



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A STUDY IN IRONGMARA, CACHAR

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Abstract

Domestic violence against women is a deeply rooted human rights issue. The article tries to explore the reasons behind domestic violence, types of domestic violence the women usually face, legal provisions and consequences of domestic violence, emphasizing its physical, psychological and socio-economic impacts on women. Based on a survey of Irongmara, Cachar, the article mainly focuses on awareness level of the people about domestic violence, who are the abuser, constitutional and legal safeguards against domestic violence, socio-economic status of the victims etc. Using interview schedule method, data are collected from 28 women respondents, aged 28 – 60. The findings reveal that 32.14% women are the victims of domestic violence. The article concludes that legal reforms, education, collaboration with government and non government organizations are essential to effectively reduce domestic violence and empower women.

Keywords: domestic violence, women, abuse, relationship, patriarchy

INTRODUCTION:

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence is violence or other abuse that occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage or cohabitation. Domestic violence is often used as a synonym for intimate partner violence, which is committed by one of the people in an intimate relationship against the other person, and can take place in relationships or between former spouses or partners. In its broadest sense, domestic violence also involves violence against children, parents, or the elderly. But this paper focuses only the domestic violence against women. Violence against women is one of the most common human rights violations. It is an expression of unequal power relations between men and women. Violence against women does not mean only physical violence. It is much broader and includes sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse. The National Plan targets two main types of violence against women – domestic and family violence, and sexual assault. So we can say that Violence against women is one of the most frequent human rights violations. It is a threat to women's lives, it puts their physical and psychological health at risk, and it is a threat to the well-being of their children, with consequences for the whole community.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Domestic violence is the most common form of violence against women. It affects women across the life span from sex selective abortion of female fetuses to forced suicide and abuse, and is evident, to some degree, in every society in the world. The World Health Organization reports that the proportion of women who had ever experienced physical or sexual violence or both by an intimate partner ranged from 15% to 71%, with the majority between 29% and 62%. India's National Family Health Survey-III, carried out in 29 states during 2005-06, has found that a substantial proportion of married women have been physically or sexually abused by their husbands at some time in their lives. The survey

indicated that, nationwide, 37.2% of women “experienced violence” after marriage. Bihar was found to be the most violent, with the abuse rate against married women being as high as 59%. Strangely, 63% of these incidents were reported from urban families rather than the state’s most backward villages. It was followed by Madhya Pradesh (45.8%), Rajasthan (46.3%), Manipur (43.9%), Uttar Pradesh (42.4%), Tamil Nadu (41.9%) and West Bengal (40.3%).

The trend of violence against women was recently highlighted by the India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) which stated that while in 2000, an average of 125 women faced domestic violence every day, the figure stood at 160 in 2005. A recent United Nation Population Fund report also revealed that around two- thirds of married women in India were victims of domestic violence. Violence in India kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 years as cancer and its toll on women’s health surpasses that of traffic accidents and malaria combined. Earlier in 2022, Assam reported the highest number of cases of crime against women for the fifth consecutive years, according to the 69th edition of National Crime Records Bureau Report, released in 2021. According to data provided under the title ‘Crime in India 2021’ report, Assam had a rate of 168.3 of crimes against women, which was significantly higher than the national average of 64.5. Delhi came in second with 147.6 followed by Odisha in third with 137.8.

Domestic violence against women remains a pervasive and deeply rooted issue worldwide, transcending cultural, economic and social boundaries. Despite increasing awareness and legal reforms, many women continue to suffer physical, emotional, sexual and psychological abuse at the hands of intimate partners or family members. This violence not only violates basic human rights but also contributes to long term health problems, loss of economic productivity, and intergenerational trauma. This research article aims to explore the prevalence, causes and effects of domestic violence against women, as well as assess the effectiveness of current legal, social and institutional responses to the problem. By identifying gaps in policy and practice, the study seeks to contribute to more effective prevention and protection mechanisms for women at risk.

NATURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Domestic Violence can also be seen as a violation of the fundamental right to live with dignity, and of the right to equality and equal protection of the law guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. Domestic Violence is in the majority of cases, violence against a woman by the members of the house where she resides. It can be the husband, his parents, or siblings or any other resident who has the overt or covert latitude for actions that can cause physical or mental agony to the woman. But, the most important aspect of this kind of violence is the fact that it happens behind the closed doors and is most often denied by the very woman who has been the victim of violence. It is this aspect of the crime that segregates itself from all other kinds of the social violence. Domestic violence is violent victimization of women, within the boundaries of family, usually by men. A woman may of any age; she may be a girl child, unmarried or elderly woman including a widow or such women with whom men have marriage like relationship. Violence can be both physical and psychological. It indicates threats or aggressive behavior towards her not only to her physical being, but towards her self-respect and self- confidence. Frequently, a batterer isolates the victim from the family socially, emotionally and geographically.

The victim is frequently forbidden to see trusted friends and family, and is denied the opportunity to go to school or work outside the home. There is little or no access to or control over finances, in the midst of this terrible isolation, the abuser employs brainwashing tactics and with no input to the contrary from anyone outside the relationship, there will be no way for the victim to test reality.¹

TYPES OF DOMESTIC ABUSES:

Physical Abuse: It includes any sort of violent conduct inflicted on the victim (Slapping, biting, beating, hitting, kicking, etc.) It also includes forcing someone to use Alcohol / Drug and denying someone’s medical treatment.

Sexual Abuse: It happens when the abuser forcefully try to make physical contact with victim without his/her consent. This mostly takes the form of Marital Rape, Physical Violence followed by sex, attacks on the sexual parts of the body.

Emotional Abuse: It implies discrediting or emptying the victim’s sense of Self- Esteem. Emotional abuse also includes constant humiliation, insults, threats of harm, belittling, threats to take away children.

Economic Abuse: It happens when the abuser makes or attempts to make the victim financially reliant.

Technological Abuse: It incorporates the utilization of technology to hold and control a partner.

CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

In India, domestic abuse is a widespread issue that affects women of all ages, Socio economic origins, and social strata. The prevalence of domestic violence in India is influenced by numerous factors. Men are considered as superior to women in a patriarchal society.

In addition to poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, and a stigma linked to reporting domestic violence, there is a lack of awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's rights. This problem requires a multifaceted approach, involving social awareness campaigns to lessen the stigma associated with domestic abuse, education, economic empowerment of women, legal reforms, and legislative changes. Even with recent advancements, there is still work to be done to rid Indian society of this persistent and devastating issue.

Domestic violence is a complicated problem with a variety of root causes. In India, men are frequently seen as the head of the household and exercise more authority and control over women. Due to this imbalance of power, men may feel as though they have a right to dominate and rule over their spouses, which may result in domestic abuse. A lack of education might result in a lack of knowledge regarding women's rights and gender equality.

As a result, women may experience domestic violence and be treated as less valuable. Due to the tension that financial strain can cause inside families, poverty can make domestic violence worse. Due to their possible financial dependence on their abusers, women in low-income households may be especially susceptible to domestic violence. In India, alcohol and drug misuse might be risk factors for domestic violence. Alcoholism can cause people to lose their inhibitions and act violently.

Reporting domestic violence frequently carries a social shame that discourages victims from getting help. Furthermore, a lot of victims could be reluctant to speak up because they feel embarrassed or humiliated about their circumstance.

These are the elements that domestic violence in India is influenced by. This problem will need to be addressed using a multidimensional strategy that takes into account.

In India, there are several reasons why domestic violence occurs. The following are some of the major causes of domestic violence:

- Patriarchal society:

Men are frequently seen as the head of the household in India's patriarchal society, which gives men more sway and control over women. Due to this imbalance of power, men may feel as though they have a right to dominate and rule over their spouses, which may result in domestic abuse.

- Lack of Education:

A lack of education might result in a lack of knowledge regarding women's rights and gender equality. As a result, women may experience domestic violence and be treated as less valuable.

- Economic strain:

Due to the tension that financial strain can cause inside families, poverty can make domestic violence worse. Due to their possible financial dependence on their abusers, women in low-income households may be especially susceptible to domestic violence.

- Alcohol and Substance misuse:

In India, alcohol and drug misuse might be risk factors for domestic violence. Alcoholism can cause people to lose their inhibitions and act violently.

