
6.	Hits with anything at hand	21	10.5
7.	In-laws provoke to hit	14	7.0
8.	Attempt to kill and inflicts injury / fire	14	7.0
9.	Tearing apart hair	9	4.5
10.	Hits children	7	3.5
11.	Twisting of arms	6	3.0
12.	Hitting with broom	4	2.0
13.	Hits those who rescue	4	2.0
14.	Threatens with knife / scissor	4	2.0
15.	Damage to eye	3	1.5
16.	Broken limb	2	1.0
17.	Injures with burning wood	2	1.0
18.	Hits head on wall, iron rod	2	1.0

N=200

Table No. 7 gives a clear picture of the forms and nature physical abuse that is being done to women in the so called safe haven of the home. Thrashing or battering of the women was the most common form of physical violence with 2/3rd of the respondent victims (75%) saying so. This often starts with a verbal duel or use of foul language in most of the cases or in a fit of anger. While 20 percent said that they have been only slapped, 12 percent get violent after getting drunk and start to thrash blindly; others tear apart the victim's hair by pulling them or dragging the victims by the hair (4.5%). There are also those (10.5%) who hit the victims with any object that they could lay hands on. Broom, bamboo, wood, burning wood have been used to either hit or threaten the victims to cause harm or attempting to control the life of the spouse. Some reported that their head was hit hard against the wall too. 7 percent claim that there have been attempts to kill the victims or cause serious bodily harm. Some even threatened to burn the victims.

Table No - 8

Police Complaints filed by victims facing Physical Violence

Sl. No.	Forms of Physical Violence	Freq.*	Police Intervention	Percent
Less serious forms of physical violence				
1.	No Physical Violence	27	12	44.4
2.	In-laws provoke to hit	14	6	42.9
3.	Body blows/hitting	150	59	39.9
4.	Tearing apart hair	9	3	33.3
5.	Slapping	40	13	32.5
6.	No food (less food)	26	8	30.8
7.	Hits with anything at hand	21	6	28.6
8.	Hitting after getting drunk	24	5	20.8
More serious forms of physical violence				
9.	Broken limb	2	2	100.0
10.	Hitting with broom	4	3	75.0
11.	Threatens with knife / scissor	4	3	75.0
12.	Attempt to kill and inflicts injury / fire	14	10	71.4
13.	Damage to eye	3	2	66.7
14.	Twisting of arms	6	3	50.0
15.	Hits those who rescue	4	2	50.0
16.	Injures with burning wood	2	1	50.0
17.	Hits children	7	3	42.9
18.	Hits head on wall, iron rod	2	0	00.0

Table No- 8 represents data that is a cross-tabulation between physical violence and complaints filed with the Police shows that some of the more serious abusive acts have prompted victims to take the ultimate step when they could not bear the abuse any more even after trying to adjust with the abusive relationship. It is also very evident from the above table that the most severe and serious forms of physical assault that led to serious injuries like a broken limb, damaged eye, frequent twisting of arms causing severe pain and agony, skin-burns, etc. have caused immense fear in the victims and they were put to the wall without any alternative but to file complaint in the Police Station against their husbands and/or in-laws.

Psychological and Emotional Violence

Table No - 9

Distribution of Respondents by Forms of Physical Violence

Sl. No.	Forms of Physical Violence	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Verbal abuse	148	74.0
2.	Mental harassment (Making Mockery & Taunting)	76	38.0
3.	Threat to throw out of house	57	28.5
4.	Doubts character	38	19.0
5.	Threat to life (fire, knife, during pregnancy)	38	19.0
6.	Does not like her	35	17.5
7.	Does not talk properly	31	15.5
8.	Stays separately	21	10.5
9.	Threat to divorce	20	10.0
10.	Denies meeting / talking to relatives & friends	19	9.5
11.	No concern for children	17	8.5
12.	Denies visit to parent's house	14	7.0
13.	Illicit relationship	14	7.0
14.	Alcohol / drug addiction	13	6.5
15.	Locks indoors (inside bathroom, latrine, home)	12	6.0
16.	Forcing for health check-up in maternal home	11	5.5
17.	False acquisition of Theft	10	5.0
18.	In-laws provoke to do bad behaviour	9	4.5
19.	No male child/no Child	8	4.0
20.	Threatens to remarry	8	4.0
21.	Ignores, discrimination	7	3.6
22.	Forcefully sends to parents house	7	3.5
23.	Issueless	7	3.5
24.	Asked to stay away separately	6	3.0
25.	Friendship with women	5	2.5
26.	Denies moving out of house	5	2.5
27.	Denial of education	4	2.0
28.	Denies children to stay with respondent	4	2.0
29.	Fighting with neighbour	4	2.0
30.	Snatching child	4	2.0
31.	Finding fault in work	3	1.5
32.	Suicide (Self)	3	1.5
33.	Threatens to leave house	3	1.5
34.	Complains children being illicit	3	1.5

