

Domestic Violence: Exploring Women's Experiences in Urban and Rural areas of Jammu District

Abstract

Among the many manifestations of the notion of fundamental rights of the women, Domestic Violence is perhaps the most vicious form of abuse committed most often within the four walls of the house. It is not merely a personal or private problem within the family rather has become a dominant concern in the public discourse. It is universal phenomenon that cuts across all social and economic backgrounds (WHO, 2009). According to NFHS 2005-2006 data the problem of Domestic Violence cuts across caste, class, religion, age, educational status, rural/urban residence, wealth status etc. NFHS 3 data shows that one-third of women aged 15-49 years have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 has experienced sexual violence. The Gender based violence remains one of the most pervasive violations of human security, dignity, self-worth and their right to enjoy freedom/liberty. There is no one single factor to account for violence that is perpetrated against women. This paper will explore the many facets of this social evil explaining several complexes and inter-connected institutions, social and cultural factors that have kept women particularly vulnerable to domestic violence directed at them. Beginning with a definition of Domestic Violence, this paper brings out the conceptual clarification of the problem and also examines the cycle of violence linking domestic violence to socio-economic situation of the victims. The focus is on the rural/urban areas of the Jammu district which will provide the regional database of the problem, its causes and consequences.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Physical Violence, Sexual Violence, Emotional Abuse, Harassment, Domestic Violence Act

Introduction

According to UNICEF, (2000) the issue of Domestic violence is a major problem in the society and the main victims, women and children suffer from it in places where they should be safest; within their families –at the hands of somebody close to them- or somebody they should be able to trust. Domestic violence thus can be taken as a 'regime of terror and violence' and has far reaching consequences for the people, particularly women, family and society. Violations against women are increasing day by day in the local as well as global context. It is the more or less the outcome of gender relations that assumes men to be superior to women. Violence against women is one the most significant, yet little understood and acknowledged factors instrumental in the phenomenon of marginalization of women in the developmental process. It is the manifestation of historically unequal power relation between men and women evident in various forms like female foeticide and infanticide, sexual abuse, molestation, sexual harassment at work place, marital rape, domestic violence in the form of wife assault and women battering. Violence against women remains one of the most pervasive violation of human security, dignity, self worth and their right to enjoy fundamental freedom. Of all the forms of violence that women face, domestic violence remains the least reported and largely suppressed even though it violates the fundamental rights of women. Given the subordinate status of the women, much of the gender violence is considered normal and given the social sanction. A culture where the rhetoric of male domination has not been challenged, nor questioned, treats its female population with vile contempt and moreover when one group assumes itself to be superior, it appropriates the right to oppress others (Bhattacharya, 2004: 25).



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The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) define Domestic Violence "as an act of gender based violence that result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats such acts or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life". It is an extremely complex and vicious form of abuse, committed often within the house and or within a particular deep-rooted power dynamic and socio-economic structure which do not allow even the acknowledgement or recognition of this abuse. It remains invisible because whatever is happening within four walls of a house is regarded as a private issue. Any interference in this matter is considered as a breach of 'privacy of a person'.

Definition and Nature

It is in attempting to define Domestic violence that one arrives at the road lock as there is no universally accepted definition of the Domestic violence. The United Nations and the international community have been continuously taking up the issue of Domestic Violence against women but it is generally subsumed under the wider concept of violence against women.

Documents like Beijing platform for Action specifically take note of the violence occurring within the family under violence against women and identify it as one of the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern. Yet it is amazing to note that Domestic Violence against women has not been defined expressly in the document. In the absence of a universally accepted definition of Domestic Violence, it changes from country to country, region to region, whereas as nature and extent of its prevalence is more or less similar globally.

UN Declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women (DEWV) 1993 says that Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women which has led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to prevention of the full advancement of women. Violence against women is thus one of the important mechanism by which women are forced into the subordinate position as compared to men (Goel, Kaur, Sultana, 2006)

Domestic Violence, as it is generally understood in its broader sense is violence among members of the family or members of the household. It implies any type of discrimination or violence that is inflicted by any member of the family in the household upon the other members of the family. It is the abuse of one person by another where they are involved in an intimate relationship. (H.P. Chattapadhy, 2014).

According to Black Law Dictionary, Domestic Violence means Violence between members of a household, usually spouses, an assault or other violent act committed by one member of household against another (VIIIth ed. 1999:1154; Misra 2006:51).