- Social shame:

Reporting domestic violence frequently carries a social shame that discourages victims from getting help. Furthermore, a lot of victims could be reluctant to speak up because they feel embarrassed or humiliated about their circumstance. These are only a small number of the many causes that domestic violence in India is influenced by. A comprehensive strategy that targets the problem's underlying causes will be needed to address this issue. This could entail spreading awareness of gender equality and women's rights, encouraging women's economic empowerment, offering assistance and resources to victims of domestic violence, and upholding laws that defend women's rights.³

CONSEQUENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Domestic abuse is a serious and pervasive problem. It has devastating consequences for its victims, their families and friends and the wider community. Almost one third (30%) of all women, across the world, have experienced physical and / or sexual violence by their intimate partner. As many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners, according to the World Health Organization.

The consequences of domestic violence against woman are as follows

- Health:

A vast body of research has unequivocally established the impacts of domestic abuse on women's physical and mental health. In the short-term, women may suffer bruising, lacerations and burns, cuts and broken bones, or, more serious injuries leading to disability. Women in abusive relationships are at a higher risk of unintended, or unwanted, pregnancies. They are also at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Domestic violence does not have to be physical; many women experiencing it will never have any bruises or physical injuries. It can take many forms including emotional and psychological abuse and the impacts can be as, if not more, severe and long lasting.

- Physical Health:

The lasting effects of trauma may cause chronic physical problems throughout life. Undergoing trauma, or witnessing trauma, is associated with a risk of mental health. Women who have experienced domestic abuse also report higher levels of Depression, Anxiety and stress disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, low self-esteem, self harm and suicide attempts.

- Poverty:

We know that domestic abuse and poverty are intricately interwoven. Costs borne by individual women because of the violence they experience include health care costs, housing and shelter costs, and legal costs, can force women into poverty. Poverty, in turn, makes it more difficult to end domestic abuse and heal from its effects.

- Homelessness:

Domestic abuse can directly result in homelessness for women and children. When a woman decides that the abuse cannot continue, fleeing her home may be the only option. Unfortunately, when sufficient support services are not in place, women are often faced with the decision to stay in the abusive situation or leave and face homelessness.

- Impact on Children:

The impacts of growing up in a household with domestic abuse are complex. Children do not have to directly witness the abuse to know that something bad is happening. They may overhear an argument or see their mother's injuries. Or, pick up on the tension between their parents, which is scary and confusing for children. Studies have shown that children who grow up in homes with domestic violence are up to 15 times more likely to be physically and/or sexually assaulted than children who don't.

- Development:

Children may react differently depending on their circumstances. Often, however, children will have a range of emotional, physical and developmental difficulties. As young children are developing their brains are creating the foundations for how they understand emotion and their role in society. Emotional stress caused by living with abuse can disrupt that development.

- Emotional impact:

Children who have lived with domestic abuse may experience depression, severe anxiety, poor concentration levels and focus. They may have difficulty learning and limited social skills, exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behavior.

- Child abuse:

The impact of being physically abused by a parent goes beyond the physical injuries. It has huge implications for the psychological wellbeing of the child, with many children living in a constant state of fear and dread.

- Cycle of violence:

The biggest predictor of children growing up to become perpetrators of domestic abuse, or victims, is growing up in a household where there is abuse. By witnessing abuse, children learn powerful (and potentially destructive) lessons about the use of violence to maintain power and control.

Studies show that in homes where there is intimate violence, on average 40% of the children are also abused. Children may react differently to the violence, depending on their age, sex, frequency and extent of violence and the types of role models that surround them. Growing up in a household with domestic violence has significant impacts on a child's developmental progress. Although children may have been removed from abusive situations the result of living with domestic abuse can have a lasting impact throughout the life cycle. Research has also indicated that in homes with severe physical abuse, sons are at more risk of child abuse than girls.

- Economic:

Domestic abuse has a significant impact on the economy. Firstly, there are the costs of direct services to treat and support abused women and their children. These include social services and hospitals for example. Secondly, there are many costs in bringing abusers to justice, such as An Garda Siochana, the court system and more.

Finally, the economy is suffering because of missed days at work and the loss of productivity.

At last, we can say that Violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affect not just the women involved but also their children, families, and communities. These effects include harm to an individual's health, possibly long-term harm to children, and harm to communities such as lost work and homelessness.

The constitution and legislature of India have been giving laws and protection to women since independence; still, women are facing domestic violence from husband families. There is a clear indication in India that matrimonial homes are still unsafe for women. The domestic violence during Covid19 pandemic has various impacts on the mental health of women. The government has started multiple plans like awareness programs, national news channels, radio channels, and social media platforms that solve domestic violence.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

There are various guidelines or provisions being made for protection of women against Domestic Violence under the statute such as Section 304B of Indian Penal Code relating to dowry death.

