

GRAPPLING ISSUES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KASHMIR

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*"If you suspect that someone is a victim of domestic violence knock their door of
ignorance and , say no more silence about violence."*

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is an outline of rude conduct in any relation that is used by one spouse to increase or uphold authority and rule over another close partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological behaviour or intimidation of actions that pressure other individual. This research paper is an attempt to study the level of domestic violence in Kashmir valley. 06 objectives were formulated for the study. 100 married women with different age group were identified by the investigator who were the victims of domestic violence were selected for the sample. In this area, records from the Women's Police Station Rambagh were also scrutinized. The tool used for the collection of data was Self reporting questionnaire (SRQ) questionnaire cum interview schedule developed by the World Health Organization (1994). The study concluded that education, age, socio-economic status and type of family are the inflictors of violence. It was also concluded that victims have faced various physical, emotional, behavioral and cognitive problems.

Key words: *Domestic Violence; Husband; Socio-economic Status; Victim;*

I.INTRODUCTION

Women comprise half of human population on this globe as a whole and both men and women are equally distributed in every part of the globe with a minor disparity in their quantity in favour of men in under-developed sections/regions of the society. There is no doubt that both the genders are corresponding to each other and for the survival, maintenance, permanence and reproduction of human race/species both play an important role together. However, on account of some biological and constitutional differences/variations and the concomitant socio-politico-cultural

traditions, women in every society, country and culture have suffered a lot and have remained deprived/neglected of their due status, rights, privileges and legitimate role which, otherwise, they could play in the progress of human development in general and in their peculiar sphere of life in particular. Though the invisible influence and indelible impact of mother and other elderly women in every household is implied and many a times acknowledged behind the making of every great man in the recorded history of human race, but their sufferings on the basis of gender bias, misconceptions and biological delicacies/subtleties are acknowledged facts of the history as well.

In the traditional Kashmiri society women generally remained confined to home or around the family. Their world of activities was confined within the borders of their patriarchal household. While not considered equal inside as well as outside their families, they were usually subjected, abused, discriminated and maltreated in their social life. They could not develop their individual personality or be independent from the males. Actually, they remained dependent on their males throughout their lives. As daughters they remained dependent on fathers/male guardians, as wives on their husbands; and as mothers on their sons. This life cycle of female despondency was supported by the culture and some religious traditions. This dependence was so deep rooted that even the personal matters of women in the family were decided by the eldest male members; their income was usually considered the family's income and was often received as well as spent by the males. It is important to note here that majority of women in the valley were economically productive mainly due to the nature of economic activities here. Most of traditional economic sectors/fields were directly or indirectly related to the world famous Kashmiri Handicrafts. The women here, in rural and urban areas, composed the major part of workers in these sectors/fields. It is estimated that more than fifty percent of workers in the handicrafts sector and agriculture are/were women (Studies done by Dabla, B.A. and Aneesa Shafi on Women in Kashmir).

Police records suggested that five women died in 2014, while the figure jumped to six in 2015. The figures revealed that from 2014 to 2016, 312 women were forced to commit suicide. Police have booked 361 accused across Kashmir valley so far.

The police figures said that 3960 cases related to violence against women have been registered during last 7 years in Jammu and Kashmir in which 5150 accused were booked.

In Jammu district, 638 such cases have been reported followed by Srinagar city 387, Doda 335, Udhampur 148, Poonch 135, Baramulla 105, Anantnag 79, Kishtwar 76, Kupwara 64, Ramban 58, Samba 51, Reasi 45, Rajouri 40, Ganderbal 32, Budgam 31, Pulwama 31, Bandipora 24, Shopian 24, Kulgam 18, Kargil 4 and a solitary case of domestic violence against woman was reported from Leh district of Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abuse has been observed to impede the public participation of women, undermine their economic efficiency, cause increased health burdens, and impose a drain on scarce national resources (Heise et al., 1994).

The study conducted in India indicates that physical abuse of Indian women is quite high (Rao, 1996).

