

Chapter-III

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Violence against women is a routine affair in most of the families in one-way or the other. Dependence of women upon men has made it a right of the men to treat women in a manner they think correct. Domestic violence has emerged as a serious human right threat to women in every Indian Society – rural and urban, rich and poor, developing and industrialized.

Women are distinctly vulnerable in three specific situations – within the home, while in transit and at the workplace. However, it is the crime perpetrated within the four walls of the home that is extremely difficult to address. This is one area where reporting is minimal and where the women are often most exposed to peril. Women are abused, misused and exploited for male pleasure and for satisfying male ego. It is not only that the society treats them generally unfair but they themselves have come to accept this treatment as a natural law. They grow up and constantly live with a sense of being weak and in need of protection whether physical, social or economic.

In most of the cases violence leads to psycho-emotional injuries, mental health problems, reproductive health problems, sexually transmitted diseases and other such problems which sometimes cause permanent physical or mental disabilities. The forms of violence are battering, sexual abuse, dowry related violence, rape, female genital mutilation, non-spousal violence, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution, experienced by women, boys and girls at any stage of life can have severe health and psychological effect.

This picture is not only common in urban and sub-urban areas but also in the rural areas. In rural areas the condition of women are more serious than urban areas, they are physically and mentally abused, humiliated at their in-laws places. The physical torture include slapping, punching, kicking, chocking, beating, biting, burning, pulling hair, pushing down stairs and the frequent use of weapons of one sort or another. Physical violence especially punches in the abdomen shown during pregnancy. These voices are dumped behind illiteracy, customs and traditions. In urban and sub-urban areas, the women are mentally tortured by their husband and other family members which includes threats, intimidation, manipulation, isolation, keeping a women with out money, locked in, deprived of food or abusing her children in various ways, systematic and belittling comments. This quite often results to acute psychological problems.

Therefore to analyse the individual cases of domestic violence as well as marital conflicts in rural and urban areas, and to give an insight of the various aspects and variation of domestic violence have been undertaken for study. Also the role of FCC to mitigate the problems of domestic violence has been included for the same.

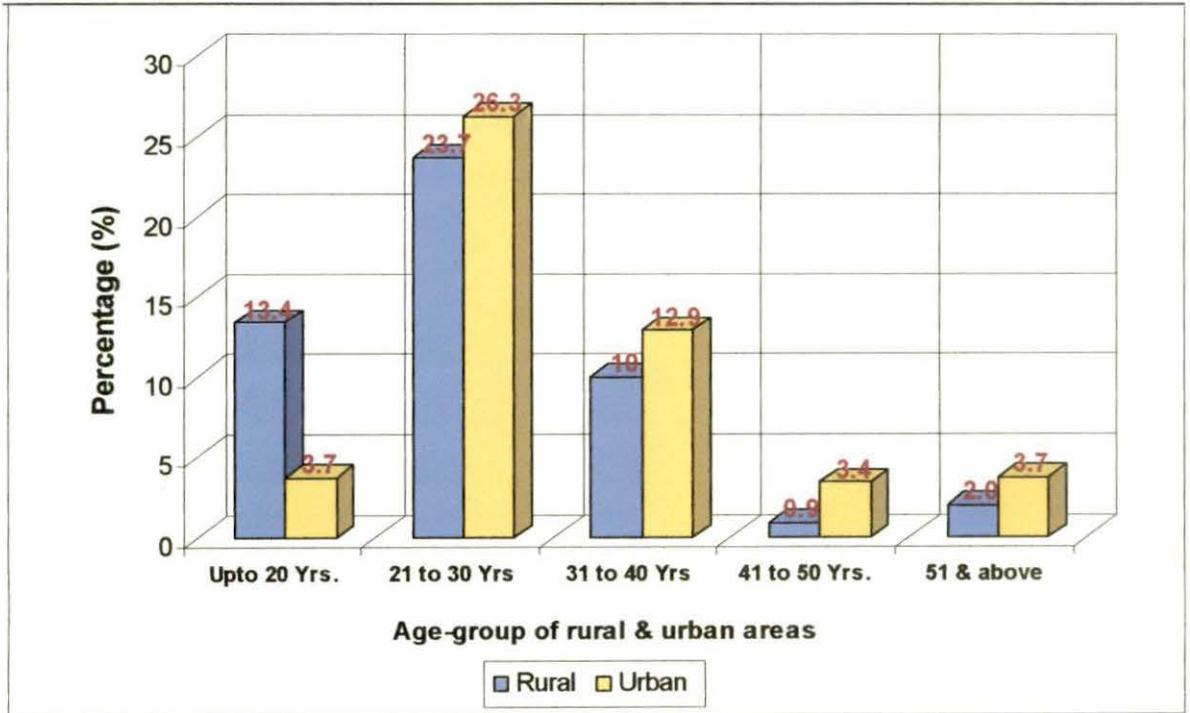
RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENCE

When compare the share of violence in rural and urban areas against the age group of the respondents (Table 3), among the respondents 50 percent of the victims were in the rural areas and an equal percentage i.e., 50 percent of victims each suffered various forms of violence in urban areas also. 23.7% victims in the rural areas are belongs to the age group of 21-30 years; whereas in the same category of age group, the percentage of victims are 26.3% in urban areas, little higher than rural areas; followed by 13.4% upto the age of 20 years in rural areas and 3.7% in urban areas, i.e. in rural areas the percentage of domestic violence against women upto the age of 20 is high. Further, the percentages of victims between the age group of 31-40 years are 12.9% in urban areas and 10% in rural areas. So in urban areas the rate of victims between the age group of 31-40 years is higher than rural areas; followed by 3.4% in urban areas and 0.9% in rural areas between the age group of 41-50 years. Of the violence suffered in the age group of 51 and above, 3.7% in the urban areas and 2% in rural areas respectively.

Table 3: Age of the victims in rural and urban areas

Age (in yrs.)	Rural	Urban	Total
Upto 20	47 (13.4)	13 (3.7)	60 (17.1)
21 to 30	83 (23.7)	92 (26.3)	175 (50)
31 to 40	35 (10)	45 (12.9)	80 (22.9)
41 to 50	3 (0.9)	12 (3.4)	15 (4.3)
51 and above	7 (2.0)	13 (3.7)	20 (5.7)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 2: Age of the victims in rural and urban areas



It is observed that the young women were found to be the victims of violence in both rural and urban areas. A considerable percentage of victims fall in the age group of 16-20 and 21-30 years. Less mature and more emotional—these two are main factors leading to family disharmony. It is because they are not mature enough to cope with and

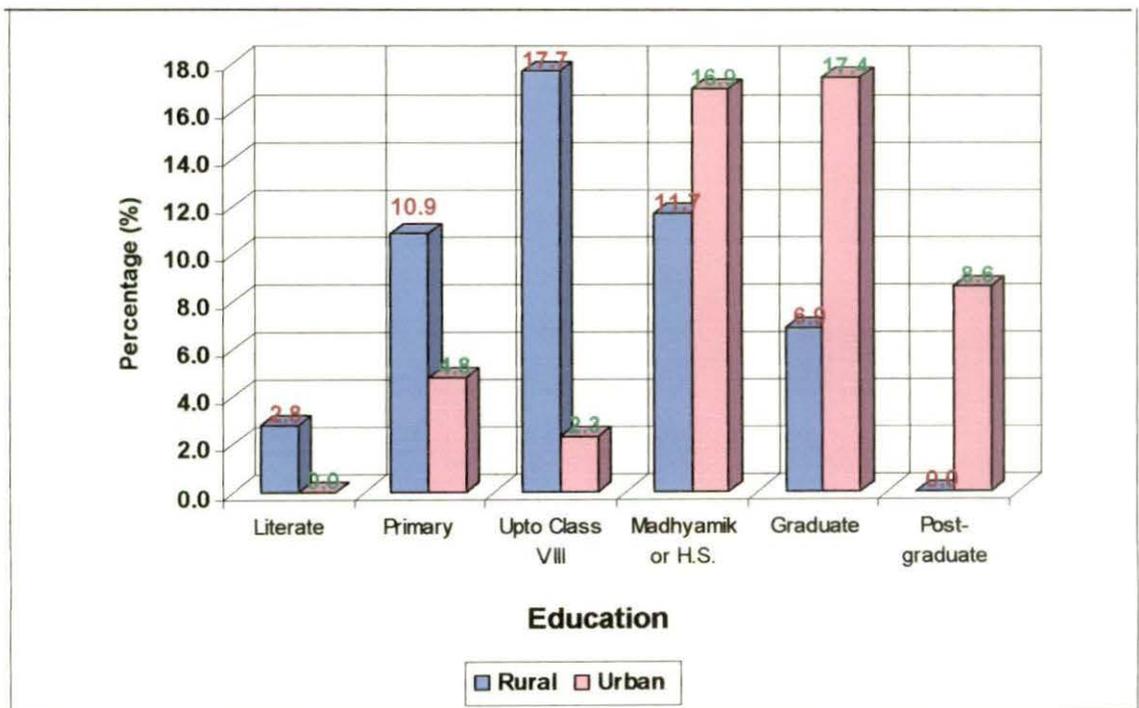
tackle the problems in the domestic sphere. Emotionality is another instinctive factor which resists the women to raise their voice against domestic violence. The grown ups belonging to the age groups 41-50 years and 51 years above are more mature and reasonable and hence they suffer less.