The Council of Europe (2006) defines Domestic Violence as

"Domestic Violence typically comprises abusive and coercive behavior such as physical, psychological or sexual abuse. A common pattern of

domestic violence often starts with intimidation, humiliation and threatening behavior, including threats of self-inflicted pain". (Jennifer marchbank & Gayle letherby, 2014: 301).

It is reinforced by establishing control over another person's life through isolation, manipulation and by placing limits on personal choices and freedoms. A typical pattern of Domestic Violence may also involve economic abuse by denying financial independence and controlling economic decisions. Behaviors of this sort are often the end result of months or year of intimidation and control. Both women and men suffer IPV(Intimate Partner Violence) (that come under the jacket of Domestic Violence) from both male and female partner; However, it is seen that majority of the Domestic Violence cases tend to be by men against the women. According to Council of Europe (2006) between 12 to 15 percent of women across Europe have experienced Domestic abuse in a relationship. In Italy in 2008 a National Survey showed that 6, 90,000 women reported having experience repeated domestic violence and France police research shows that one woman is killed in a domestic violence attack every three days (Ibid : 302).

The core of the definition of domestic violence consists of all the acts that constitute violence. Broadly, Violence against women can be divided into two categories:

1. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution.
2. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence and other traditional practices harmful to women, non spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.(Goel, Kaur, Sultana, 2006:5) Thus the nature and forms of violence is intertwined within physical, mental and psychological levels. Prevailing forms of violence includes wife beating, cruelty at home, molestation, sexual harassment at workplace etc that occurs in the society regardless of age, marital status, caste, religion, and class or income level, in rural as well as urban areas.

The definitions of the domestic violence are narrow and focus on a specific act of violence or they are broader and it incorporates the full range of acts. In the Indian discourse domestic violence is usually equated with dowry violence. This incomplete representation undermines awareness of the widespread every day's physical, sexual, and psychological abuse women confront, which is unrelated to dowry. As a result the violent act that does not involve bride-burning and unnatural deaths remains unreported.

Law plays significant role in eradicating violence against women; questioning the subordinate status of the women and reconstructing their identities as persons and human beings entitled to equal rights. As Martin King Luther observed, "Law cannot change

hearts, but can restrain the heartless" (Goel, Kaur, Sultana, 2006: xxvi)

The recently introduced "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 defines the expression, Domestic Violence to include actual threat or threat of abuse-physical, sexual verbal, emotional or economic Violence"(PWDV Act,2005). It says any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case if-

1. harms or injuries or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well being, whether mental, physical of the aggrieved or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or
2. harasses, harms injuries or endanger the aggrieved person with the view to coerce him or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand of dowry or other property or valuable security or;
3. has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause(a) or clause(b) or;
4. Otherwise injuries or cause harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person. (Misra, 2006:58).

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Domestic Violence Act was enacted by the Jammu and Kashmir State legislative in the sixty first year of the Republic India. "The Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2010 came into force on 29th April, 2010. The guidelines of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 were adopted in totality in J&K with changed nomenclature as Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2010

The problem of domestic violence is usually taken with the notion that it is the problem taking place in the rural areas. But the phenomenon of domestic violence is pervasive in rural areas, towns, and cities and in metropolitan as well. According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) (2005-06) it is 42.9 percent in rural areas and 32.7 percent in urban areas cutting across all social classes, gender, racial lines and age groups.

Though the problem of domestic violence in India is not new but existing since ancient times (Prabhu, 1963; Kane, 1940), the issue became important in the decade of eighties. The debate on Domestic Violence emerged as a result of women's movement crusade against the dichotomy of public and private sphere emphasizing that what is *personal is political*. The emergence of the women's movement not only posed a challenge to the patriarchal structure which is deeply embedded in Indian society but also actively propagated the idea of looking at Domestic Violence as societal/ public issue.

It was during the International Women Decade; during the second half of the 1970's that social scientists in the west started conducting studies to find out the nature and extent of violence against women. In India too, such concerns emerged around the same time when women's movement identified

and responded to the issue of wife abuse as a 'Social Problem'.