Studies also reveal that influence of drugs, smoking, alcoholism, bad company, poverty promote men to commit domestic violence (Bhatt, 1998 and Mc Kenry et al., 1995).

The number of family members, type of marriage and qualification of husband other to those menstrual problems has significant influence on domestic violence (Murthy et. al., 2004).

The low educational level and poverty are important reasons for domestic violence. Further, marriage at a younger age makes women vulnerable to domestic violence (Gerstein, 2000).

In one of the study, it was revealed that 48 percent of respondents were threatened by their partner or by in-laws. 66 percent victims of domestic violence did not register their complaint with any authority like police or women's commission. At the same time 70 percent have lack of trust on police and their work efficiency. 76 percent want counselling cell or centre to be established so that family conflicts and other matters leading to domestic violence can be resolved. (Peerzada M.A. 2013).

II. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

As many as 2,818 people have been arrested in connection with domestic violence, including 41 people arrested in cases of 15 dowry deaths, in the last three years, Jammu and Kashmir government said in Feb.2018. In a written reply to the question of PDP MLA Anjum Fazili, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said 2,818 people have been arrested in 1,632 cases of domestic violence in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years. Giving further details, she said 41 people have been arrested in connection with 15 cases of dowry deaths, followed by 361 arrested in connection with 462 cases of abetment of suicide. She said 2,413 people have been arrested in 1,153 cases of cruelty by husband or relatives of husband and three people arrested in two cases of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

It has been observed in many studies in Kashmir (Dabla, B.A.: *Multidimensional Problems of Women in Kashmir*, 2007) that all women, irrespective of their differences, faced violence more or less. It was also observed that more or less degree of violence depended on various social, economic, educational, psychological, cultural, demographic and other relevant factors. In that background, an argument could be made while the educated women faced lesser degree of violence, uneducated/illiterate women faced more within and outside their families. Moreover, it was reported in some studies that violence against women had positive or negative relationship with the situation in which they lived or worked. Thus an argument was made that women who work outside their homes face lesser degree of violence than those who are called house-wives (Shafi A.: *Working Women in Kashmir*, 2002). The violence against them has given rise to certain external actions which the women face physically and mentally and out of the family context. The molestation of women inside as well as outside the domestic frame work especially of the younger age groups represents one such brutal action which hurts the women absolutely.

Domestic violence is a grave concern and is mounting day by day with the progress of human in other fields. The study tried to look into domestic violence in Srinagar city, and tried to understand various aspects

related to domestic violence, social, economic, educational, family type, etc. In this backdrop the investigator has chosen the area of study to replicate the conclusions drawn in various studies.

III.STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The research problem under investigation reads as under:

"Grappling Issues of Domestic Violence in Kashmir."

IV.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following objectives have been formulated for the present study:

1. To identify the level of female victims of violence in Kashmir.
2. To identify the female victims of domestic violence in Kashmir.
3. To study the extent of family violence in different socio-economic classes.
4. To study the extent or prevalence of family violence.
5. To study the socio-cultural factors affecting violence.
6. To identify the signs and symptoms of family violence both physical and psychological.

V.METHODOLOGY

5.1 Sample: a) For the present study data was collected from the Women Police Station Rambagh Srinagar regarding the extant of violence Kashmiri women are facing.

b) 100 female married women were also selected who have face domestic violence in Kashmir belonging o various pars of the valley. For their selection, non probability sampling was used and these victims were selected through purposive random sampling in Srinagar. Besides this articles related to violence in Kashmir published in various leading news paper were also studied.

5.2 Tools Used

For the present study the following tools were used:

1. Self Constructed information blank and the same was used to collect information from the police station Rambagh.
2. The tool used for the collection of data from victims was self designed questionnaire cum interview schedule. This Self reporting questionnaire (SRQ) is an instrument developed by the World Health Organization (1994) and is used to measure general physical, psychological and emotional distress.