Occurrence of violence against women in rural and urban areas in relation to education is discussed in Table No.4. When the domestic violence against women in rural and urban areas is seen in relation to education, it is seen that 28.6% respondents belong to the Madhyamik and Higher Secondary educational category of which 16.9% violence committed in urban areas and 11.7% in rural areas followed by in the Graduate category 17.4% of violence committed in the urban areas and 6.9% in the rural areas. Further in the post-graduate level, there are 8.6% respondents are from urban areas and there are no rural respondents in the post-graduation level and no victims of domestic violence is reported in literate level at urban areas, but in rural areas the percentage of reported case of violence in literate level is 2.8%. Of the total 20% respondents belong to upto Class VIII level, there are 17.7% victims from rural areas and only 2.3% victims from urban areas. Again in the primary level, there are 10.9% respondents from rural areas and in urban areas the percentage is 4.8%. The study reveals that the rate of violence in the education level from Madhyamik to Post-Graduate level is higher (42.9%) in urban areas and in rural areas is slightly low (24.6%).

Table 4: Education of the victims in rural and urban areas

Education	Rural	Urban	Total
Literate	10 (2.8)	-	10 (2.08)
Primary	38 (10.9)	17 (4.8)	55 (5.7)
Upto Class VIII	62 (17.7)	8 (2.3)	70 (20)
Madhyamik & H.S.	41 (11.7)	59 (16.9)	100 (28.6)
Graduate	24 (6.9)	61 (17.4)	85 (24.3)
Post-graduate	-	30 (8.6)	30 (8.6)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 3 : Education of the victims in rural and urban areas



So, the women with low education designate their complete dependency because with low educational background they will not be able to have economic independence or would be engaged in occupations with low economic returns and low prestige. In the case of those who have Madhyamik to Post-Graduate education they are be in

better position to gain economic independence and with the higher education they start questioning the dominant position of their husbands. Such a threat is not tolerated by the husbands and they use physical violence as their ultimate resource to maintain their dominant position in the family. The reason for more violence among those who have higher education the women with high education not endorse the traditional role relationship and this considered as threat to the dominant position by their husbands. Low education level does not cause violence but it aggravates the frustration.

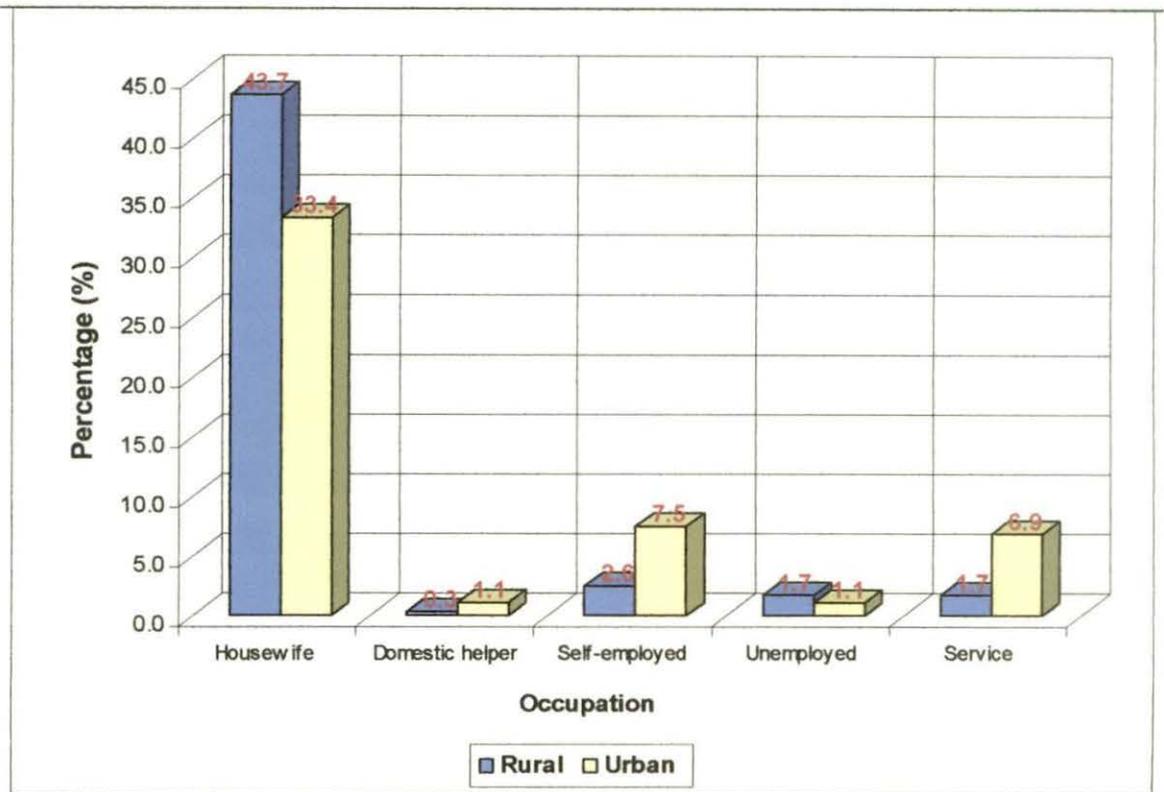
The frequency of domestic violence against women in rural and urban areas is seen in the relation to occupation (Table No.5). Of the violence reported in rural areas 43.7% are housewives followed by 2.6% in rural areas are self-employed. The one victim in rural areas is a domestic helper.

Further the occurrence in violence against women in urban areas in relation to occupation is that 33.4% respondents are housewives, followed by 7.5% of victims are self-employed, 6.9% of victims are in service and an equal percentage, i.e., 1.1% of victims in urban areas are domestic helper and unemployed respectively.

Table 5: Occupation of the victims in rural and urban areas

Occupation	Rural	Urban	Total
Housewife	153 (43.7)	117 (33.4)	270 (77.1)
Domestic Helper	1 (0.3)	4 (1.1)	5 (1.4)
Self-employed	9 (2.6)	26 (7.5)	35 (10)
Unemployed	6 (1.7)	4 (1.1)	10 (2.9)
Service	6 (1.7)	24 (6.9)	30 (8.6)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 4: Occupation of the victims in rural and urban areas



It is observed from the study that majority of the housewives in rural and urban areas 77.1% are suffering from various forms of domestic violence.

This study indicates that women who stay at home are not engaged in paid work outside their homes are at somewhat greater risk of being physically abused than those engaged in paid work. This is because housewives are perceived to contribute less to family subsistence and are consequently valued less than women who are engaged in paid work outside the home. Wife beating is far less common in families in which women have independent economic and social resources, because these resources are valuable enough to make a husband think twice before acting in ways that might force his wife to terminate marriage.

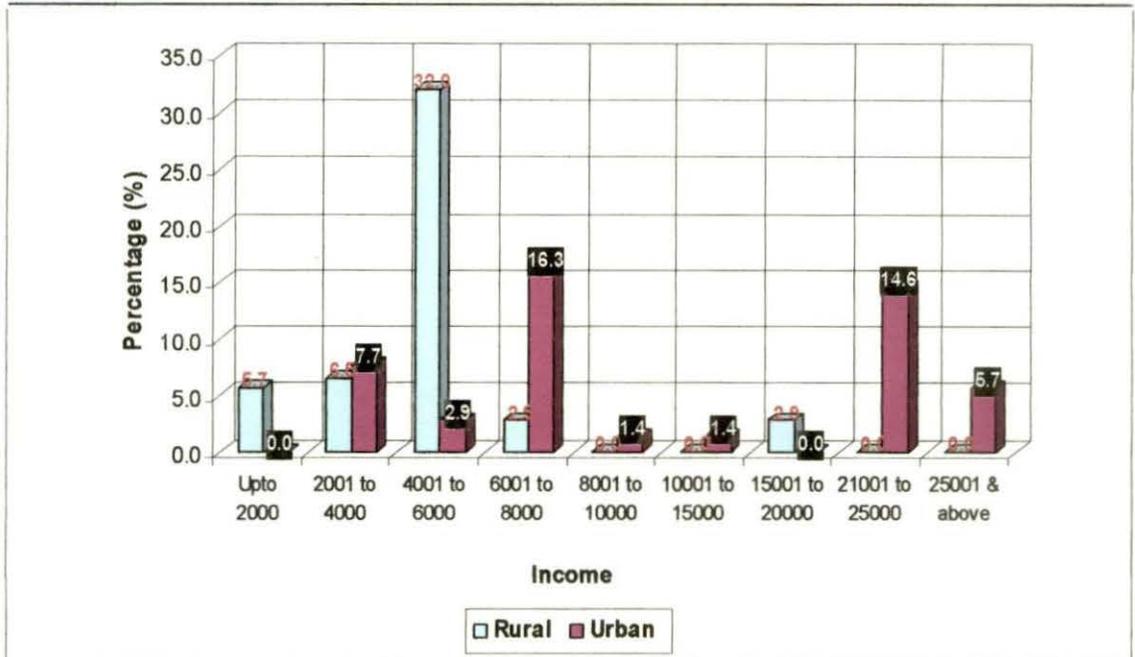
The reason housewives are abused more than working wives is because keeping in view their economic dependency they have “learned helplessness” with the result they have developed tolerance of such violence and do not share with outsiders that they are being abused or they would endorse the traditional gender roles and would not question the authority of their husbands. Hence, they do not provoke their husbands to use physical violence to maintain their dominant position in the conjugal relationships.