Amnesty International, a Non-Governmental Organization focusing on human rights in its report showed that more than 40 percent of married women in India are tortured, especially by their husbands. Likewise, National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) of India in its report of 2009 revealed that a total of 9431 Domestic Violence cases were reported across the country. Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of such cases against women with 3,983 cases followed by Gujarat with 3,266 and West Bengal with 1,661 respectively (Website, <http://www.financial express.top>). According to Annual Report 2012-13 the cruelty by husband and relatives which constitute domestic violence under section 498-A IPC, data show that in 2010 the number of cases were 94,041 whereas in 2011 they increased to 99,135 cases showing the 5.4 percent variation in 2011 over 2010 (Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi).

In the state of Jammu & Kashmir and in Jammu district, the situation is not very different. The incidents of domestic violence against women have been observed in rural as well as in urban areas, at all educational levels, in every economic class, and in different age groups. In an empirical sociological study on Domestic Violence in the Kashmir Valley carried out in 1999, about 30 percent of the women revealed that they were physically abused by their husbands. In the recent decade of militancy, these violent practices have increased significantly (Dabla, 1999). According to Hafeeza Muzaffar, Former Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir State Commission for Women, 80 percent of cases received by Commission were those of Domestic Violence. From April 2010 to March 2011, the Commission registered 1,333 cases from across the state, most of them related to Domestic Violence.

The practices related to Domestic Violence against women in Jammu District prevailed in the past and occur at present as well. The phenomenon is widespread and is found in all areas, rural or urban irrespective of caste, class, age, income and educational levels. Various estimates reveal that Domestic Violence in Jammu district takes various forms and has increased considerably.

The cases of Domestic Violence have increased in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as 332 complaints have been lodged till May, 2013 in the Women Cell. In the year 2010, 1028 complaints were received by the Women Cell whereas in the year 2011, 1070 complaints were received. The recent data collected through Women Cell reveals that in the year 2014 and 2015, 1128 and 1156 complaints were received respectively. In the year, 2016 till February, 233 complaints were registered in the Women Cell which shows the cases of Domestic Violence have shown upward trend and also incidents in the recorded cases. Most of the cases registered are pertained to dowry, harassment, wife battering due to alcoholism, extra marital affairs, preference for son, repeated birth of girl child, unemployment of husband etc. (source: internet, <http://www.statetimes.in/net>).

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the respondents under study.
2. To bring out the conceptual understanding of the concept of 'Domestic Violence' from different perspectives.
3. To analyze the existing types of violence in terms of forms, frequency and trend as well as the causes and the consequences of domestic violence in the rural and urban areas of Jammu district.
4. To know the awareness level of the respondents about the 'The Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005' and its usage

Review of Literature

Review of literature is a vital part of any research. It is a link between the research proposed and the studies already done. In India and especially in Jammu region there has been very little research done on the subject of 'Domestic Violence'. Recently the severity of the existing phenomenon has attracted the attention of scientists, sociologists, academicians and scholars. During the study of the topic, different kinds of vision have come to light which gave different representation to this issue. While going through an in-depth analysis, it is found that though a considerable research has been done in Jammu region, no such study has been conducted. Some of the books which have been studied are discussed as follows

In the Book *Violence against Women: Issues & Perspectives* (2006), *Goel, kaur and Ameer Sultana* attempts to explain the various forms of violence against women and seeks to explain the socio-cultural as well as structural causes of such violence inflicted on women. This book clearly and explicitly gives the insight into the status of women and girl child in the state of Punjab and Haryana dealing with the prevalence of phenomenon of female infanticide and foeticide. The authors' main argument is that this existing phenomenon is the result of the traditional ideology as well as unfortunate gift of technological advancement making women vulnerable and paving way to new model of victimization. According to the author there are different aspects of violence like domestic violence, female foeticide and infanticide, sexual harassment, dowry death etc which have its genesis in socio- cultural values that spring from the patriarchal ethos. Further the book has also dealt with the impact of these atrocities on the health of women as well as the legal and judicial intervention to tackle the problem of violence against Women.