5.3 Procedure Used

The investigator visited herself to the Police Station to check the records of registered cases of violence since 2013.

In order to collect data from the victims, at first rapport was established with the respondent. For the collection of data, questionnaire was administered on women victims of violence. The subjects were asked to read the instructions carefully before filling the questionnaire and were assured that their information would be kept confidential.

5.4 Statistics Techniques Used

For statistical analysis the data was first carefully analyzed and interpreted. In order to quantify the data, the data was coded and processed through software namely Statistical package for Social Science (SPSS). The data was analyzed by using percentage, chi square analysis and levels of significance. The levels of significance were obtained through:

- $P >= 0.05$ *** (insignificant)
- $P <= 0.05$ ** (significant)
- $P <= 0.01$ * (highly significant)

All the data was expressed as percentages and the inter group comparison of violence intensity were measured by non-parametric tests. Mann Whitney U- Test & Kruskal Wallis Test were used to analyze the data for drawing suitable inferences.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table 1

Showing the domestic violence in district Srinagar over a period of time

Year	Cases Registered (498A, 406, 354RPC)	Cases Challaned	Total Disposal
1998	04	04	04
1999	09	09	10
2000	17	16	17
2001	19	19	19

2 0 0 2	14	14	14
2 0 0 3	05	04	05
2 0 0 4	17	15	17
2 0 0 5	15	13	15
2 0 0 6	23	16	19
2 0 0 7	26	12	13
2 0 1 6	26	22	24
2 0 1 7	31	17	17

The above table shows the cases of domestic violence in district Srinagar of Kashmir valley through a long period of time. These cases have been registered, challenged and disposed off in the women's police station Rambagh. The details given in the table belongs to the two decades. Last year in 2017, there are 31 cases of domestic violence reported among which 17 cases were challenged and 17 cases were disposed off. Similarly in 2016, the number of cases registered was 26 and 22 were disposed off.

Table 2

Showing the victims of domestic violence as per their age

Age in Years	Percentage
25 to 29	17.00
30 to 34	31.00
35 to 39	28.00
40 to 44	21.00
45 & above	03.00

$P < 0.01$

The perusal of the table 2 shows the domestic violence faced by women as per their age. The table reveals that 17% married women from the age group of 25 to 29 face domestic violence by their in-laws. In the age group of 30-34, the percentage has increased to 31%. The table also shows that from the age group 35-39, 28% married women are the victims of domestic violence. The table also depicts that 21% women from the age group of 40-44 face violence and only 3% face domestic violence at the age of 45 and above. Significant difference at 0.01 level was found in various age group.

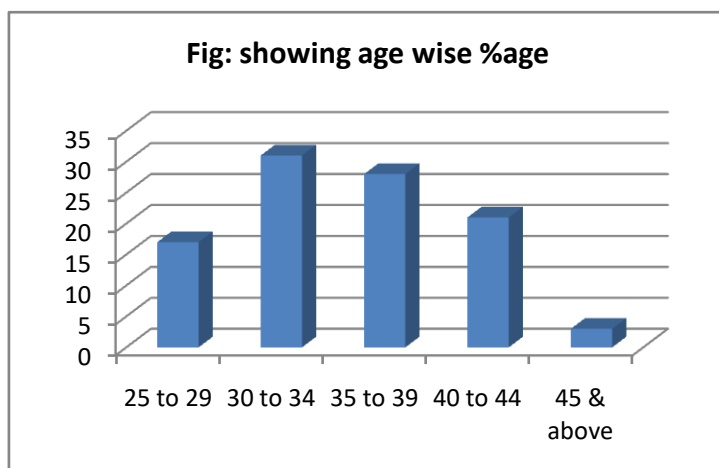


Table 3

Showing the domestic violence as per the family status

Status of family	Percentage
Nuclear	56
Joint	44

$P < 0.01$

The perusal of table 3 shows family type in relation to domestic violence. The table depicts that 56% married women face domestic violence belonging to nuclear families and 46% women from joint families are the victims of domestic violence. Significant difference at 0.01 level was found in these two groups.