Table No.6 present data on family income of the victim to compare their share in rural and urban areas to know the extent of problems. The study shows that 32% respondent's families in the rural areas belongs to the monthly income group of Rs.4001-6000 and followed by 6.5% in the monthly income group of Rs.2001-4000 in rural areas. 5.7% in the rural areas having monthly income upto Rs.2000 and only 2.9% of the victims in rural areas belongs to the income group of Rs.15001-20000. So most of the family incomes of the victims in rural areas ranged between Rs.4001-6000 per month.

Table 6: Family income of the victims in rural and urban areas

Monthly family income (in Rs.)	Rural	Urban	Total
Upto 2000	20 (5.7)	0.0	20 (5.7)
2001 to 4000	23 (6.5)	27 (7.7)	50 (14.3)
4001 to 6000	112 (32)	10 (2.9)	122 (34.9)
6001 to 8000	10 (2.9)	57 (16.3)	67 (19.1)
8001 to 10000	0.0	5 (1.4)	5 (1.4)
10001 to 15000	0.0	5 (1.4)	5 (1.4)
15001 to 20000	10 (2.9)	0.0	10 (2.9)
21001 to 25000	0.0	51 (14.6)	51 (14.6)
25001 and above	0.0	20 (5.7)	20 (5.7)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 5 : Family income of the victims in rural and urban areas



In contrast to the urban area, it is found that 16.3% victim's family income is ranged between Rs.6000-Rs.8000 per month; followed by 14.6% victims ranged between Rs.21000-Rs.25000 and 5.7% victims of urban area reported that their monthly income is more than Rs.25000; while an equal percentage, i.e., 1.4% of victims reported that their family income ranged between Rs.8000-10000 and Rs.10001-Rs.15000 respectively. It is observed that the monthly family income of 32% of the victims belong to the income group of Rs.4001-6000 in rural areas and in urban areas against total respondents 16.3% and 14.6% belong to the income group of Rs.6001-8000 and Rs.21001-Rs.25000 respectively.

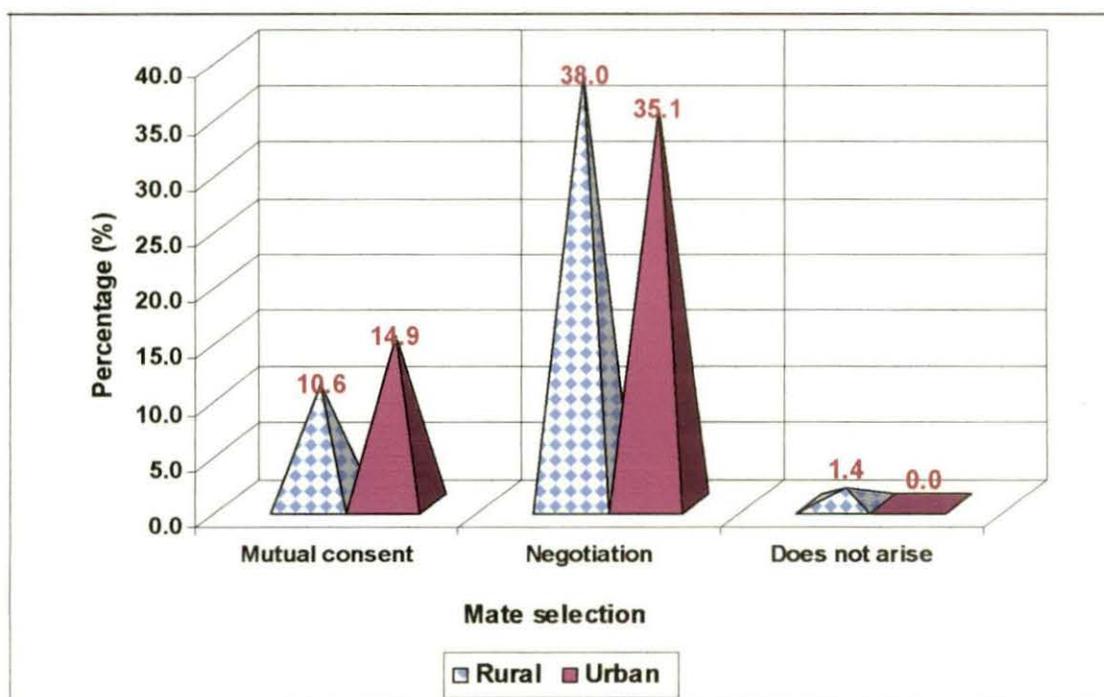
Selection of mate of the respondents in rural and urban has also been consider which shown in the Table No.7. Out of the total respondents in rural areas 38% got married through negotiation of the two families; followed by 10.6% through mutual arrangement, on the

other hand in urban areas 35.1% respondents married through negotiation; followed by 14.9% through mutual consent. It is envisaged that percentage of marriage through negotiation between the two families is higher in rural areas than the urban areas. In contrast, the percentage of marriage through mutual consent is higher in urban area than rural areas.

Table 7: Selection of Mate of the victims in rural and urban areas

Selection of Mate	Rural	Urban	Total
Mutual consent	37 (10.6)	52 (14.9)	89 (25.4)
Negotiation	133 (38)	23 (35.1)	256 (73.2)
Does not arise	5 (1.4)	-	5 (1.4)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 6 : Selection of Mate of the victims in rural and urban areas



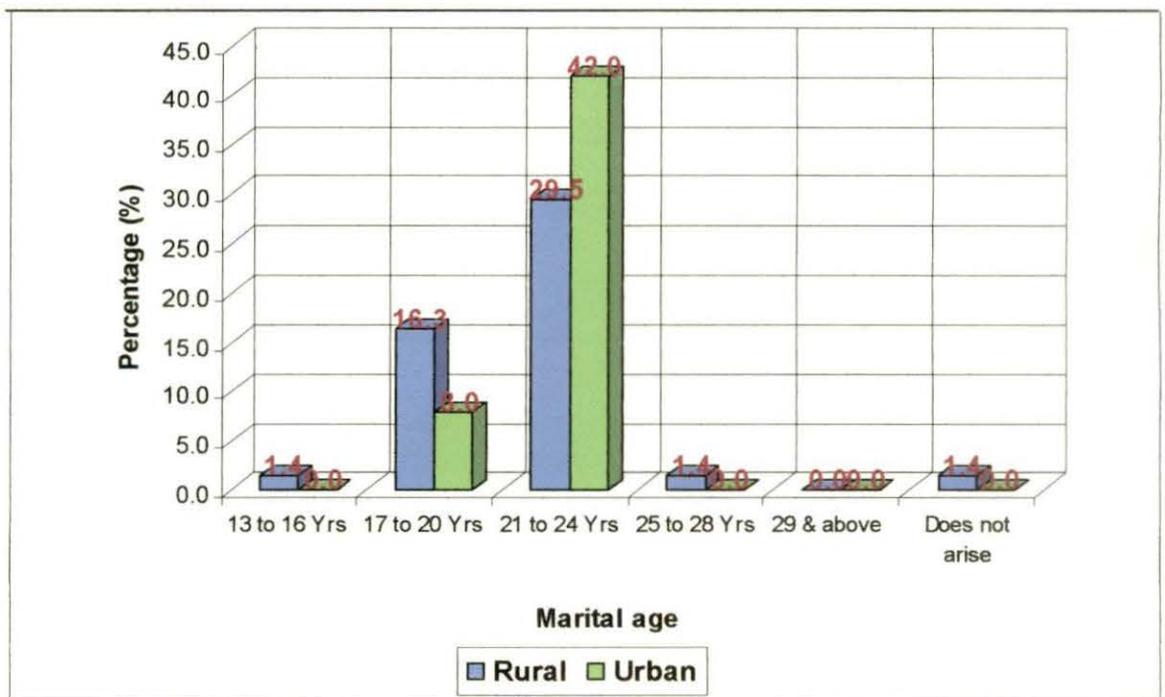
This study indicates that negotiation marriage is 73.2% and marriage by consent is 25.4%. Both create strained life. While marriage is through negotiation there is no scope for choice of the girl. It happens that in absence of any active role of the partner's choice in marriage the mind sets of the partners is completely different and creates scope for conflicts. After marriage, they cannot tolerate each other, they are not accepted by each other. There comes a question of mutual adjustment and compromise. The difference in psychodynamic plans causes conflict. Mutually married women also experience domestic violence because during pre-marital life they do not see anything wrong in each other but after marriage as they come closer to each other they begin to discover some faults in him/her and relationship begins to be strained and bitter. It has been seen that marital discord may arise due to differences in mental make ups.

