

## **PERCEPTION OF MARRIED WOMEN TOWARDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ASSAM, A STUDY ON GOHPUR SUB-DIVISION**

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### **1. Introduction:**

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are activities used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated or dating. Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual abuse (unwanted or forced sexual activity), and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuse is not criminal behaviors, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence.

Human rights may be regarded as those fundamental and inalienable rights which are possessed by every human being, irrespective of caste, religion, ethnicity, region, language, sex, etc. It is a universal concept and has been accepted by all the nations. It may be defined as moral claims which are inborn and inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as a human being. According to U.N. Report, 1980 “women constitute half of the world population, perform two- third of its work hours, received one- tenth of the world’s income and own less than one hundred of the world’s property.” Women are the pivot around which the family, the society and humanity itself revolve. They play a significant and a prominent role in the development of the society. It is to be said that if a man is educated, one person is educated but if a woman is educated the whole family gets educated. Domestic violence also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, emotional, verbal, psychological abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking and intimate partner violence. It means violence against children, older people, spouses and other members of the family. The different forms of violence include physical, emotional, verbal, economical and sexual abuse. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that globally 38% of murders against women are committed by an intimate partner. Violence is usually happens more than one ingredient. One of the most important is a opinion that abuse, whether physical or

verbal, is satisfactory. Other factors are substance abuse, unemployment, psychological problems, poor managing skills, closing off and excessive dependence on the abuser

## 2. Multi Factorial Systematic Model of Family Violence

Societal, cultural and social political development phases of a developing society bring a variety of changes in the value system.

Table 1: Different kinds of gender violence over the cycle

Parental	Sex selection abortion, battering during pregnancy
Infancy	Female infanticide physical differential access to food and medical care for the girls students.
Childhood	Child marriage, sexual abuse by family members and strangers, child prostitution.
Adolescence	Forced sex, sexual abuse in the workplace, rape and sexual harassment.
Reproductive	Abuse of women by intimate male partners, marital rape, dowry abuse and murder, psychological abuse, sexual abuse in the workplace, etc.
Old Age	Abuse of widows, early abuse.

Source: Germaine, 1999

Domestic violence badly effects on children. During the mid-1990s, the Adverse Childhood Experiences study found that children who were exposed to domestic violence and other forms of abuse had a higher risk of developing mental and physical health problems. Some emotional and behavioural problems that can be found due to domestic violence include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in how a child socializes with friends, family and authorities. Depression, emotional insecurity and mental health disorder can follow due to traumatic experiences. School related disorder also occurs due to domestic violence of the child. On the other hand, adolescent are also badly affected by domestic violence. Some emotional problems like insecure, identify crisis, low self-esteem, hyper sensitivity etc are arise due to effect of violence. Domestic violence sometimes leads to some psychological problems like depression, suicide etc.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives of this present study:

1. To find out the perception of married women on domestic violence.
2. To study the married woman's awareness about present legislations and institutions that protect them from domestic violence.
3. To identify the different types of domestic violence which the respondents face in their family.
4. To find out the different factors this is causing domestic violence.

## **4. Methodology**

Methodology is an important part of research study. In the present study, methodology has been presented under the following heads:

1. Research Design
2. Population and Sample
3. Tools for Data Collection
4. Analysis of Data.

### **4.1 Research Design**

For the present study, the investigator was employed “Descriptive Method”. The method has been used as a most widely used research method. It is the method of investigation which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes, beliefs etc.

### **4.2 Population and Sample**

The populations of the study are married women in Gohpur Sub-division of Sonitpur district in Assam. Sample coverages a group of representation items. A sample must be as nearly representation of the entire population as possible and ineptly it provides the whole of the information about the population from which the sample has been drawn. The researcher always selects some items from the universe or population for his study purpose that is technically called a sample. Sampling is the process of selecting a sample from the population. A sample is a small proportion of a popular selected for observation and analysis. In the present study, convenience sampling, this is a nonprobability sampling method. The samples were divided into three clusters based on the age of the respondents.

Cluster I - 20-30 years

Cluster II - 30-40 years

Cluster-III- 40-50 years

#### ***4.2.1 Sample Size***

The sample size for the study was 120. Each cluster had 40 samples each.