Preeti Misra's (2006) *Domestic Violence Against women: Legal Control and Judicial Response* explains about status of the women in various religions and in the Vedic, British and post independence period. It also gives the conceptual clarification of the concept of Domestic Violence while defining with various proposed law whether criminal law, special laws, civil law etc. The book further deals with various types of violence, their causes and consequences specifically explaining that how family which was perceived as a center of solidarity and warmth has now become a centre of exploitation,

assault and violence. Theoretical explanations are given in detail regarding the phenomenon of Domestic Violence. Further author has given the elaborated details about the protection of women from domestic Violence Act-2005 and considered it as a landmark legislation seeking to deter domestic violence in all forms against women and also emphasized on the effective coordinated efforts on the part of other social service agencies. Counseling cells, reconciliation agencies and quasi state actors such as National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National and State Women Commission, Women's cells to bring about coordinated responds to violence against women are also dealt with in the book.

The book by Rinki Bhattacharya (2004) entitled *Behind closed Doors* discussed about the women who are trapped in the web of abusive relationship. It also explains the fact that among the working classes it is almost the routine affairs even when both husband and wife are educated who accepts said violence as a part of daily domestic tension. This book further attempts to trace and understand the status of women in Indian society today as reflected in changing role of earlier Goddesses principle in the dominant religious tradition and examines the negative ramification its has on female autonomy . It provides us the way to go inside the closed door and know about the complex problem of Domestic Violence in India. Based on the narrative of seventeen women from diverse socio-economic and caste background the author tried to understand the problem in the larger societal context and further analyzed the range of physical psychological, social cultural aspects of the abuse of women and their courage and determination to break their silence to escape from the abusive relationship. The author also explains the basic character of the Indian family unit as patriarchal, where women have only subordinate position in the household.

Dabla (2009) in his recent book on *Domestic Violence against Women in Kashmir Valley* has identified a host of variables to summaries the nature of violence and its underline features against women, the variables are : discrimination against women, women's working role, separation between husband and wife, practices of wife beating, torture and harassment of women, demand of dowry, threat to divorce, role of female sex, molestation. Statically, however, he finds that only 38.18 percent of the married women were facing the beating by their husbands. Interestingly his finding says that wife beating is not exclusive to husband only but other members of in laws family are involved in it. He however, agrees that the respondents prefer silence while 40 percent respondents prefer silence than replying to such questions.

In the study on domestic violence in the Indian context, Malvika Karlekar(1995) in her article on domestic Violence 'No Safe Spaces' abstracts certain generic characteristics of the family and the "naturalization" of violence within it. Whether the basic family unit is joint or nuclear, it provides the ground for both power play and powerlessness along the lines of gender and age. Conclusively established the process

of spousification of Devi- continues today. Socialization has carefully disempowered the latent powers traditionally linked, and women continue to battle for being defined outside the sphere of marriage as individuals.

In the book Dowry: The North Indian Perspective (2007) Reicha Tanwar attempts to explain that Dowry as an institution existed since ages in the Indian society. She asserts that this custom of presenting gifts to the bride has now become one of the brutal scourges of mankind today. Marriage which was considered as a sacred union of two souls has now become a commercial affair resulting in increased atrocities, whereby thousands of innocent brides are burnt, killed or maimed in the prime of their lives by husband and in-laws. Most of the dowry murders are preceded by the women being subjected to various kinds and degrees of violence often beginning with a slap but ending with a violent death. It is evident that married women are increasingly harassed, tortured, burnt and forced to commit suicide and murdered on account of dowry and number of dowry deaths in the North India has increasingly showing upward trend in recent years defying all legal preventive measures.

Ranjana Kumari in her book Brides are not Burning (1989) enumerated the harassment of young wives, leading to the process of bride burning. According to the author the actual number of dowry victims are actually higher than the office police record..Further the author explained that irony of the situation is that parents of the brides frequently discouraged their daughters from leaving tyrannical husband. In 69.3 percent of cases, parents sent their daughters back to husband's family knowing well about the torment they were undergoing.

Findings

The study was carried out in rural and urban areas of Jammu District. The area chosen for the study was the Jammu city and adjoining rural areas falling within the limit of 10 to 15km from the central city. Both rural and urban areas were taken for the study in order to have comparative analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence and to find out the forms, nature and trend.

The sample of the study comprised of two hundred (200) women respondents from rural and urban areas of the Jammu district. Out of the two hundred respondents, 100 cases were selected through purposive sampling method from rural areas and were identified with the help of Anganwari workers and supervisors. A total of 100 respondents from urban areas were selected by simple random sampling method through reported cases in the Women's Cell, Family Courts, Police Stations, NGOs etc.