Rural and urban wise distribution of the victim by the marital age was discussed in the Table-8. Of the total respondents, 42% belong to the age group of 21-24 years of the time of marriage in urban areas and 29.5% belongs to the same age group in the rural areas, which indicates that percentage of marital age in the age group of 21-24 years is higher in urban areas. Of the victims, 16.3% married between 17-20 years of age in rural areas and 8% in the urban area in the same age group. The percentage of marital age (17-20 years) is higher in rural areas. Of the marital age between 13-16 years and 25-28 years, an equal percentage of victims from rural areas. It is observed from the study that of the total violence between the age group of 21-25 years is high in urban areas (42%) and in rural (29.5%) is high.

Table 8: Marital age of the victims in rural and urban areas

Marital age (in yrs)	Rural	Urban	Total
13 to 16	5 (1.4)	-	5 (1.4)
17 to 20	57 (16.3)	28 (8)	85 (24.3)
21 to 24	103 (29.5)	147 (42)	250 (71.5)
25 to 28	5 (1.4)	-	5 (1.4)
29 and above	-	-	-
Does not arise	5 (1.4)	-	5 (1.4)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 7: Marital age of the victims in rural and urban areas



So, age at marriage does not differentiate battered from non-battered wives, yet younger age at marriage puts a lot of stress for adjustment which exhibited in violent behaviour pattern on the part of young batterers. The women who got married at younger age were more victims of physical violence by their husbands in contrast to those

who got married at later age. It can be concluded that wives of younger age group are at higher risk of abuse as compared with those of older age group because older women are not prone to file assault charges either because of traditional attitudes or because of the possibility of divorce. The results of this study indicate that all forms of violence occur most frequently among those less than 28 years of age. The data of the present study indicate that, domestic violence can occur at any age but data on age indicate that wives of younger age are at higher risk of being abused. It is due to the fact that younger couples are still learning to make adjustment with each other and addition of children in the family puts enormous demands and stresses on the younger people.

Presence or absence of children in the family affects the quality of relationship between husband and wife. Further presence of more children in the family creates problem of management and proper training of the younger ones. This study indicates that the level of marital satisfaction and marital adjustment goes down after the birth of the first child. Further, each additional child increases the work load and conflicts. Because child care remains under the domain of mothers and for any deviance on the part of child it is the mother who is blamed. Among the victims of domestic violence it was found that the rate of violence against mothers who had three or more children or no child was more than double the rate for those who had one or two children.

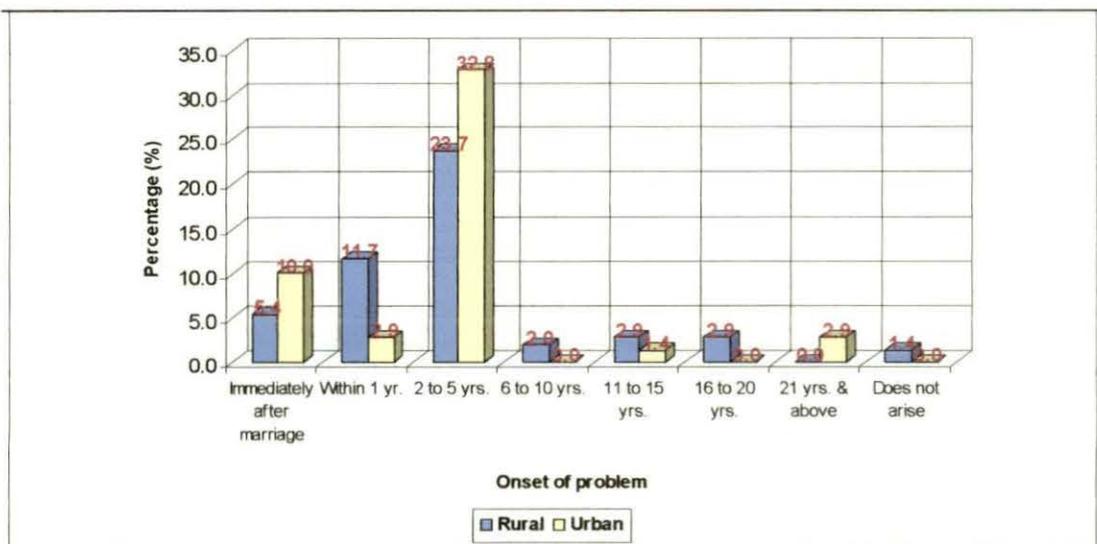
The study also highlights about onset of the problems after marriage in rural and urban areas which is shown in the Table No. 9. Among the respondents, 32.8% in urban areas reported that, after marriage, marital maladjustment started between 2-5 yrs; followed by 10% in urban areas their problems started immediate after marriage and 2.9% after within one year of marriage, 2.9% of urban victims reported that their marital discord started 21 years and more of marital

life; only 1.4% in urban areas reported the starting of marital problem after 11-15 years of marriage. This incident shows that majority of the domestic violence started after 2-5 years of marital life. It is also observed that in rural areas 23.7% marital discord started between 2-5 years after marriage and the trend of marital maladjustment is high in both rural and urban areas after 2-5 years of marriage.

Table 9: Onset of problems of the victims in rural and urban areas

Onset of problems	Rural	Urban	Total
Immediately after marriage	19 (5.4)	35 (10)	54 (15.4)
Within 1 year	41 (11.7)	10 (2.9)	51 (14.6)
2 to 5 years	83 (23.7)	115 (32.8)	198 (56.6)
6 to 10 years	7 (2)	-	7 (2)
11 to 15 years	10 (2.9)	5 (1.4)	15 (4.2)
16 to 20 years	10 (2.9)	-	10 (2.9)
21 years & above	-	10 (2.9)	10 (2.9)
Does not arise	5 (1.4)	-	5 (1.4)
Total	175 (50)	175 (50)	350 (100)

Figure 8: Onset of problems of the victims in rural and urban areas



This study indicates that bulk of marital discords and frustrations are produced by very specific conflicts of interests which cannot be attributed to definite weaknesses of either person. Many a times the partners' behaviour and the personal and social roles played by them cause disputes. And sometimes some wish of the partner is denied by the other which produces trouble.

NATURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Husband beats the wife with an umbrella and broke the umbrella. Then the husband told her wife that "it is the homeopathy dose, but allopathy dose is waiting for you".

Reputed established doctor married the only daughter of another famous doctor and after passing few days of marital life the doctor asked her wife to bring money from her father for decorating his nursing home. When the wife refused his proposal, the doctor husband starts physical and mental torture towards his wife. Once doctor husband asked his wife for a cup of tea, but when she comes with tea her husband took it and thrown it to wife's body and again asked for "Luchi & Curry". When she came and served the "Luchy and Curry", again her husband thrown to her body. Then wife asked the husband "what are the reasons behind it?" Her husband replied that "until your doctor father sent money for decorating my nursing home, the torture will continuing. Your doctor father will see how I am torturing to his beloved daughter".

"Listen, you are the water pot with hole. Everyone use to reject such water pot. I will not reject you. You will stay here, eat here and will perform all the domestic work. And I will stay with Anita. But you will keep silence. If you break the silence, I will beat you". This is the dialogue of a husband towards his wife, as she is not able to conceive.

One mother-in-law told her daughter-in-law "Listen, you have already given birth a child, now you need not sleep with your husband. You sleep separately with your kid". But wife is afraid with the small baby and went to sleep with her husband. The husband became angry and beat her with a scale on her back and hit on her head. As a result

she got head injury, doctor gives four stitches on her head. The husband is an Associate Professor of a reputed Engineering College in the city.

These all gruesome acts are found happening in families around us. These are few visible form of domestic violence, a huge problem that has emerged as one of the most dehumanizing problems of women. Cruelty inflicted on the defenseless women by husband and in-laws is far more horrendous than those atrocities committed outside the family.

The study shows that maximum numbers of violence against women are mental and physical torture of husband and in-laws (i.e., in rural women and urban women are suffering from physical and mental cruelty). The physical torture include slapping, punching, kicking chocking, beating, biting, burning, pulling hair, pushing down stairs and the frequent use of weapons of one sort or another. Physical violence, especially punches in the abdomen shown during pregnancy.