#### ***4.2.2 Tool for Data Collection***

Structured interview schedule was used as the tool of data collection, consisting of 50 questions with multiple choices. Questions were prepared on the basis the objectives.

#### ***4.2.3 Pre –Testing***

Pre-test was conducted with 20 respondents to check the validity and reliability of the schedule and to tailor irrelevant questions.

### 4.3 Data collection

Data were collected through personal interview. Investigator met each respondent and collected his or her perceptions on Domestic violence.

### 4.4 Analysis and Interpretation of data

Collected data were coded and analyzed through percentage and frequency distribution. Observations and work experiences also helped the researcher to interpret the data. The investigator analyzed and interpreted the collected data as the following ways (Table No- 2)

Table: 2 Family structures

S.No.	Types of family	Total No. of women	Percentage (%)
1	Nuclear	101	84.1
2	Joint	17	14.2
3	Extended	02	1.7
4	Divorce	0	0
5	Single Mother	0	0

Source: Field Study

The table 2 reveals that majority i.e. 84.1% belong to nuclear family, followed by joint family 14.2% and extended family 1.7%.

Table 3: Domestic violence faced

S.No	Types	Total No of Married women	%
1	Physical violence	115	95.8
2	Emotional	88	73.3
3	Sexual violence	111	92.5
4	Verbal	117	97.5
5	Economical	75	62.5
6	Child abuse	107	89.2

Source: Field Study

This table-3 reveals that 95.8% of the respondents perceived physical violence in the family. Most of the respondents 73.3% perceive about emotional violence. 92.5% of the respondents aware about sexual violence. 97.5% of the respondents are aware about

verbal violence. On the other hand, 62.5% of the respondents perceive economical violence. 89.2% respondents perceived that there is a child abuse in the family.

Table 4: Factors causing Domestic violence

S.N	Factors	Total no of married women	%
1	Alcoholism	114	95
2	Financial crisis	112	93.3
3	Job stress	115	95.8
4	Male dominance	117	97.5
5	Sexual dissatisfaction	111	92.5
6	Smoking	112	93.3
7	Mass media	101	84.2
8	Early Marriage	99	82.5

Source: Field Study

The above table-4 shows about the percentage of different factors that leads to domestic violence. From this table it has been shown that 95% of the respondents perceived that alcoholism leads to domestic violence. 93.3% respondents perceived that financial crisis leads to domestic violence. Good number of respondents, 95.8% perceived that job stress leads to domestic violence. 97.5% of the respondents perceived that male dominance leads to domestic violence. 92.5% perceived that sexual dissatisfaction leads to domestic violence. 93.3% of the respondents that smoking leads to domestic violence. 84.2% perceived that mass media also lead to domestic violence. On the other hand, 82.5% of the respondents perceived that early marriage lead to domestic violence.

Table 5: Awareness about legislation of Domestic violence

S.No	Legislation	Total no of married women	Percentage (%)
1	Family court	58	48.3
2	Dowry Prohibition Act	112	93.3
3	Human Rights	92	76.7
4	RTE	89	74.2
5	Enforcing Laws	62	51.7

Source: Field Study

From the table no. 5, it is found that only 48.3% of respondents are aware about family court. But 93.3% of the respondents are aware about Dowry prohibition Act. Only 76.7% are aware about human rights. 74.2% of the respondents are aware about RTE. Only 51.7% respondents perceived that enforcing law will reduce domestic violence.

## 5. Conclusion

On the basis of the study, we can say that married women in Gohpur Sub-division of Sonitpur district in Assam. Assam on an average has awareness about domestic violence and the various factors leading to domestic violence. But it is found that they are not much aware about the legislation or constitutional remedies to tackle family violence. From the above study, the following suggestion will be given for better understanding of domestic violence:

1. Measures should be taken by Government and NGOs to increase legal awareness of domestic violence.
2. Measures should be taken by social workers to reduce domestic violence and also to increase awareness.
3. Motivation meetings should be organized to the persons undergoing domestic violence.
4. Further studies should be arranged to know about the different kinds of domestic violence.

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