The data was collected through both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through field work from the respondents by applying 'in-depth interview' and 'interview schedule' methods.

The age-wise classification of the respondents in the study revealed that in the urban areas 50 percent of the respondents facing domestic violence fall in the age group of 20-25, and 35 and 15 percent in the age

group of 30-35 years and 40-45 years respectively, whereas in rural areas 75 percent of the respondents fall in age group of 20-25 and 15 and 10 percent of the respondent fall in the age group of 30-35years and 40-45 years respectively. This showed that women respondents who were married at early age in rural areas are prone to face more domestic violence as compared to those residing in urban areas.

Age at marriage is an important variable in the study of domestic violence against women. Younger age at marriage puts a lot of stress for adjustment which may result in use of violence on the part of young husbands. It can therefore, be presumed that women who are married at an early age are at higher risk of being abused by the husbands and/or in-laws. It was proved true in the study that in urban areas 50 percent of the respondents faced domestic violence who are married between the age of 20-25 years and rest forty percent in the age group of 30-35 years and 40-45, whereas in the rural area 75 percent of the respondents faced domestic violence who are married early.

The household composition is an important variable for understanding the phenomenon of domestic violence against women. Women living in extended and joint families are required to make adjustments with a large number of family members as compared with those living in nuclear families. The study undertaken revealed that in the urban areas 80 percent of the respondents belong to nuclear family and 20 percent to the joint family whereas in the rural areas 25 percent belong to the nuclear family and 75 percent to joint family. This showed that there were different reasons of domestic violence even in the nuclear family where there is less number of family members as compared to those living in joint families.

Education plays a significant role in the life of any individual. Higher the level of education, higher is the potential for resisting any action of injustice, exploitation and torture. As far as women are concerned, education gives them a voice against all types of abuses inflicted on them and empowers them to fight for justice. It is generally presumed that the extent of domestic violence is less in cases where the subject of violence is educated. But in the study it was revealed that as far as education of the respondent is concerned, in the urban areas 36 percent of the respondents were under-graduates, 50 percent were graduates and 14 percent of the respondents were post graduates. In the rural areas more than 60 percent of the respondents were either illiterate or had reached up to the primary level and rest 40 percent has done martic and SSE. Thus, it was revealed that the education level has nothing to do with the level of violence, moreover, the educated women (those who were in job) in the urban areas faced domestic violence equally as the illiterates in the rural areas

In the context of religion more than 50 percent of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion, 26 and 17 percent to the Muslim and Sikh religion respectively, rest 7 percent of the respondents belonged to others which showed that the phenomenon of domestic violence cuts across all religions. Occupational background of the women is

an important indicator of their social status. Good occupational background provides higher prestige to the women in their families and in the society. Studies indicate that women engaged in occupations of lower prestige are more likely to be abused. Similarly, it is also a common understanding that women who stay at home and are not engaged in paid work outside their homes are at somewhat greater risk of being abused as compared with those engaged in paid work outside the home. In the study more than 60 percent of the respondents were engaged in the govt and private jobs and 38 percent were housewives, but still there was hardly any difference of experiencing the violence. Thus, whether the women is house wife or working, faced domestic violence in one or the other form.

Causes and Instigators of Domestic Violence

In general there are number of causes of domestic violence against women identified by various studies conducted in India and abroad. In general these causes can be broadly divided into: firstly, individual problems which constitute stress, poverty, unemployment physically challenged and lack of material resources etc; secondly, systematic and structural patriarchal control of men over women which furthers develops the power relation between men and women, sex stereotyped roles, expectations and dependency of women over men, their tolerance of domestic violence and reluctance to report the case of domestic violence to police and lastly the socialization process in which women are socialized to be submissive and obedient. Men are similarly socialized wherein the use of abusive language and wife-beating are considered as an act of masculinity. Thus, the process of socialization leads both men and women to internalize their individual status within the society and define their role in relation to the other sex.

In the study it was revealed that in urban areas 40 percent of the respondents faced domestic violence in the form of battering because of alcoholism. Nearly 28 and 20 percent of the respondents faced violence due to dowry demands and extra marital affairs of the husband in the form of dowry harassment and emotional abuse respectively and 12 percent revealed some other reasons for the violence against them.