The study also shows that mental torture was found in the form of threats, intimidation, manipulation, isolation, keeping a woman without money, locked in, deprived of food or using (and abusing) her children in various ways to frighten her or enforce compliance. It also include systematic and belittling comments. The study indicated that, the effects of prolonged and repeated physical and mental torture against women have prolonged effects. Physical effects are serious injury, sometimes permanent and great deal of pain. In most cases general deterioration of physical health is found.

The study indicated that 58.5% women have been suffering from physical and mental torture, out of that 20% live in anxiety and depression. They live in constant fear. They know that when their

partner returns from his night out drunk (or without drunk) they will be beaten or raped and possibly both. Almost as bad as the certainty of a beating is uncertainty and unpredictability: not knowing when the next attack will take place or which of their actions will be used as an excuse for it.

Isolation, lack of personal contacts with friends and family creates stress shown among 15% victims.

Violence and constant criticism lead to a loss of self-esteem and confidence among 5% victims. When a woman is constantly told that she is worthless, then she comes to believe it and begin to blame herself for the situation. She is in paradoxically, the abused woman feels guilty.

Thought of suicide are found in 5 cases of this study.

This study indicates that 1.4% women is staying at her in-laws house and is not allowed to maintain relationship with her parental relationship with her parental relationship with an intention of getting cash and kind and the ornaments from the daughter-in-law.

About 4.3% victims are thrown out from matrimonial home or deserted by her in-laws due to non-fulfillment of demand of more money or extra marital relationship of her husband.

In-laws interference from both the sides of spouses has made the marital relation complex and disturbed about 5.8% cases. In-laws interference, lacking personality of the husband and the coping inability of the women has gravated the family tensions giving rise to desertion.

About 1.4% cases, both the spouses are intellectually less matured, specially the males do not like to do any work following which

poverty and tension start. The parents of both sides have linked them in entangle and are giving all support to the spouses. Mainly the lacking of education, and poverty and the greed for consumerism are all working behind the marital maladjustment.

In 4.3% cases brothers of the victims tried to deprive them from parental property and want to drive her out of the house to deprive her of the right of staying at the father's house.

About 5.8% cases the study shows that elderly persons mainly women are tortured by their own sons and daughter-in-laws. In one case, this study found that her own daughter tortured her mother mentally for not giving her all the properties to her (daughter) name.

Interestingly, certain myths are also prevalent as part of the patriarchal ethos which legitimize why women deserve subordination and mistreatment. One of the oldest myths invented is that women are born with sealed fates. They are destined to suffer. The age old conviction that a woman is inferior to the man in the social hierarchy has resulted in subordinating them. The myths are dangerously misleading and inaccurate. It is often said that wife beating is an act of profound love for the only unsuccessful men beat their wives or some women deserve beating at the hands of their husbands to set them right etc. It is significant to point out that batterers are portrayed with a generous degree of sympathy. For instance, a man is said to loose his self-control when he is under extreme stress, provoked or frustrated. An interesting aspect highlighting outward appearance and social interaction is that there is no visible difference between a batterer and non-batterer. Extremely successful men with impressive careers – artists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc. are amongst those who inflict violence on women behind closed doors of their so called “happy home”. These

men project impeccable facades and hold esteemed social positions. Rarely are outsiders aware of the “person” behind the polite persona.

Age and Violence :

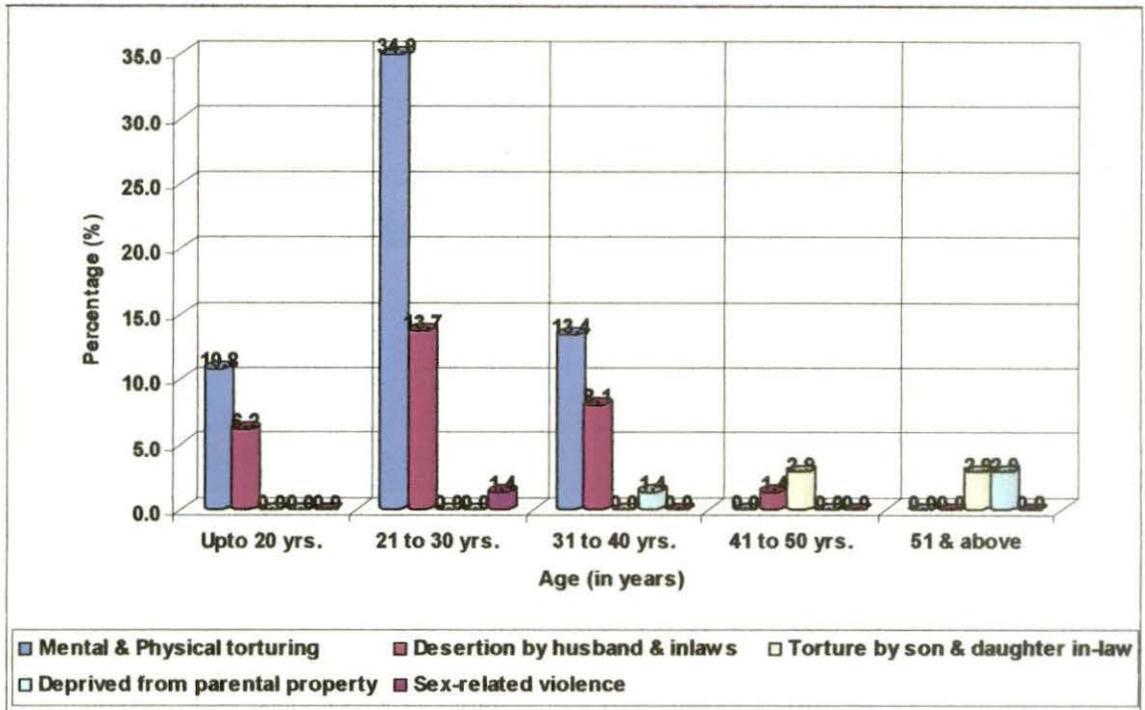
When the form of violence is seen against the age group of the victim (Table 10), 50% of the respondents are in the age group of 21-30 years, followed by 22.9% 31-40 years, 17.1% upto 20 years, 51 years an above and 41-50 years 5.8% and 4.3% respectively. It is observed from the study that 50% of victims belong to the age group of 21-30 years, i.e., the offence is committed on them even after they attain mental maturity.

The form of violence against women by their age group is shown in Table 10 to discuss the number and percentage of victims in a particular age group and their share in the specific form of violence.

Table 10: Nature of violence by age of the respondents

Nature of violence	Age (in years)					Total
	Upto 20	21 – 30	31 – 40	41 – 50	51 & above	
Mental & physical torture by husband & in-laws	38 (10.8)	122 (34.9)	45 (13.4)	-	-	205 (59.1)
Desertion by husband & in-laws	22 (6.2)	48 (13.7)	30 (8.1)	5 (1.4)	-	105 (29.4)
Torture by son & daughter-in-law	-	-	-	10 (2.9)	10 (2.9)	20 (5.8)
Deprived from parental property	-	-	5 (1.4)	-	10 (2.9)	15 (4.3)
Sex-related violence	-	5 (1.4)	-	-	-	5 (1.4)
Total	60 (17.0)	175 (50)	80 (22.9)	15 (4.3)	20 (5.8)	350 (100)

Figure 9: Nature of violence by age of the respondents



Of the violence suffered by the victims in the age group of 21-30 years, 34.9% suffered mental and physical torture related violence by husband and in-laws, followed by 13.7% suffered desertion by husband and in-laws and 1.4% suffered sex related violence. Of the violence suffered by the victims in the age group of 31-40 years, 13.4% suffered mental and physical torture related violence by their husband and in-laws followed by 8.6% suffered desertion by husband and in-laws and only 1.4% have been deprived from parental property. Of the violence suffered in the age-group of upto 20 years, 10.8% suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws, followed by 6.2% suffered desertion by their husband and in-laws. Of the violence suffered in the age group 41-50 years, 2.9% are being tortured by son and daughter in-laws, followed by 1.4% suffered desertion by their husband and in-laws. Of the violence suffered in the age group of 51 and above; an equal percentage of victims each suffered by deprivation from parental

property and being tortured by son and daughter-in-law. It is observed from the study that total violence 58.5% of the violence was mental and physical torture by husband and in-laws and 34.9% of the victims fall under the age group of 21-30 years. It is also seen a noticeable section of the victims suffer desertion by husband and in-laws.