Under Section 313-316 of Indian Penal Code female infanticide has been made punishable which implies forcefully ending the pregnancy of a women. Other Sections of Indian Penal Code dealing with these matters are Section 305-306 related to Abetment of Suicide and 340, 349 of Indian Penal Code respectively wrongful confinement and wrongful restraint.

A complaint can also be lodged under Section 498A of Indian Penal Code for Cruelty which also falls under domestic violence.

LAWS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and DOWRY DEATH are pervasive in India. We as a whole know about individuals in our families or among our companions who have eventually confronted Domestic violence, or have executed it. But how often have we looked away and done nothing because we don't have any idea what to do? There are several Laws in India which directly deals with the protection of married women from her partner and her partner's family.

[1] Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005

This is an act of the Indian Parliament enacted to protect women from Domestic Violence. It prohibits a wide range of Physical, Sexual, Emotional and Economical abuse against women and all these are broadly defined under the Act. It provides security to women in a family from men in a family. The extent of the Act covers not only the protection of women who are married to men but also women who are in Live-in-relationship, just as family members including Grandmothers, Mothers, etc.

A women has right to be liberated from any type of violence under this Act. Under this law, women can look for security against Domestic Violence, Financial Compensation, Right to live in their mutual house and they can get maintenance from their abuser in case they are living separated.

This law is to guarantee that women don't get kicked out of their own house and can support themselves if they have been abused. It also ensures the protection of women from their abusers.

[2]- Section 498A of the IPC (Indian Penal Code)

This is a Criminal Law, which applies to husbands or family members of husband who are merciless to women. Under Section 498A of the IPC, harassment for Dowry by the family members of the husband or by husband is recognized as a Crime. This harassment can be of any type either Physical or Mental. Despite the fact that Marital Rape isn't considered as a Crime in India, forced sex with one's wife can be viewed as Cruelty under this Section. Section 498A has a vast scope. It also includes any and all intentional behaviors against women which force the women to attempt suicide or risk to life or grave injury or risk to limb or overall health. Here, health incorporates the physical and mental health of the women.

[3]-Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

This is a Criminal Law that punishes the giving and taking of Dowry. The tradition of dowry itself is banned under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. According to this law, gives, takes or even demands dowry, they can be imprisoned for a half year (i.e. for 6 months) or they can be fined up to Five Thousand Rupees.⁶

The area of our study is Irongmara, near Assam University. Irongmara is a Village in Barjalenga Tehsil in Cachar District of Assam State, India. It is located 18 KM towards South from District head quarters Silchar. We have decided to select this topic based on our observation method as we have noticed and observed some cases of domestic violence occurring in the area of Irongmara.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify & determine the factors responsible for domestic violence.
2. To examine the socio-economic status of the victims of domestic violence.
3. To suggest policy measures to control or minimize domestic violence.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Sahoo, H and Pradhan, M. R. (2010) conducted a study on "Domestic Violence in India: An Empirical Analysis". The analysis shows that the women belonging to low socio- economic status are more likely to agree with the different reasons

justifying wife- beating. Again domestic violence is more among lower autonomy and women belonging to low socio-economic status.⁸

Saikia, J.P. (2010) studied “A Spousal Violence and Gender Issue: A Sociological Understanding of 5 (Five) Case Studies of Wife Battering in Rural Assam” .The study found that wife battering as a spousal violence was connected with liquor consumption, extra- marital affairs and financial crisis.⁹

Mahima Jain in her article “The Silent Pandemic of Violence against India’s Women” states that the death of a 22-year-old in Kerala after spousal abuse reveals how domestic violence—99% of cases which go unreported and reached unprecedented levels during the pandemic—is ignored. India’s focus on violence against women is almost exclusively on more publicized crimes, such as rape. Domestic violence is seldom seen as gender-based violence that requires medical attention in the way rape or acid attacks do. Families, neighbors and police are often reluctant to interfere in cases of domestic violence as it is seen as a “private matter”.