35.	Low status	3	1.5
36.	Throws utensils	2	1.0
37.	Forcefully marriage at early age	2	1.0
38.	Sudden disappearance from home for months	2	1.0
39.	Theft / hides many things	1	0.5
40.	Attempt to remove from job	0	0.0

N=200

Table No. 9 tries to expand the range and nature of psychological abuse and harassment as faced by the victims. The most frequent form of psychological violence is verbal abuse that was faced by 74 percent of victims of domestic violence. This is often combined with or is followed by physical violence. Another major group of women, that is 38 percent, were pained at the way in which they were taunted and mentally harassed. When cross-tabulated with other parameters it is learnt that mental harassment is caused by a variety of factors like doubting the character of the wife, dislike because of bad looks as perceived by the husband, threat to cause harm and injury and threat to throw the victim out of the house and other reasons.

Some victims, i.e., 28.5 percent, said that they were under constant threat of being thrown out of the house. Such threats were given both by the husband and his family. Character assassination of the victims by the husband has often been associated with domestic violence. 19 percent of victims said that they were doubted for having loose character and that they were having illicit relationships with other men in the neighbourhood. Another 19 percent never missed an opportunity to threaten the victims with dire consequences if they reported about harassment to others. Use of firewood, knife and other sharp instruments were branded at times in order to create fear in their mind. 17.5 percent said that their husbands were not satisfied with their looks and body; as a result almost 50% of them do not talk to them at all or properly. In between 8 to 15 respondents have said that their perpetrator husbands have been threatening of divorce, or leaving the house and walking out of the relationship, stay separately and do not maintain a health conjugal life, prevent the victims from meeting friends and relatives or visiting the parent's house and the like; all these leading to a loss of peace of mind and substantial mental harassment. Immoral activities of their husbands in terms of their illicit relationship, addiction to alcohol and drugs, false acquisition of theft, threat to remarry, etc. has had a telling effect on the victims since they find it difficult to adjust to or fight back; this has been reported by 3-4 percent of the respondents. It needs to be reiterated that these

figures regarding various forms of psychological harassment are insignificant in terms of absolute numbers, but the fact is that these different forms of exploitation of women do exist in Indian society as elsewhere and need to be identified, understood and redressed for the welfare of each and every victim and to achieve the avowed goal of eliminating all forms of exploitation of women and the violence they face in much subtle ways.

Sexual Violence

In comparison to other forms of domestic violence sexual violence is not that prominent as the findings of the study suggests. Only 34.5 percent of the respondents interviewed said to have been sexually exploited or abused. Can it be hypothesized that since Indian Society is conservative in nature and Rajasthan in particular is an orthodox state the respondents might have shown hesitation in revealing the truth relating to the conjugal life of their partners.

Table No - 10

Distribution of Respondents who faced Sexual Violence

Sl. No.	Whether sexually abused?	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Yes	69	34.5
2.	No	131	65.5
	Total	200	100.0

Researching on the forms and extent of sexual violence is not an easy domain especially in an orthodox and paternalistic Indian society. As expected the respondents were not very comfortable to answer in detail to questions relating to explicit forms of sexual abuse by their husbands. However, a few of the responses that could be collected to highlight the form and extent of sexual abuse is presented in the table below.

Table No - 11

Distribution of Respondents by Form of Sexual Violence

Sl. No.	Whether sexually abused?	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Forced sex	29	14.5
2.	Denial of conjugal relationships/unsuccessful	16	8.0
3.	Forced sex after drinking	12	6.0
4.	Illicit relationship	10	5.0
5.	Father-in-law attempts physical relationship	3	1.5
6.	Sex in-front of children	3	1.5
7.	Forcing to have illicit relationship	2	1.0

Forcing to have sex has been the common complaint among those victims which comprises 20 percent of the respondents interviewed. From among these those who had to suffer forced sex by a drunken husband was 6 percent; while majority of the others had forced sex in their full consciousness. A negligible few of the husbands even did not hesitate to have sex before their children, which was an embarrassing situation for the victims. From among the three such cases two did it often under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Some of the victims, i.e., 8 percent, were of the opinion that they were denied the right to a healthy conjugal relationship; this they considered as a form of sexual violence. This interpretation matches the feminist perspective of women in control. But the number of such cases is few and rare and hence cannot be generalized.