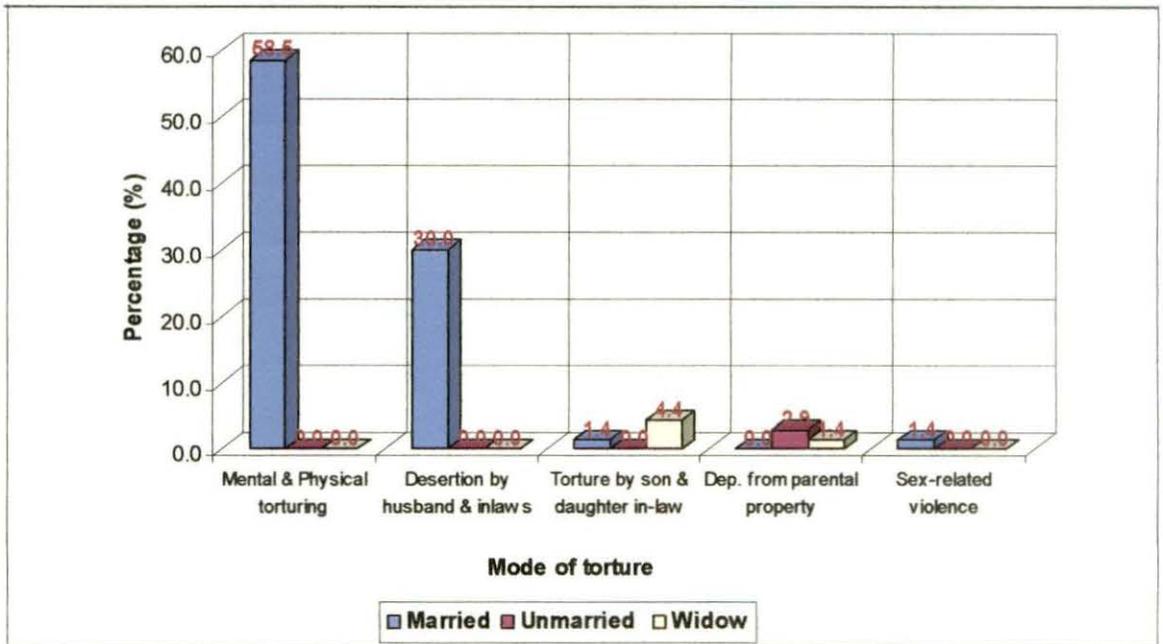
Marital Status and Violence :

The form of violence reported and the marital status of the victims which shown in the table 11. Of the evidence of violence reported with reference to the marital status of the victims, 91.3% are married, 5.8% widowed and 2.9% are unmarried.

Table 11: Nature of violence and marital status of the respondents

Nature of violence	Marital status of the respondents			
	Married	Unmarried	Widow	Total
Mental & Physical torture by husband & in-laws	205 (58.5)	-	-	205 (58.5)
Desertion by husband & in-laws	105 (30)	-	-	105 (30)
Torture by son & daughter-in-law	5 (1.4)	-	15 (4.4)	15 (5.8)
Deprived from parental property	-	10 (2.9)	5 (1.4)	15 (4.3)
Sex-related violence	5 (1.4)	-	-	5 (1.4)
Total	320 (91.3)	10 (2.9)	20 (5.8)	350 (100)

Figure 10 : Nature of violence and marital status of the respondents



Of the victims who are married, 58.5% have been suffered from mental and physical torture by husband and in-laws, followed by 30% suffered desertion by husband and in-laws. Of the respondents who are married, an equal percentage of victims each (1.4%) suffered sex related violence and deprived from parental property. Of the unmarried respondents 2.9% are deprived from parental property. Of the victims who are widowed, 4.3% are tortured by son and daughter-in-laws. It is revealed from the study that majority 91.3% of the victims are married.

It is observed from the study that 91.3% of the married women are tortured mentally and physically by their husband and in-laws and few widowed women 4.3% are tortured by their son and daughter-in-laws and 2.9% unmarried respondents are tortured by their brothers. So, the violence against married women figured high. Because the change in the roles and statuses, the expectations and performances, socio-economic and cultural practices at the family levels

neighbourhood pose challenges to women. When relationships strains at any level or any change in the attitudes and perception of the people in the environmental may give raise to domestic violence against women.

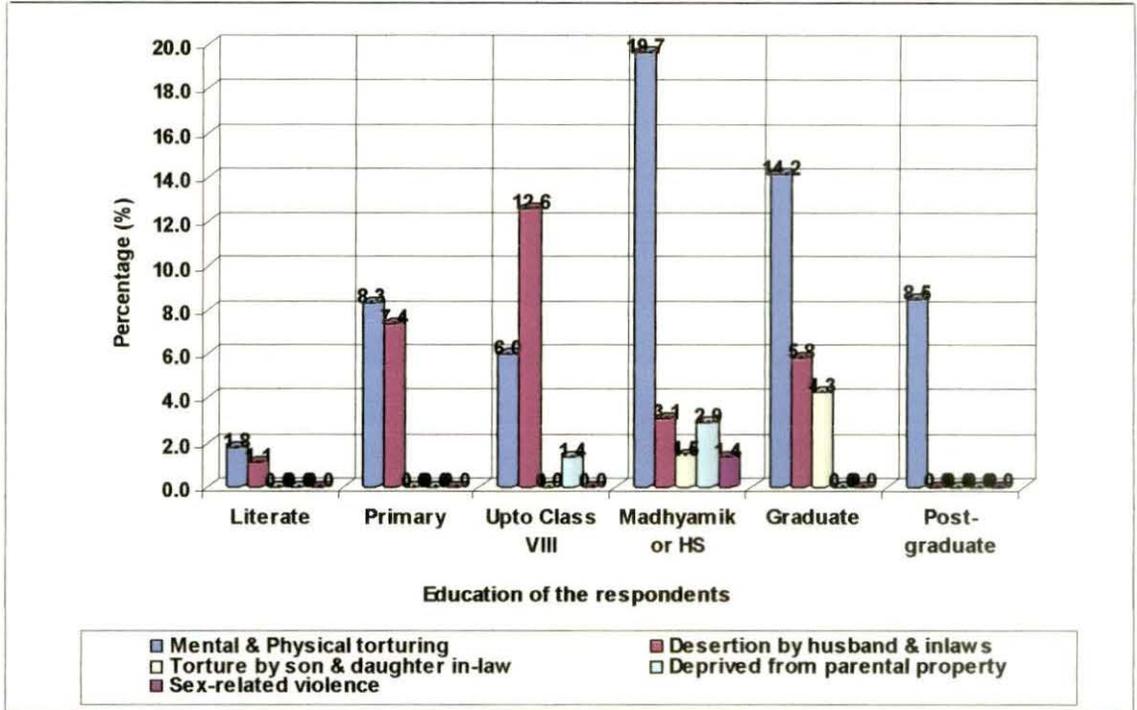
Education and Violence :

The nature of violence suffered by the respondents and their education is a vital aspect of the study which is discussed in the Table-12. Of the total respondents, 19.7% are studied upto Madhyamik and Higher Secondary and suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws, followed by 3.1% desertion by husband and in-laws and 2.9% deprived from parental property.

Table 12: Nature of violence and education of the respondents

Nature of violence	Education of the respondents						
	Literate	Primary	Upto Class VIII	Madhyamik or H.S.	Graduate	Post-graduate	Total
Mental & Physical torture by husband & in-laws	6 (1.8)	29 (8.3)	21 (6.0)	69 (19.7)	50 (14.2)	30 (8.5)	205 (58.5)
Desertion by husband & in-laws	4 (1.1)	26 (7.4)	44 (12.6)	11 (3.1)	20 (5.8)	-	105 (30)
Torture by son & daughter-in-law	-	-	-	5 (1.5)	15 (4.3)	-	20 (5.8)
Deprived from parental property	-	-	5 (1.4)	10 (2.9)	-	-	15 (4.3)
Sex-related violence	-	-	-	5 (1.4)	-	-	5 (1.4)
Total	10 (2.9)	55 (15.7)	70 (20)	100 (28.6)	85 (24.3)	30 (8.5)	350 (100)

Figure 11: Nature of violence and education of the respondents



Graduate accounted for 14.2% have been suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws; followed by 5.8% suffered desertion by their husband and 4.3% were tortured by their son and daughter-in-laws. Post-graduate accounted for 8.5% who suffered mental and physical torture by husband and in-laws. Of the total respondents upto Class VIII standard 12.6% suffered desertion by their husband and in-laws; followed by 6% are facing mental and physical torture by husband and in-laws. Of the respondents, 8.3% were studied upto primary standard suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws, followed by 7.4% deserted by husband and in-laws. Of the total respondents, 1.8% literate victims suffered from mental and physical torture; followed by 1.1% deserted by husband and in-laws. It is observed from the study that the victims having low education, literate or just literate suffered violence 2.9% and those who

have middle level education (Class VIII to H.S.), graduate, post-graduate, suffered more violence of various types.