In the rural areas 65 percent respondents faced domestic violence due to alcoholism in the form of both physical and verbal abuse and in most of the cases the instigator of the violence was usually husband and mother-in-law, 24 and 11 percent of the respondents were of the view that they faced domestic violence because of dowry demands and extra marital affairs respectively and the entire in-laws' family was the instigator of the violence perpetrated against them.

Consequences of the Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence also includes placing a woman in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat or force. This includes threats of violence, or other conduct that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. Psychologists are of the opinion that emotional or psychological

violence is more serious than the physical violence because the wounds arising out of physical violence may heal over a period of time but the harmful effects of emotional violence last longer, sometimes lifelong. There are women who face the violent situation boldly and do not allow their personality to be adversely affected. But there are others who get mentally disturbed and disorganised. They restrict their social contacts and feel ashamed of their abusive situation. There are still others who get worried and become victims of chronic health problems.

In the study it was revealed that 35 percent of the respondents faced mental torture in the form of sarcastic remarks, ignorance and severe restrictions which ultimately developed sense of hatred for their own self. In all 40 percent of the respondents said that their husbands put them down in front of others and usually humiliates them on the frequent complaints regarding household chores. Overall 25 percent of the respondent revealed that they faced physical violence in the form of beating, slapping, punching etc which gave them visible injuries on their bodies' requiring medical treatment. This physical and mental abuse led to various ill effects on their body and mind leading to various health problems like hypertension, diabetes, depression and stress etc.

When asked about the provision of Domestic Violence Act 2005/2010, it was found that in the urban areas nearly 30 percent of the respondents were aware of the Act whereas 70 percent of them were totally unaware of such provision. In the rural areas 100 percent of the respondents were ignorant about the Act and few were of the view that if ever there is any such law it is not for people like them as they are totally illiterate and ignorant. Few of them were of the view that such type of law is not going to help in reducing the violence as they believed that it is the patriarchal mindset which needs to be changed first.

Few of them even said that they are not even allowed to speak or retaliate against the pain or injury which was inflicted on them especially through battering: reaching out to police or taking help of judicial system is out of question. They said "it will not help us and even, to the coming generation of girls, they also have to live with practice of discrimination, ignorance and pain". These responses shows that there is lack of awareness among the women regarding the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act as well as that women have many barriers to access the available provisions.

Conclusion

The phenomenon of Domestic though means violence in the family refers to violence against women in particular, as almost always the victims are women. The domestic violence is not only on increase but is also assuming subtler forms every day. Domestic violence in Jammu district is not limited to wife beating only which is the most common abuse worldwide irrespective of class, religion, community and caste background but also assumes other forms. The main categories identified were - physical, emotional or psychological and verbal abuse; but this clarification is fairly crude and there are endless variations within each category including threats,

intimidation, manipulation, isolation, keeping the victim without money, locked in, deprived of food, using or abusing her children in various ways to threaten, frighten her and wife-beating etc.

It was found in the study that it was not the woman's dependence that had made them vulnerable; a wife in a high-status job was beaten more than her unemployed neighbor. The problem of domestic violence is usually taken with the notion that it is the problem taking place in the rural areas. But it was found in the study that the phenomenon of domestic violence is pervasive in rural areas, towns, and urban cities as well.

There were various reasons found behind the incidents regarding the prevalence of Domestic Violence against women in Jammu district which ranged from petty family quarrels to men's extra marital relations. The greed for dowry, desire for male child and alcoholism of spouse were some of the major causes of domestic violence in the rural areas of Jammu region. There were many young brides who were subjected to continuous harassment for not bringing home the amount of demanded dowry. In the urban areas there were many more factors which led to differences in the beginning and later took the shape of domestic violence. They were, more income of working women creating sense of independence, her absence in the house till late night, abusing and neglecting in-laws, son preference, lack of compatibility and tolerance, differences in thinking and decision making, extra marital affairs and role of technology like face book, whatsapp which actually created suspicion among the couples. This reflects a set pattern of domestic violence against women in Jammu District.

Thus, we can conclude that there is ever increasing trend of domestic violence taking new forms in the Jammu District. The incidents of domestic violence against women have been observed in rural as well as in urban areas, at all educational levels, in every economic class, in different age groups and in different forms despite the available provisions to protect and safeguards the rights of the women. If we want to alter the situation we require some attitudinal and structural changes on the part of men and women which would only be possible when the relationship between the sexes is seen essentially complimentary and of equality.

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