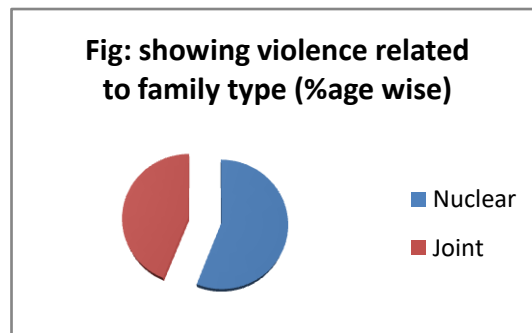


Table 4

Showing the victim's educational status

S. No.	Educational Status	Percentage
01.	Illiterate	32
02.	Below 10th	11
	Graduate	17
	Post graduate & Above	40
		68

$P < 0.01$

The perusal of the table 04 shows the educational status of victims. The table reveals that 32% victims are illiterate and 68% are literate. Significant difference at 0.01 level was found in these two groups.

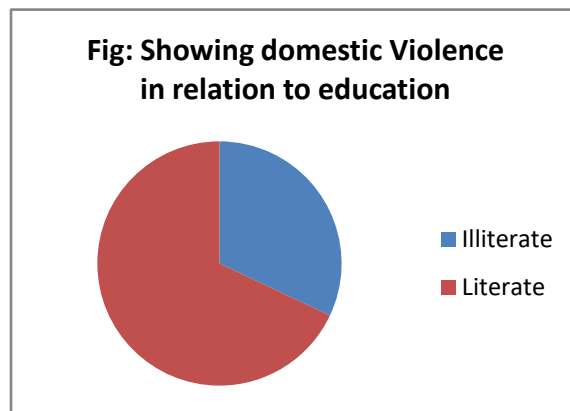


Table 5

Showing violence as per the Educational Status of Husband

Educational Status of Husband	Percentage	
Illiterate	39	
Graduate & Below	22	61
Postgraduate and above	39	

$P < 0.01$

The perusal of the table 5 shows victims of domestic violence in relation to their level of education. The table reveals that 39% victims are illiterate and 61% women who face domestic violence are educated. The table further reveals that among educated women 22% women face domestic violence who are graduate or below but the number goes as high as to 39% to the women who are post graduate or above. Significant difference at 0.01 level was found in two educational groups.

Table 6

Showing violence related to socio-economic status

Socio-economic Status	Percentage
High	09

Middle	77
Low	14

$P <= 0.01$

The perusal of the table 06 shows the victims of domestic violence in relation to socio-economic status of the family. The table shows that 09% married women belonging to high socio-economic status face domestic violence and the percentage goes very high to 77% to the middle class women and 14% to lower class. This indicates that domestic violence is prevalent mostly in middle class women. Significant difference at 0.01 level was found in these socio-economic groups.

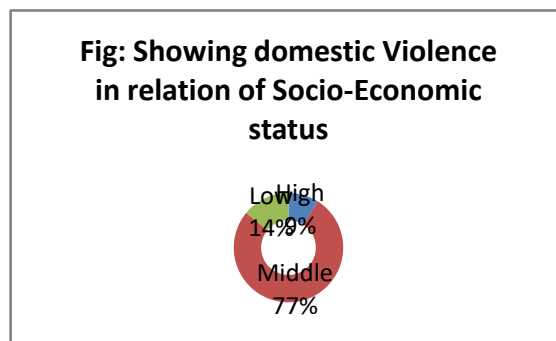


Table 7

Showing the inflictors of violence in the family

Inflictors	Percentage
Husband	51
Mother-in-law	40
Both Husband & Mother-in-law	72
Others	09

The perusal of the table 7 shows the inflictors of domestic violence. The table reflects that 51% women face violence from their husbands and 40% from mother-in-law. 72% women reported that both husband and mother-in-law are involved in the act. The table also shows that 9% women reported that other family members are also involved.

