

Domestic violence under Protection of women from domestic violence, Act 2005

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Abstract: The present article is based upon the study of term “Domestic violence” as embodied under the Protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005 (PWDV). Wherein section 3 of the Act stipulates the definition of Domestic violence. Domestic violence against women is an act of any male partner or his relative which harms whether physically; mentally; economically or psychologically. These violence’s are hindrance for the development and freedom of women. The article further contains various forms of Domestic violence including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and Economical.

Key Words: Violence, Abuse, Domestic, Harassment, Aggrieved person, Domestic relationship.

1. INTRODUCTION:

“I’m the woman who holds up sky.
The rainbow runs through my eyes.
The sun make path to my womb.
My thoughts are in the shape of clouds.
But my words are yet to come”

It is well known fact that still in 21st century women are treated as a second-class citizenry. And they are in back seat far from men. It is true that half of the world’s population is women, still they suffer from the course of discrimination. The women consist 66% of the illiteracy and 70% of the world’s poor¹. The Indian society largely follows strong patriarchal norms wherein women have little social status in society right from their birth. Sex specific premature birth of female babies and female child murder are generally worked on guaranteeing just male kids are conceived. Indian women additionally have lower life expectancy and less access to education (and therefore lower literacy rates) health care and work opportunity than Indian men. There is also a common belief that a woman is her father’s and after her marriage her husband’s property. This is represented by the customary endowment framework in which a Bride's family should give money, property or blessings to her spouse's family as a feature of the wedding.

Indian women face numerous problems pertaining to discrimination, dowry system bride burning, high percentage of illiteracy and many more. Earlier women were confronting issues like sati pratha, parda pratha, child marriage, confinement to widow marriage, and so forth. Practically all the old conventional issues have been vanished continuously from the general public yet offered ascend to some other new issues. They might be confronting brutality inside the family like endowment related provocation, conjugal assault, sexual maltreatment, and so on. Domestic violence is one of them.

2. OBJECTIONS OF THE STUDY:

- To understand the conceptual framework of domestic violence.
- To study and analyse the course of domestic violence.
- To find out the forms of the protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005.

Hypothesis:

- Practice of domestic violence against women is prevailing in India.
- Poverty and lack of education has given rise to domestic violence against women in India.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The Doctrinal research methodology has been adopted for the purpose of this study. The study is carried out with the help of secondary data from books, expert articles, websites.

¹ P.K Das, *Protection of women from Domestic violence*, p 3 (Universal law publishing co. Fourth edn., 2011)

4. Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence occurs in people of all races, belonging to any culture, religions and ethnicities can be a perpetrator of domestic violence. Domestic violence is perpetrated on and by both women and men and occurs in opposite sex as well as same sexual relationships.

In India for the very first time this term was embodied under the Protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005. According to its domestic violence is any act or conduct of the husband or his relative including any women which harms or endangers or imperils the health, safety, life, appendage or prosperity, regardless of whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person (any women who is or has been in domestic relation with the perpetrator) or tends to do such act and incorporates causing physical maltreatment, sexual maltreatment, verbal and psychological mistreatment and financial maltreatment.

It is also a domestic violence if any husband or any relative thereof harasses, hurts, harms or imperils his wife with a view to coerce or compel her or her relatives to fulfil the unlawful dowry demand or demand of other property or valuable security.

Further, husband or any relative of her husband commits domestic violence if they threaten her or her relatives by any conduct of dowry demand or physical or mental torture as mentioned above.

Domestic violence is about one person getting and keeping control over another person in an intimate relationship. The victim of domestic violence might be current or former spouse or dating partner. According to Many Ann Dutton, a Psychologist who is an expert in violence has described it as a pattern of behaviour in which one partner uses physical violence, threats, coercion, intimidation, emotional and isolation, sexual or economic abuse in order to control and change the behaviour of the other partner. Domestic violence occurs between the people of all ages, races ethnicities and religions. It occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationship.

About 95% of victims of domestic violence in India are women. Over half of all women will experience physical violence in the domestic relationship; and for 24-30% of those women, the battering or physical abuse will be regular and ongoing. It is also observed that in every 15 seconds the crime of battering occurs². Most abusers are men. There is some evidence that shows that men who grow up in a house wherein domestic violence often occurs, that boys in future often become abusers as adults, however, many abusers are from non-violent homes, and many boys from violent homes do not grow up as abuser.