Economic Abuse or Violence

Indian women traditionally have been limited to the four walls in the family doing household chores. Without having any personal source of income women find themselves to lack control over their lives. Those who have their own source of income, either doing wage labour or through any job, they too do not have the freedom to spend this money as per their own wishes. As a result both the categories that is those who are employed or the unemployed face the same fate. Women have to face a lot of economic hardship in meeting their day-to-day expenditure.

Table No - 12

Distribution of Respondents who suffered Economic Abuse

Sl. No.	Response	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Yes	171	85.5
2.	No	29	14.5
	Total	200	100.0

Table No. 12 proves the point that majority of the victims facing domestic violence also face economic hardship or difficulties which is both economic and socially determined. A majority of the victims, i.e., 85.5 percent, reported of being economically abused or deprived of economic freedom. When cross-tabulated with personal income of the victims it was revealed that majority of them belonged to the no or low income category. However, we cannot generalise that economic abuse or neglect, etc. was determined by the income category to which the victims or their families belonged to.

Table No - 13

Distribution of Respondents by Form of Economic Violence

Sl. No.	Nature Economic Abuse	Freq.*	Percent
1.	No money for expenses	136	68.0
2.	Does not take responsibility	34	17.0
3.	Does not take for health check-up	30	15.0
4.	Refuses expenses for children	26	13.0
5.	Snatching of jewelry / money	23	11.5
6.	Does not provide house hold items	21	10.5
7.	Demands money	19	9.5
8.	Wastage of money in liquor / drug	18	9.0
9.	Denial of self-employment	14	7.0
10.	Refuse expenses for education	12	6.0
11.	Demands to get money from parents	9	4.5
12.	Does not allow to spend self-earned money	8	4.0
13.	Denial of property right	8	4.0
14.	Wastage of money in gambling /bad habits	8	4.0
15.	Forcibly took money from bank / ATM	5	2.5
16.	Maternal child forced to bear delivery expenses	4	2.0
17.	Gives money to parent-in-laws	4	2.0
18.	Refuse to work (husband)	4	2.0
19.	Mortgage of house / land	3	1.5
20.	Control over finance	3	1.5
21.	Sold jewelry	3	1.5
22.	Attempt to remove from the job	2	1.0
23.	No help in marriage of children	1	0.5

Table No - 13 gives a detailed picture of the nature and forms of economic abuse or exploitation done on the victims as reported by them. The most frequent of all complaints of economic violence is the denial of money (68%) by the husband or the in-laws to meet the various expenses that they have to make in maintaining the family and for meeting out various forms of expenses. The other form of economic abuse is the denial of spending on the health of the victim whenever she falls ill. This was

reported by 17 percent of the victims. Some of the other typical forms of economic abuse are refusal to meet the expenses for children, snatching of jewelry or money, refusal to provide house hold items, demand for money, wastage of money in liquor or drugs, denying the victim to work outside for self-employment, refusal to spend money on education of the victim when the victim is desiring to further her education, and so on.

Violence at the time of Pregnancy:

One of the major hazards or risk faced by married women is during pregnancy. Physical violence during pregnancy has also been found to occur in many researches. It is may be believed that normally a person would not be so inhuman as to cause harm to the foetus accidentally during a violent episode.

Table No - 14

**Distribution of Respondents
who received any form of Violence During Pregnancy**

Sl. No.	Violence during Pregnancy	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Yes	128	64.0
2.	No	72	36.0
	Total	200	100.0

It is not uncommon that violence on women is inflicted even during pregnancy. Many of the respondent victims were not able to understand as to how men and in-laws could be so inhuman to women and even to their to-be-born child to inflict such violence on the would-be-mother. A majority of the respondents, that is 64 percent, reported that they were physically, emotionally or sexually abused even at the time of pregnancy. The most common form of violence even during pregnancy was physical violence and verbal abuse. Besides, a combination of various forms of psychological and emotional abuse were reported by the respondents that is given in Table No.14.