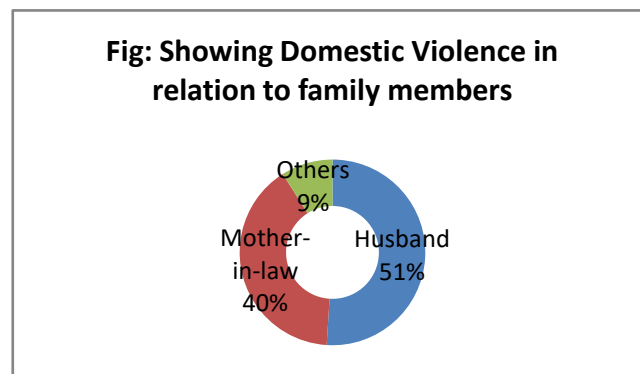


Table 8

Showing the Physical problems suffered by the victim

Physical Problems	Percentage
Appetite problems	51.00
General weakness	23.00
Headache / Backache	74.00
Heart palpitations	65.00
Hyper / Hypo-tension	54.00
Rapid breathing	38.00
Less Sleep	79.00
Stomach pains	21.00
Tiredness / Fatigue	64.00

The perusal of the table 8 shows the physical problems faced by the victims. The table shows that 51% victims complain that they face appetite problems with 23% general weakness. The table also shows that 74% victims have headache and backache. The table further reveals that 65% complains heart palpitations and 54% hyper/hypo tension. The table also depicts that 38% victims have complained of rapid breathing and 79 with less sleep. The table also reflects that 21% have stomach pain and 64% feel tired.

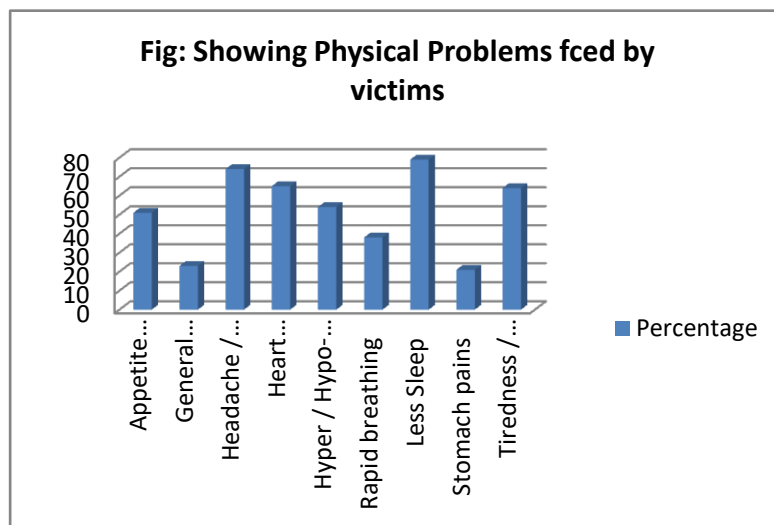


Table 9

Showing the Emotional problems suffered by the victim

Emotional Problems	Percentage
Anger	43.00
Anxiety/ worry	75.00
Fear	81.00
Frustration	63.00
Hopelessness	81.00
Nervousness	89.00
Sadness	70.00
Tension	77.00

The perusal of table 9 shows the emotional problems faced by domestic violence victims. The table shows that 43% victims have reported the problem of anger and 75% have anxiety/worry. The table also reveals that 81 victims have reported that they have fear and 63% are frustrated. The table also depicts that 81% are hopeless and 89% women remain nervous. The table further reflects that 70 victims remain sad and 77 remain tense.