However, economic or professional status of any person does not make much difference on the commission of domestic violence because every section of the society is suffering from this evil practice and it is observed amongst rich as well as poor section of the Indian society. Whereas, the victims of domestic violence can be any women whether a labourers or college professors, Judges or Advocates, school teachers or staff, truck drivers, home makers or store clerks or doctors.

However, there are various causes of domestic violence including religious factor, sociological factors, aggressive attitude, poverty, dominating behaviour, drug addiction, extra marital affairs and many other of like nature.

5. Forms of Domestic violence:

The protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005 enumerates various form of domestic violence. The following are the forms of domestic violence: -

- **Physical Abuse:** - It means any conduct or act which is of such a nature as to cause bodily pain, harm, or danger to limb, life, health or impair the health or development of the aggrieved person and includes criminal intimidation, assault and criminal force. For instance, when a husband beats his wife, he commits domestic violence by physical abuse.

This maltreatment is viewed as the most old and pervasive method of subordinating of a lady in a family, it is the most common control mechanism applied by others against women within the domestic sphere.³

Each 3rd woman in India suffers sexual/physical violence at home. As indicated by the report, 27 percent of women have encountered physical violence since the age 15 in India. This experience of physical violence among ladies is more typical in rural regions than among ladies in urban regions. Domestic violence cases, wherein ladies reported physical abuse in rural and urban territories, were at 29 percent and 23 percent, respectively.⁴

- **Sexual Abuse:** - Sexual Abuse includes any act or conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, degrades, humiliates or infringes/violates the dignity of woman.

² N.A Zuberi, The protection of women from domestic violence Act and rules, p 46, Allahabad law Agency

³ Vimal vidhushy and Gandeep Sethi, Domestic violence in India, Analysis, p 462, International journal of Applied Research. Available at <http://www.allresearchjournal.com> (last modified on March 24, 2019)

⁴ <https://www.news18.com/news/> (last modified on 20 March 2019)

The sexual abuse has additionally been perceived under the International law with regards to Domestic violence. This type of Abuse is limited to the interpersonal relation between the man and ladies in the nature of Marriage as a couple. The men expect that a spouse is never expected to won't or disregard her obligations of having intercourse with her husband and approach has been broadly acknowledged and reasonable clarification for men's violence. The man utilizes this type of violence to declare and keep up their masculinity over women. This type of violence is exceptionally regular within the families where men are educated. According to a study it was found that 79% of men utilized sexual brutality to control their female partner and 57% of them had over 6 years of their formal education'.⁵

- **Verbal and emotional abuse:** - It includes any insults, humiliation, ridicule, insults or ridicule and name calling especially as to not having a male kid or a child. It further includes repeated threats to cause bodily pain to any person in whom the aggrieved person is interested. This abuse is also known as psychological Abuse. However, this type of abuse is one of the significant types of abuse faced by a woman. As indicated by the report by the 'United Nations World Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Washington-put together International Centre for Research with respect to Women polled 9,205 men, aged 18 to 49 across the state of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra found that men who had encountered discrimination during childhood were multiple times bound to be violent towards their accomplices. The most noteworthy reports of violence originated from Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, said the report, with in excess of 70 percent of men in these districts confessing to being abusive towards their wife and accomplices.
- **Economic abuse:** - It includes the deprivation of financial resources or any economic resources to which the aggrieved person is entitled under any custom or law whether payable under a request for a court or which the abused individual requires out of need including, yet not constrained to, family necessities for the wronged individual and her child, assuming any, property, Stridhan, jointly or separately owned by the aggrieved person, payment of rental related to maintenance and the shared household. Further, it additionally incorporates transfer of family impacts, any distance of benefits whether steady or mobile, protections, assets, offers, securities or other property in which the distressed individual has an intrigue or is qualified for use by excellence of the local relationship or which might be sensibly required by the wronged individual or her kids or her Stridhan or some other property independently or together held by the oppressed individual. Additionally, it includes restriction or prohibition to continued access to resources or facilities which the aggrieved person is entitled to enjoy or use by virtue of the domestic relationship including access to the shared household.

6. CONCLUSION:

It may be concluded that the evil practice of domestic violence against women is still prevalent in the Indian society. Indian women are frequent victim of this evil practice. Whereas, domestic violence is observed amongst the rich as well as poor society of India and beside poverty and lack of education there are various other factors as well which give rise to domestic violence in India.

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⁵ Vimal vidhushy and Gandeep Sethi, Domestic violence in India, Analysis, p 462, International journal of Applied Research. Available at <http://www.allresearchjournal.com> (last modified on March 24, 2019)