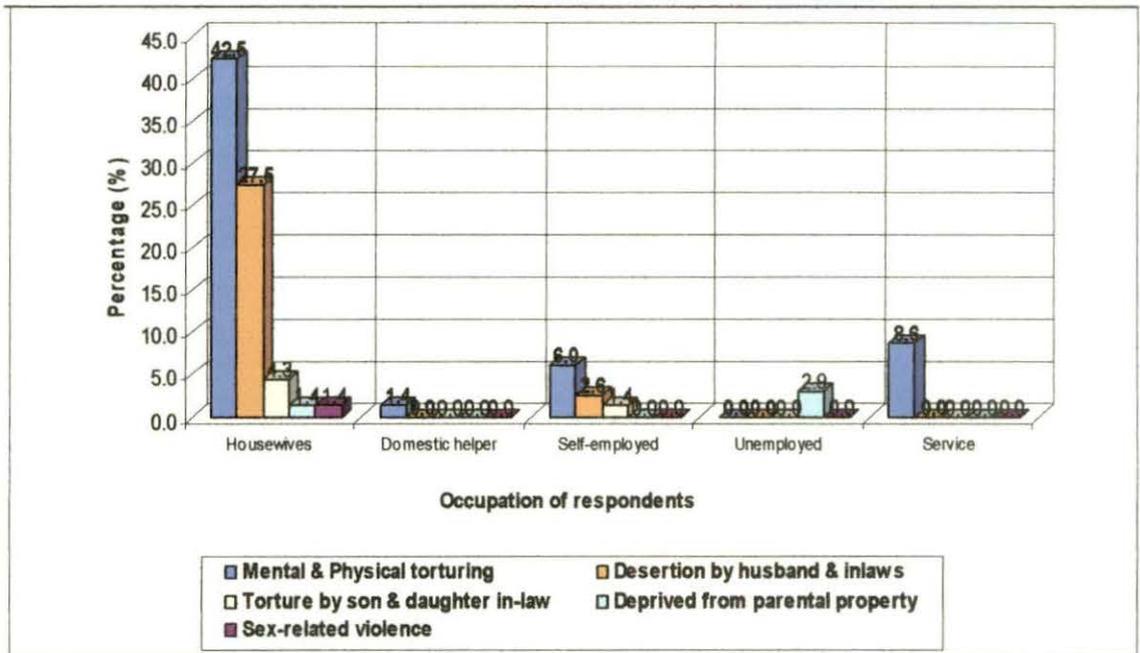
Occupation and Violence :

The occurrence of domestic violence against women is seen in relation to occupation in the Table No.13. 77.1% respondents are housewives who suffered all forms of violence, out of which 42.5% suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws form single largest group of that category followed by 27.5% deserted by husband and in-laws. Self-employed accounted for 10% out of which 6% suffered mental and physical torture and 2.6% deserted by husband. Of that category 1.4% were tortured by their son and daughter-in-laws.

Table 13: Nature of violence and occupation of the respondents

Nature of violence	Occupation of the respondents					
	Housewives	Domestic helper	Self-employed	Unemployed	Service	Total
Mental & physical torture by husband & in-laws	149 (42.5)	5 (1.4)	21 (6)	-	30 (8.6)	205 (58.5)
Desertion by husband & in-laws	96 (27.5)	-	9 (2.6)	-	-	105 (30.1)
Torture by son & daughter-in-law	15 (4.3)	-	5 (1.4)	-	-	20 (5.7)
Deprived from parental property	5 (1.4)	-	-	10 (2.9)	-	15 (4.3)
Sex-related violence	5 (1.4)	-	-	-	-	5 (1.4)
Total	270 (77.1)	5 (1.4)	35 (10)	10 (2.9)	30 (8.6)	350 (100)

Figure 12 : Nature of violence and occupation of the respondents



Service accounted for 8.6% who suffered mental and physical torture by husband and in-laws. Domestic helper also accounted for 1.4% who suffered mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws. It is observed from the study that 77.1% respondents are housewives suffered violence and of them 42.5% are victims of mental and physical torture by their husband and in-laws. It is observed from the study that 77.1% respondents are housewives.

So this study indicate that women who stay at home and are not engaged in paid work outside their homes are at greater risk of domestic violence than those engaged in paid work. This is because housewives are perceived to contribute less to family subsistence and are consequently valued less than women who are engaged in paid work outside the home. Torture against women are far less where women have independent economic and social resources, because these resources are valuable enough to make the husband think twice before acting in ways that might force his wife to terminate marriage.

Siblings violation commonly found in cases related to property rights and when sisters are dependent on their brothers and their families. Although law gives equal rights to brothers and sisters with regard to their parental property (right to inheritance), it is often seen that the brothers are generally the violators of their sisters' rights. The brothers would look for any kind of excuse to deprive their sisters of their rightful claims, even going to the extent of becoming violent towards them or deserting them. If the sisters are unmarried and economically dependent on the brothers, their situation becomes all the more difficult.

Elderly persons are increasingly becoming the target of abuse and neglect by their families. While poverty and high cost of living contribute a lot to their lack of support and care, they are also becoming the target of ill-treatment and neglect by the members of their own families irrespective of the social class to which they belong.

The number of old people seeking help from F.C.C.s is however, very small. It is during dealing with other cases of family disputes that counsellors discover the cases of abuse of the elderly. They remain within the family fold, but are victims of, if not physical neglect and abuse, but verbal abuse as well with the latter a common phenomenon.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is no single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. Several complex and interconnected institutionalized social, economic and cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence directed at them, all of them manifestations of historically unequal relations between men and women. Inequality in prosperity, inequality of thoughts, inequality of status and opportunities and moreover inequality in gender perception, generate a feeling of inadequacy of one's 'self'. Such inadequacies of feelings have a cumulative impact on the development of one's image of 'self', of other persons in society, of other social institution.

This feeling of inadequacy is found to be strongly present in 'She' gender due to 'He' type of our society. So in a 'He' dominated society the very birth of a girl child is still considered to be trauma to many parents. Thus a girl child when grows older, understands, feels that she is one who is meant for another 'He', she always have behind her the caution of 'do not do this', 'it is not for you', 'it is for 'He'. She, when grows older finds herself to be based for none of her faults. Thus, her image of 'self' is in crisis, her values are in crisis when she is in her parental home. She somehow manages herself to cope with the stresses out of many more crises.

Domestic violence against women in marital situation has more to do with the relationship of husband and wife in the social matrix. This study indicates that partners bring into their marriage certain expectations, namely :

- Expectations from partners ;
- Expectations from marriage ;

- Expectations from partner's family of orientations;
- Expectations of the institution of marriage; and
- Conceptual image of an ideal partner.

Modern day marriage revolves around these parameters. The natures of expectations from each other as partners vary according to educational background and the socio-economic status of partners. Similarly, expectations from marriage and the partners' family of orientation also vary as per the educational achievement and socio economic status of the spouses. Such expectations are found in each and every marriage by every partner.

The hallmark of a healthy marriage is occurrence of marital coalition. At the time of marriage, each person has his / her primary relationship with his / her family of orientation (parental family). Once married, a shift must occur in their relationships with their parents. The marital relationship must become the primary relationship; this shift is very essential for a successful marriage. It is this shift that leads to marital coalition. Marital coalition does not mean getting dissolved into each other; it means arriving at very clear rules for various interactions and transactions in marital and family life. These rules have nothing to do with gender or learning capability. These rules are made by two adults, the husband and the wife. If both are earning they have higher equality, if only the husband is earning, the wife is placed at a lower quality equation. Such rules bring basic contradiction in human relations. Both the spouses are two human beings and their needs do differ and each one has a right to express his / her needs. With societal changes, relational equations are changing. Democratic values at the societal level are influencing marital expectations from the spouse, from the marriage, as well as the parental family of the spouse. Contrary to

the social subordination of the wife is the most desired value in the modern marriage.

Disturbed interpersonal relationship in marital life is accentuated from the disjunction at the levels of expectations from marriage. After marriage, a woman negotiates the transition from the parental family system to that of her in-laws. This brings a variety of conflicts, and in turn, these (the conflicts) affect the marital adjustment of the couple.

While engaged in the daily transactions, the partner acts in conformity with the roles that he / she is expected to play. In order to select the most appropriate role and to respond appropriately to the role played by the other partner, adequate decisions are required. This process consumes some energy. The energy consumed by one spouse in selecting and playing the right kind of role can be regained only when the other partner responds adequately to the role. This complementarity of role is the basic equilibrium of the marital system. When disequilibrium occurs in this marital system then marital maladjustment takes place.

Each spouse in a marital system has two sets of roles : one set towards the family of orientation and the other towards the family of procreation. When the spouses fail to imbibe the expected role play, it brings disturbances in the marital system. To put it differently, the deviations from the expected playing model leads to dysfunction within the family of procreation and between the families of orientation and procreation.