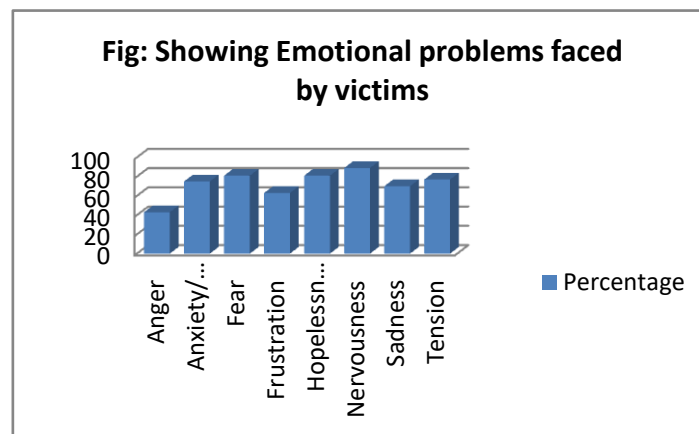


Table 10

Showing the Behavioural problems suffered by the victim

Behavioural Problems	Percentage
Aggression	61.00
Difficulty in expressing	71.00
Minor accidents	17.00
Nervous Tics	71.00
Over / under eating	21.00
Over/ under active	79.00
Sudden crying/ weeping	70.00
Withdrawing from others	83.00

The perusal of table 11 shows that behavioural problems faced by the victims. The table reveals that 61 victims have reported aggression and 71% women are not in a position to express. The table also shows that 17% victims are met with minor accidents and 71% women remain nervous and 21% have reported of over/under eating. It was further revealed that 79% remain over/under active. The table also reveals that 79% victims have reported that they face a problem of sudden crying and 83% have reported that they want to remain in isolation.

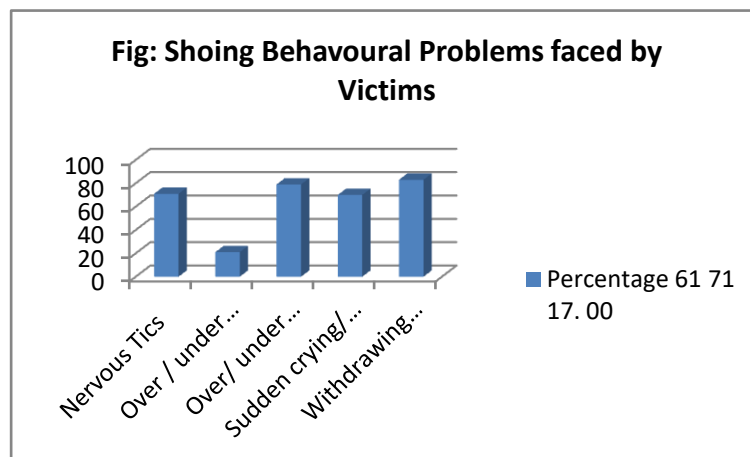
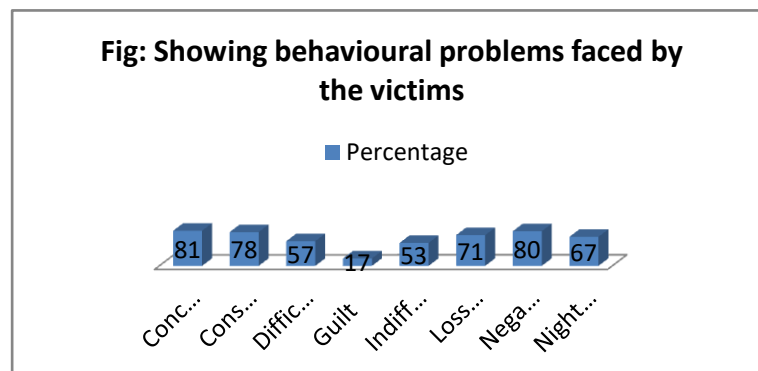


Table 10

Showing the Cognitive problems suffered by the victim

Cognitive Problems	Percentage
Concentration problems	81.00
Constant thinking of problems	78.00
Difficulty in making decisions	57.00
Guilt	17.00
Indifferent attitude	53.00
Loss of self confidence / low self esteem	71.00
Negative thoughts	80.00
Nightmares	67.00

The perusal of the table 10 shows the cognitive problems faced by the domestic violence victims. The table reveals that 81% victims have reported that they have concentration problems and 78% victims have a problems of constant thinking.. The table also reflects that 57% victims have lack of decision making and 17% have reported that they feel guilty. The table also depicts that 53% women have reported that they now have an indifferent attitude and 71% have low self esteem. The table also reflects that 80% victims have negative thoughts and 67% have reported nightmares.