Bhagyashree Das in her article “Violence against women in India” discusses about crimes against women which is increasing at an alarming rate. Some common forms of violence against women are rape, dowry deaths, female infanticide, forced child abduction, and cases of acid throwing on women. Women are not safe in public spaces, but that does not mean that they are safe in their private spaces. Various cases of domestic violence are reported.

Sharma, Indira in her article “Violence against women: Where are the solutions?” states about violence against women as a social, economic, human rights and health issue. She also discusses about the failure of the measures and response by communities, government, international conventions in eradicating violence against women. She listed some of the causes of violence against women, which are Psychiatric morbidity, Socio-demographic factors, Family factors Traditional and cultural practices perpetuating violence against women, Early marriages, Life stress etc.¹²

Mytheeyee, Ramesh in her article “Why Assam Recorded Highest Crime Rate Against Women For 4th Consecutive Year - Assam's crime rate against women is 154.3 – which is almost thrice the national average of 56.5” reported that for the fourth consecutive year, Assam has recorded the highest crime against women, according to a data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The report stated that number of crime against women has been steadily increasing in Assam.

A report published by the UN WOMEN titled “Frequently asked questions: Types of violence against women and girls” provides an overview of the form of violence , along with other commonly used terms, such as gender based violence, violence against women and girls, survivor of violence, consent and so on. The types of domestic violence mentioned by the report are Economic violence, Psychological violence, Emotional violence, Physical violence and Sexual violence.

RESEARCH GAP:

From the above literature review it was found that the present research topic is fresh in Indian environment. Although some research had been conducted on the related topics of ‘Domestic Violence against Women’ but our present study “Domestic Violence against Women: A Study in Irongmara” is a unique topic from other earlier topics and it tried to explore some other aspects.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK:

There are different theories are available in the field of domestic violence. Researchers argued that men were battered because they had learned about violence in their families as children, and women sought out abusive men because they saw their mothers being abused. This was the “learned behavior” theory of violence. Loss of Control Theory, which is closely related to the “learned behavior” theory were the theories that described violence as the result of a loss of control. For example, many believed that men are abusive when they drink because the alcohol causes them to lose control. Others explained men’s violence as a result of an inability to control their anger and frustration. Another theory that was advanced was the “learned helplessness” theory. Lenore Walker, a psychologist in the United States, studied the behavior of women who stay in violent relationships.

According Family, relationship and conflict model, “both the man and the woman contribute to violence in an intimate relationship.” The woman’s behavior contributes to the build-up of tension in the man, until the man explodes in a violent rage, followed by a honeymoon period. Theories based on “mutual” violence do not take into account the different ways that men and women use violence in intimate relationships. Another theory is Patriarchal theory; current thinking is that the Patriarchal Theory is the dominant theory explaining the cause of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes. The behaviors of the offender are parallel to the brainwashing behaviors described by Biderman. Biderman, a German scientist, studied the patterns of brainwashing and developed the Scale of Coercion. The behaviors listed in the Scale of Coercion correspond to those listed in the Power and Control Wheel which is used to train domestic violence and sexual assault advocates. The Power and Control Wheel behaviors were gleaned from victim reports over a period of years.

There are many different ideas within the feminist theory of domestic violence, but M. Bograd in *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse* has identified four common strains. These are: that as the dominant class, men have differential access to material and symbolic resources, and women are devalued as secondary and inferior intimate partner abuse is a predictable and common dimension of normal family life women’s experiences are often defined as inferior because male domination influences all aspects of life. The feminist perspective is dedicated to advocacy for women.

According to social learning theory, family violence arises due to many contextual and situational factors. Contextual factors include individual/couple characteristics, stress, violence in the family, or an aggressive personality. Situational factors include substance abuse and financial difficulties. Social learning theory also extends these factors onto the influence of children growing up within a combination of these external forces.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the factors responsible for domestic violence?
2. What are the causes of domestic violence?
3. What are the effects and consequences of domestic violence?
4. What are the impacts of domestic violence on mental, emotional and physical health of women?
5. What are the constitutional and legal safeguards against domestic violence in India?