It also has its origin in psychological factors like irrational, pathological behaviour of abuser and the victim, which subsequently affect the interpersonal relationship of both the parties. It has also been considered as the condition of learned helplessness. Absence of viable

alternatives of survival and lack of power support group also forces a woman to continue tolerating to violent behaviour. It has been seen that men feel relieved after seeing the battered faces of their wives. It boosts and nurtures their egoistic superiority complex. On the other hand, woman's acceptance of beating as a common phenomenon and as a way of interaction with their husband further perpetrates violence. It has been noticed that lack of awareness of their own rights and general social belief in women's subordination perpetrates a low self image in women and her inferior status. She is taught that marriage is the ultimate goal she has to achieve. Poverty, alcoholism, unemployment, frustration and poor role modelling also contribute to violent behaviour. This study reveals that major factor behind the violent behaviour of men is the patriarchal attitude of the society which perceives woman as an 'object' rather than a 'subject' and given her a low status in the society. In this connection, very interesting factors have been brought to light through this study. The data reveals that major factors responsible for the domestic violence against women are extramarital relationship of husbands (24.3%), interference of in-laws (25.7%) and dowry demand (14.3%), financial crisis (7.3%), problems of property (7.2%) between brother-sister, mother and son and daughter-in-law, difference in personality of husband and wife (5.8%) come next in the order of frequency. Drug addiction, alcoholism (4.3%), cultural differences of the spouses create problem in (2.8%). Sexual dysfunction, sexual perversion, economic differences of spouses, greed for consumerism of spouses suspicious about wife's fidelity and exposure to spousal violence during childhood all are of equal frequencies i.e. (1.4%) each.

Infact, familial adjustment is a complex issue. It is never static; it is dynamic, varied and many sided. Got better conjugal relations, the spouses have to adjust to each other of various levels. On the orgasmic

level, they must adjust to each other's sensory, motor and emotional and intellectual capacities. On the personality level they must adjust together to their total environment including the social status and economy of the household, children, provision and preparation of food, parents, in-laws, friends, recreation and work. Also, the spouses must develop a good understanding of each others' personality traits and their respective role expectations from each other.

Today family relations and marital adjustments are affected by multiple factors operating inside as well as outside the family environment. Now, there is more emphasis on economic development than on neatly and balanced human growth. New social legislation, women's education, reduction in women's economic dependency, high ambitions, widening generation gaps, growing selfishness, downward notion in ethical and social values, more emphasis on individual rights than on duties, growing menace of dowry, impact of media and films, vast differences of opinion, ideas, behaviour patterns, values, interests, background and thought process between the spouses etc. are such factors contribute to dissatisfaction, maladjustment and discord in marital ties.

Marital union involves a set of role expectations from the spouse, especially the female in new home. Any variation in the expected and perceived roles of the spouses in their newly found relationships and status enflame family discords.

Sex is a highly influencing factor in marital life. Sexual relationship in marriage is a function of the entire personality which in turns is a product of a variety of biological and cultural constitutes. This study reveals that high adjusted wives enjoyed a fairly good sexual relationship with their spouses and there was greater degree of

agreement between the spouses. Sexual satisfaction, proper understanding, right marital attitude, faithfulness and giving importance to each other were perceived by the husbands as important factors in a happy married life. Wives attributed faithfulness, companionship, love and affection, giving importance and sexual satisfaction for marital happiness. In this study, it was found that sexual dysfunction (1.4%) and sexual perversion (1.4%) of husband are responsible for sexual disharmony, the reason come out as excessive sex demands, deviation in the form of bestiality and brutality etc.

Study shows that in 1.4% cases their husband's previous experiences indicate that his violent behaviour towards his wife was learned behaviour during childhood and adolescent. This indicates that the persons who witness violence between their parents during childhood, are likely to resort to violence in adulthood.

Financial crisis which in 7.2% cases appear to be main causes of domestic violence, due to insufficiency or irregularity of income, loss of income or unemployment of family members. It was found that low income families are highly vulnerable to dissolve the family viz., desertion, separation etc.

Differences in personality in 5.8% cases are responsible for unhappy marital relationship. These includes suspicious husband, bad temper of wife, disturbed personalities, demanding wife, demanding husband, sadist husband, inferiority complex of wife, irresponsible wife, jealousy, possessiveness, immaturity, domineering nature contribute marital disharmony. Study shows that 4.3% of the cases were facing domestic violence due to drinking and addiction.

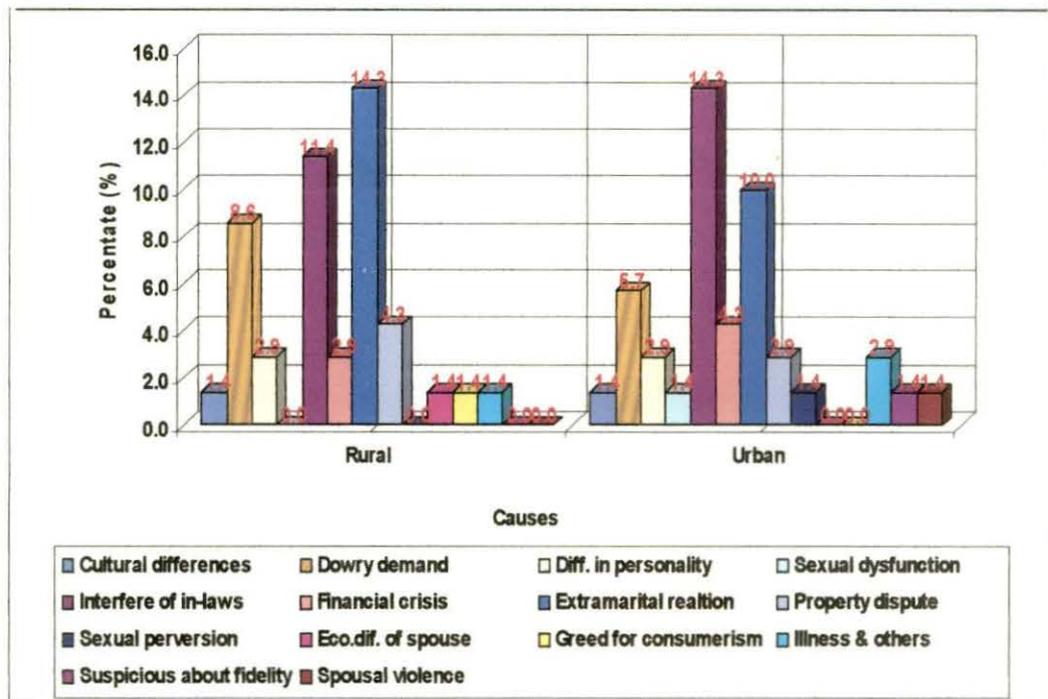
Study reveals that 14.3% of the total respondents, major causes behind physical and mental torture due to dowry demand. Though,

dowry is fixed in advance of the marriage, but after marriage their demand become increasing. Dowry is not confined to clothes, jewellery, utensils, furniture and items of everyday use. The demand range from investing in a business to building a house or furnishing a doctor's chamber / nursing home. The miseries of bride's parents do not end with their giving dowry at the time of marriage. The custom demands a perennial flow of gifts from the parents of girl to the boy's family on all festivals. If bride's parents do not give more money, then torture started. Extramarital relation in 24.3% cases of husband lead to physical and mental torture, desertion, separation etc. (Table No.14).

Table 14: Causes behind domestic violence in rural and urban areas

Sl. No.	Causes	Rural	Urban
1.	Cultural differences	5 (1.4)	5 (1.4)
2.	Dowry demand	30 (8.6)	20 (5.7)
3.	Differences in personality	10 (2.9)	10 (2.9)
4.	Sexual dysfunction	-	5 (1.4)
5.	Interference of in-laws	40 (11.4)	50 (14.3)
6.	Financial crisis	10 (2.9)	15 (4.3)
7.	Extramarital relation	50 (14.3)	35 (10)
8.	Property dispute	15 (4.3)	10 (2.9)
9.	Sexual perversion	-	5 (1.4)
10.	Economic difference of spouse	5 (1.4)	-
11.	Greed for consumerism	5 (1.4)	-
12.	Illness / Drug addict / Alcoholism	5 (1.4)	10 (2.9)
13.	Suspicious about her fidelity	-	5 (1.4)
14.	Exposure to spousal violence during childhood	-	5 (1.4)

Figure 13 : Causes behind domestic violence in rural and urban areas



Interference of in-laws (25.7%) creates family turmoil. The adjustment of a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law and father-in-law, sister and brother-in-laws are the most difficult to achieve. Husbands give more importance to their mothers/fathers/sisters/brothers opinion than to their wives. If they (wives) do not behave according to their (husband) will the punishment is beating.

The economic dependency of women, lack of alternative support structure in society, social stigmas attached with separation are some of the common factors that force women to bear domestic violence. For the sake of children women are prepared to tolerate anything. Moreover, women are also discouraged to come back to whole family. Another significant observation regarding domestic violence is that it is never recognized or reported. Even the victims themselves opined that, “this is a personal affair and everything depends upon one’s destiny. If you are fortunate then, you will have no problem in any relationship, otherwise bear silently to cope up with the situation”.