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## **ABSTRACT**

### **FINDINGS**

During the course of study following observations were made:

- That domestic violence constitutes a wide range of conduct and affects an array of relationships. Domestic violence could result in anything from death to deliberating physical injuries. Such violence can also cause devastating psychological impairment leading to mental injury. Thus domestic violence can be physical, emotional and verbal, sexual and economic in nature.
- That our study reveals that patriarchy is the main reason for domestic violence. Indian society is patriarchal.
- That Domestic violence has always remained a private issue. It is the private sphere within which most women lead their lives. Patriarchy is perpetuated through men's control over women's bodies and their space. Though amendments in criminal law addressed the issue of male violence over women's bodies in all spheres, public and private, but it was not adequate to solve the problem of domestic violence.
- Our empirical study reveals that domestic violence against married women was reported across all socio-economic strata. It further reveals that more than 65 percent of the women respondents were young married women and they were the one who were most vulnerable to domestic violence.
- Overall, about 44.8 percent of women respondent reported experiencing at least one type of domestic violence (physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence). Beating was the most common physical behaviour of husband towards women respondent across all strata (15.9 percent).

- Dowry is a social evil, 72.8 percent women respondent said that dowry was paid by their parents, but very few came up with dowry related torture (41 out of 350 women respondent).
- According to the survey, alcoholism is the main reason for domestic violence (42.6 percent), followed by money matters (40.7 percent).
- The most shocking part of this study was that most of the women respondent did not know about the PWDVA. Of the total sample, approximately 68.5 percent women respondent have not heard about the PWDVA, as compared to 31.4 percent women respondent who know about the PWDVA.
- An analysis of the judgments passed under the PWDVA by the Trial Courts and Higher Judiciary, i.e. the High Courts and the Supreme Court shows that there are some conflicting views of judges in the understanding of PWDVA. For example on the question of whether a female relatives be made respondents, all High Courts have their own understanding on the issue. Similarly on the issue of right to reside in a shared household the Courts have conflicting views.
- No legislation is perfect and therefore the success of law lies in its ability to prove effective and beneficial to its users. Thus proper implementation of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 there is need to put in place the required infrastructure such as proper administration, support, appointment of experienced officers, intensive training, mass awareness generation, adequate budgetary allocation and regular review of the system in place.