METHODOLOGY:

The area of the study is Irongmara village of Cachar district, Assam. Data was collected from primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources were collected from books, articles, government reports and internet. Primary data was collected from the women respondent of Irongmara village. For the purpose of the study, 28 respondents were selected by using purposive sampling method. Data was collected from respondents with the help of an interview schedule. Both the descriptive and empirical methods were used in this study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Violence against women is now widely recognized as a serious human rights abuse, and an important public health problem with substantial consequences like physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health. Thus, the study on domestic violence is important as it helps to raise awareness and it empowers the women. Therefore, the overall purpose of our study on this topic is to access the magnitude of domestic violence against women and its associated factors in the area of Irongmara. And we have observed and noticed some cases of violence against women in the area. That is why, on the basis of such observation method, we have decided to work on this topic.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

In present context, domestic violence has become more relevant because violence against women has contributed in major human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women can be devastating, including death.

We interviewed total 28 respondents, and among them 9 women respondents are victims of domestic violence that covers 32.14% victims out of total 28 respondents. From the figure we get to know that among the total respondents only 9 respondents are victims of domestic violence (32.14%).

The victims of domestic violence include respondents 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, 27, and Respondent 2 (picture 1.1) states that she is a victim of domestic violence and is physically abused by her husband. Her husband is a daily worker and the violence or abuse mostly takes place when the husband consumes alcohol. At last she told us that she could not express her feelings in front of others due to the fear of her husband. Respondent 3 expresses that she is physically abused by her husband and it occurs frequently. Her husband is a company worker and she is a house wife. She also told that their financial condition is not stable and due to this pressure they often fight with each other which later leads to Domestic violence. Although she has not yet filed any police complain against her husband, she is mostly helped by neighbor.

The case of respondent 8 was narrated by her husband. She is a mental patient and she is currently receiving medical treatment. The husband says that due to her mental condition their children mostly suffer. As she sometimes physically abused by her own child. In order to control such actions of her wife the husband often pushes her or slaps her. The husband justified his actions by saying that he did such things only because to protect his family. However, we found this case to be interesting and a unique one.

Respondent 9 states that she is physically abused by her husband due to his mental condition. At present the husband is under medical treatment, so domestic violence does not occur now. No more further information was shared by her.

Respondent 10 is a widow and her husband died 5 years ago due to cancer. As a result of her husband's death she is verbally and mentally abused by mother in law.

Her mother in law taunts her by saying that she is responsible for her son's death. The case of respondent 11 is a unique one because in this case both husband and wife are responsible. The wife and husband constantly fight with each other and this fight often leads to physical violence. Unable to take this anymore the neighbors decided to file a complaint against them as they were very much disturbed. Now they are living separately as the wife left and the husband is living alone in Irongmara.

Respondent 18 states that she is physically abused by her husband and we found it very interesting that she described her experience very frankly to us. She told us that her husband takes alcohol and he always lies to her wife. No complain has been file against him but if it leads to extreme violence then she along with her children will leave him.

Respondent 27 is tortured and physically abused by her husband. The violence takes place mostly because her husband constantly doubts her. Due to this fear the wife does not go outside and call for any help.

Picture 1.1

Respondents	Are they aware	Have they experienced/victims	Types of violence	Abuser	Received any help/file complain
1	Yes	No	No	No	No
2	Yes	Yes	physical	husband	No
3	Yes	No	No	No	No
4	Yes	No	No	No	No
5	No	No	No	No	No
6	Yes	No	No	No	No
7	Yes	No	No	No	No
8	Yes	No	No	No	No
9	Yes	Yes	Mental &	husband	No

			physical		
10	Yes	Yes	Verbal	Mother in law	No
11	Yes	Yes	Physical	husband	Complain by their neighbors
12	Yes	No	No	No	No
13	Yes	No	No	No	No
14	Yes	No	No	No	No
15	Yes	No	No	No	No
16	Yes	No	No	No	No
17	Yes	No	No	No	No
18	Yes	Yes	physical	husband	No
19	No	No	No	No	No
20	Yes	No	No	No	No
21	Yes	No	No	No	No
22	Yes	No	No	No	No
23	Yes	No	No	No	No
24	Yes	No	No	No	No
25	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
26	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
27	Yes	Yes	physical	husband	No
28	Yes	Yes	physical	husband	No

The respondent 28 is a victim of domestic violence. Her husband is an abuser who frequently tortures her. No further information is found because when we went to interview them we could not get the chance to talk with the lady as her husband did not allowed us to talk with her.