Table No - 15

Nature of Violence During Pregnancy

Sl. No.	Nature of Violence during Pregnancy	Freq.*	Percent
1.	Physical violence	40	31.3
2.	Verbal violence	28	21.9
3.	Thrown out from house	14	10.9
4.	Lack of care and attention	13	10.2
5.	Forced abortion	09	7.0
6.	No doctor check-up	08	6.3
7.	Less food	07	5.5
8.	Forcing to give child-birth in maternal house	06	4.7
9.	No cooperation in house-hold work	06	4.7
10.	Derided upon for Miscarriage	04	3.1
11.	Forced sex	04	3.1
12.	Snatched financial savings	01	0.8

* N=200

Table No. 15 reveals that 31.3 percent of the respondent from among those who had conceived even once (128 respondents) faced physical violence and abuse even during pregnancy. 21.9 percent had to face verbal abuses most often and when cross tabulated it was found the 50% of these women were also not allowed to have food or given less food as punishment. 10.9 percent reported that they were asked to go out of the house or were thrown out of the house. These women mostly belonged to the 20-30 & 30-40 age group categories. The next category who faced emotional abuse in the form of lack of care and attention was 10.2 percent. When cross-tabulated with other forms of violence these women victims were not physically abused but were subjected to other forms of psychological abuse and harassment like verbal abuse, lack of medical attention and health check-up in case of frail health, none cooperation in house-hold chores, etc. Nine (i.e. 7%) respondents who conceived were forced to abort their child. Other forms of abuse and ill-treatment that ranged between 3 to 6 percent of the pregnant respondents were forcible deportation to maternal house to avoid the hassles of child-birth and perceived monetary savings,

non-cooperation in household work, blame for miscarriage, forced sex during advanced stages of pregnancy, etc.

Perpetrators of Violence

It is important to know about the perpetrators of domestic violence and the form of abuse each one of them may be inflicting upon the victim. This information is also essential for the fact that this would help in the efforts to focus of the nature of intervention that needs to be made in the family by different professionals who are supposed to deal with such clients who seek help. Table No. 16 gives a detailed picture of the nature of violence and abuse committed by various perpetrators locked in a domestic relationship.

Table No - 16

Distribution of Perpetrators by Types of Violence

Sl. No.	Perpetrator	Type of Violence					
		Physical	Psychological /Emotional	Sexual	Financial	Dowry related	During Pregnancy
3.	Husband	162 (81%)	177 (88.5%)	64 (32%)	162 (81%)	57 (28.5%)	51 (25.5%)
4.	Mother-in-Law	46 (23%)	69 (34.5%)	0	27 (13.5%)	45 (22.5%)	14 (7%)
5.	Father-in-Law	22 (11%)	39 (%)	0	14 (7%)	30 (15%)	7 (3.5%)
6.	Sister-in-Law	17 (8.5%)	24 (12%)	0	2 (1%)	14 (7%)	6 (3%)
7.	Brother-in-Law	23 (11.5%)	23 (11.5%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	12 (6%)	2 (1%)

N=200

The above table shows that husband is the most dominant perpetrator of domestic violence. In more than 80% cases he was found to be inflicting multiple forms of abuse or violence - physical, psychological/emotional and financial. The next in line in the family who commits most forms of abuse is the mother-in-law. The mother-in-law among all forms of violence or abuse inflicts psychological violence the maximum, followed by demand for dowry and related exploitation as also

physical violence. Next in line who abuses the women in the family are the father-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law respectively. Stray cases of violence were reported by other family members like son or members belonging to the maternal side.

Conclusion:

The most common form of violence next to psychological and emotional violence faced by women in a marital relationship is physical abuse that also takes various forms – viz. shoving & pushing, slapping, hitting with clenched fist or some object at hand, etc. The survey revealed that majority of the victims, i.e., 86.5 percent, had faced mild or extreme forms of domestic violence inflicted upon them either by the husband or some member of the in-law's house.

It is also clear that the husband has been found to be the most dominant and violent perpetrator of domestic violence. In more than 80% cases he was found to be inflicting multiple forms of abuse or violence - physical, psychological/emotional and financial. The next in line in the family who commits most forms of abuse is the mother-in-law. The mother-in-law among all forms of violence or abuse inflicts psychological violence the maximum, followed by demand for dowry and related exploitation as also physical violence. Next in line who abuses the women in the family are the father-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law respectively. Stray cases of violence were reported by other family members like son or members belonging to the maternal side.

References:

1. Frude, N. (1990). *Understanding Family Problems*. Chichester: Wiley.
2. Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Meehan, J., Rehman, U. & Marshall, A. (2002). Intimate partner violence. An Introduction for Couple Therapists. In A. Gurman & N. Jacobson (Eds), *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*, 3rd edn, pp. 441–465. New York: Guilford.