VII.MAJOR FINDINGS

1. There is an increasing trend in domestic violence in Kashmir but very few cases are reported by the victims.
2. In most of the cases domestic violence is faced in the early stage of marriage life. 80% females have faced violence who are in the age group of 30 to 44years.
3. The study reveals that 56% females have faced domestic violence who belong to nuclear families and 46% from joint families.
4. Domestic violence is more prevalent among educated families then illiterate ones. The study shows that 68% are from educated families and only 32% from illiterate families.
5. Husbands who are more educated are more inflictors of violence that Illiterate ones. The study shows that more educated husbands 62% are involved in domestic violence of their wives.
6. The study shows that there is a correlation between socio-economic status and domestic violence. The study shows that 77% victims belong to middle socio-economic class.
7. The study shows that most of the times husband and mother-in law are inflictors of domestic violence. 51% victims have reported their husband as inflictor and 40% have reported mother-in-law as inflictor of violence. 72% have reported that both husband and mother-in-law are the inflictors of violence.
8. Domestic violence has caused some serious physical problems among victims which include headaches/backaches, sleepless nights, heart palpitations, hypo/hyper tension etc.
9. Domestic violence has caused some serious emotional problems among victims which include anger, worry, fear, frustration, nervousness, sadness, tension etc.
10. Domestic violence has caused some serious behavioural problems among victims which include sudden crying, isolation outburst etc.

11. Domestic violence has caused some serious cognitive problems among victims which include lack of concentration, low self-esteem, low self-confidence, negative thoughts guilt etc.

VIII.CONCLUSION

Domestic violence vibrates the basis of society and stands as an blockage to the accomplishment of parity, progress and reconciliation. It is not only physical outline of violence leaving physical injuries but an emotional, psychosomatic pattern of violence that destroys and demolishes the individuality and personhood of a woman, eats at her decorum and corrodes herself worth in a long term effect. Domestic violence by intimate partner has damaging effects on the reproductive health of woman like unwanted pregnancy (Khan et al 1996), gynaecological disorders (Golding and Taylor 1996), physical injury to private parts(Starck et al., 1979), & large scale mental health impacts(UNICEF 2000).

Right against domestic violence is absolutely mentioned in each and every international gathering and affirmation that seeks an end to violence against women and urges equality among humans. It is implicit in Article 1,2,3,5,16 of UDHR,1948; Article 12(1) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,1966; Article 7 of ICCPR,1966; Article 4(c) of Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW). Domestic violence breaches a woman's right to distinguished life, right against torment and inhuman behaviour, right to autonomy and safety of person, right against all forms of inequity. It is now being extensively treated as a human rights concern that violates the basic rights of women. In 2004, United Nations General Assembly also specially addressed domestic violence in Resolution 58/147, entitled "Elimination of Domestic Violence Against Women". In this resolution General Assembly identified that domestic violence is a human rights problem with grave instant and long term consequences, strongly condemned all forms of domestic violence against women and called for an abolition of violence in the family. To end domestic violence is a long-standing aim attainable through individual daily attempts for non violent behaviour and quiet resolving of conflicts, by creating an ambience of broad-mindedness alongside this violence and by creating consciousness among people, by providing proper education and sensitizing people about the problem. Also strict action need to be taken against offenders and quick solution be made accessible to the victims of such violence. Until a multi faceted approach is adopted the avoidance of domestic violence will stay an indefinable nightmare.

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