Overall, we found that 8 out of 9 victims (88.8%) are facing physical and mental violence. And 1 victim (11.1%) is verbally and mentally abused by her mother in law. And it is to be noted that all the women respondents are housewives and are economically dependent on their husbands.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Domestic violence against women is common in the area of Irongmara. It is present in all forms such as physical, mental, emotional, verbal and so on.

Based on our study, out of 28 respondents, 9 women respondents are victims of domestic violence and they are mostly abused by their husbands.

The main factors responsible for domestic violence against women are financial constraints, alcoholism, poverty, unemployment, patriarchal society.

The most common factor to be found in all these cases are alcoholism and financial constraints.

The subordinate status of women combined with socio cultural norms that are inclined towards patriarchy and masculinity can be considered as an important factor determining the domestic violence.

From our study we find that the victims of domestic violence are uneducated.

The victims are the housewives, who are financially and economically dependent on their husband.

We can say that, Education and economic interdependency can solve the problem of domestic violence.

In order to control or minimize domestic violence, the urgent need is to change the mindset of common people and a positive attitude towards each member of the family.

We made them aware about the constitutional and legal provisions provided by the constitution to protect women against domestic violence.

Government has taken various initiatives to safeguard women. These are

*Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

*Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

*Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

*Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

*Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

Indian constitution granted some privileges for protecting women from Domestic Violence. These are Article 14, Article 15(1), 15(2), 15(3), 15(4), Article 16, Article 39, Article 42, Article 243 D (3), Article 243 T(3) etc.

We can create awareness among women and common people regarding Domestic Violence against women like different campaign, educating the society, Fund women's organizations, Support women's leadership etc.

Strengthening capacity of government and non-government organizations Personnel for addressing the issue of domestic violence against women is the need of hour.

Public awareness programmes should be carefully designed and coherently oriented. In order to accomplish this, networks between different Organizations, between activists, and between state officers need to be strengthened.

A massive awareness campaign involving the community, religious leaders, women's organizations, civil societies, NGOs and other opinion makers is necessary to counter the present trend of domestic violence against women.

Domestic violence has become a curse to the society. People of the society have to be more sensible towards women. Issues that are influencing domestic violence have to be dealt with carefully keeping relationship at the focal point.

CONCLUSION

Domestic Violence against women remains one of the most deeply rooted violations against human rights. The research findings highlight how women are the victims of this violence. The study highlights that despite significant legal reforms and awareness campaigns, women still continue to face physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse within intimate relationships. Addressing all these issues requires a multifaceted approach, which combines strong legal enforcement, community education and the empowerment of women through economic and social opportunities. Collaboration between government, different organizations and local communities is essential to ensure both prevention and effective response.

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Interview Schedule –

1. Basic information – a. Name _____ b. Age _____
2. Are you aware of Domestic Violence?
 - a. Yes b. No
3. Does your partner/husband ever do any of the following things to you –
 - a. Push you, shake you or throw something at you?
 - b. Slap you?
 - c. Twist your arm or pull your hair?
 - d. Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you?
 - e. Say something to humiliate you in front of others?
 - f. Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?
4. At what state of mind, your partner/husband does such abusive things to you?
 - a. under the consumption of alcohol
 - b. Financial problem
 - c. Others
5. Does these things occur frequently? a. Yes b. No
6. Other than your husband, are you being abused by your in-laws or other family members?

a. Yes b. No

If yes, then who

a. Father in law

b. Mother in law

c. Sister in law

d. Brother in law

e. Or other relatives

7. Does your other family members, relatives or your close friends aware of such abusive things happening to you?

a. Yes b. No

8. Have you received any help from your relative/ friends during abuse?

a. Yes b. No

If yes then from whom –

a. Father in law

b. Mother in law

c. Brother in law/sister in law

d. Close friends

e. Other relatives

9. Did you approach for help from your relatives/ friends or other family members?

a. Yes b. No

10. Did you approach any agency for help during domestic violence? a. Yes b. No

11. Do you know the name of any agency? a. Yes b. No

If yes then which one

a. Swayam (India)

b. UN women (India)

c. Vimochana (India)

d. Majilis law (India)

e. RWUAA (Assam)

f. Rastriya Mahila Suraksha Manch (Assam)

g. Others

12. Have you filed any complaint against the abuser? a. Yes b. No

13. According to you, what are the main causes of domestic violence?

a. Unemployment and economic hardship



- b. Anger issue
- c. Extreme jealousy
- d. Alcohol consumption
- e. Others

