



## Domestic violence in India – A sociological study

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### Abstract-

Domestic violence is associated with violence suffered by a person from a blood relative in general and the violence suffered by a woman by her male members of the family in particular. As the report of a survey held in 2005 the domestic violence was 33.5% and 8.5% for sexual violence among women aged 15 to 59. The report of 2012 National Crime Records Bureau indicates crime rate of 46 per lakhs, Rape rate of 0.7 per lakhs and the dowry homicide rate of 0.7 per 1 lakhs and the domestic atrocities by husband or his relatives as per 5.9 per 100000. These reported homicide (6.2 per 100000 globally), crime and rape incidence rates per 100000 women for most nations.

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**Keywords-** Domestic violence, women, honor killing, sexual atrocities.

### Introduction-

Domestic violence means the violence suffered by a person from a blood relative in general and the violence suffered by a woman by her male members of the family in particular.

According to a survey held in 2005 the domestic violence was 33.5% and 8.5% for sexual violence among women aged 15 to 59. The report of 2012 National Crime Records Bureau indicates crime rate of 46 per lakhs, Rape rate of 0.7 per lakhs and the dowry homicide rate of 0.7 per 1 lakhs and the domestic atrocities by husband or his relatives as per 5.9 per 100000. These reported homicide (6.2 per 100000 globally), crime and rape incidence rates per 100000 women for most nations.

Domestic violence is a global problem. It includes physical, mental and sexual abuse of any type. A 1990 study reported that lifetime prevalence of domestic abuse was 18 to 45% in five districts of northern India during 1995-96.

### Definitions and Indian law-

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 differs from the provision of the Penal Code - section 498A of the I. P. C. - in that it provides a broader definition of domestic violence.



Domestic violence is defined by Section 3 of the Act as “any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it:

Harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or

1. Harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or
2. Has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b); or
3. Otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.”

The Act goes on, through the section Explanation 1, to define "physical abuse", “sexual abuse”, "verbal and emotional abuse" and "economic abuse".

The National Family Health Survey in India 2006 held the survey including women aged 49 to 50. 2006 NFHS also includes the incidences of marital rape in India. The survey defines sexual violence all incidences of a women experiencing her husband “Psychologically forcing her to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to, and forcing her to perform any sexual acts she did not want to.” The survey included 83703 women all over the country and figured that 85% of women in 15 to 49 age groups had tolerated sexual violence in their course of life.

This figure samples all forms of compelled sexual activity by husband with wife during their married life, but not recognized as marital rape by Indian law. 2006 NFHS showed that the rate of sexual violence is the lowest in age group of 15 to 19. 6% of Urban women and 10% of Rural women faced lifetime sexual violence as per as religion is concerned the sexual violence rate vary considerably. Buddhists and Jian women experienced the lowest rate of sexual violence while the Muslim women find highest.

### **Forms of domestic violence-**

1. Physical violence- Physical violence causes injuries of domestic violence. Women are slapped, pushed, bit, hit thrown objects strangled between or threatened with any form of weapon by the male counterparts.
2. Mental / Psychological violence- Recently psychological harassment has increased a lot as a form of domestic violence. Emotional abuse can include stalking verbal abuse such as name calling, detraction and blaming, threats and isolation.



3. Sexual atrocities- Domestic sexual atrocities involve forced sexual activities and marital rape. It results in mental breakdown of the female partner that also affects the upbringing of children in the long run.
4. Honor killing- Honor killing is an act of murdering an individual in the name of family honor. The incidents of honor killing are mainly reported in North- West India especially Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab and Western U.P. The sociological studies status that Khap Panchyats are responsible for such type of crimes. The Hindu Marriage Act 1955 allows in clan considered against societal norms.
5. Bride burning- Bride burning is the most heinous crime against women. The main cause of bride burning is the practice of dowry in our society. It is prevalent in every stratum of our society. It is shocking that bride burning cases are mainly occurred in highly qualified and educated families. The system of dowry also increases the rate of female foeticide.
6. Patriarchal social structure- Domestic violence mainly occurs in male dominated societies. Where women are deprived and discriminated. In a patriarchal society women are considered secondary only playing the role of sexual objects. They are denied equal educational and economic opportunities which are the very base to lead an independent and respected life.

### **Conclusion-**

Domestic violence affects the individual family and society adversely. It mentally shatters the individual and that results in disintegration of family and society. It hampers economic growth of the society. The government of India has constituted many laws to prevent domestic violence. But only law can do nothing without public operation. In order to overcome the problem of domestic violence the women empowerment must. The collective efforts of judiciary, police administration and public corporation can go a long way to demolish the problem of domestic violence.

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