



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVALENT IN INDIA: A CASE STUDY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Domestic violence is being a crucial socio-economic problem in India as well as abroad. It has not only been a national concern but also an international. It has been existed as a great wall against the national development. It has been observed that Women in India historically have to be faced different kind of violence. For example- hitting, slapping, assault, dowry death, wife bittering, sexual abused etc. These are the prime forms of violence in which the women have to be victimised in the patriarchal society. In this paper attempts has been made to examine the several forms of domestic violence prevalent in India and the major roles need to be taken by the government for eradicating the domestic violence in India. In this context some suitable suggestions has been given to eradicate the evils.

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**INTRODUCTION**

“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women”-

- Jawaharlal Nehru.

Domestic violence refers to an unlawful act and behaviour of men against women or partner in a patriarchal society where men always want to impose their wills and powers on women without any consensus which is totally against the Human Rights of women. It has been observed that, the men have historically been hold all powers and privileges in a Patriarchal society i.e. economic rights, political rights, educational rights, social rights, cultural rights and inherent of property rights etc. That is why men have become more powerful being than women in a Patriarchal society. In this regard there are several forms of violence that women have to be victimised in a patriarchal society i.e. unwanted act and activities against women such as rape, sexual assault, physical torture, psychological and emotional harm and economic abuses.

Domestic violence has been gaining a lot of attentions of the government and civil society in India. The government of India has been launching several law and passed bills in the parliament for eradicating this evil i.e. the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Women Prohibition Act in 1986, Sati Prevention Act in 1987, Domestic Violence Act in 2005, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act in 2013 and the Criminal Law Act in 2013 etc. (Bare Act-2014).

On the other hand the government of India recently passed “Triple Talaq Bill” in Parliament which is popularly known as the Muslim women Protection of Rights and marriage Bill 2019. Apart from that the Constitution of India deals with several articles which are related to the eradication of the evil including Article- 14 denotes that “Equality before law” and Article- 15 reveals that “No discrimination on the ground of sex, religion, language, caste and place of birth”. Despite of the government rules and regulations it is not exaggerated to say that domestic violence is still prevailing in Indian society.

**Objectives**

The study has carried out the following objectives-

- To analyse the several forms of domestic violence in selected area.
- To analyse the existing causes of Domestic Violence in selected area.
- To understand the socio-economic impact of domestic violence in selected areas.
- To give a suitable suggestion for eradicating domestic violence in India.

**METHODOLOGY**

A case study method along with various methods i.e. historical, behavioural, analytical, comparative, statistical, observation has been followed in this seminar paper. The primary data was collected from a sample of 100 women respondents selected randomly from Sadiya Sub-Division. The purposive random sampling was used for the collection of data. Beside this, the secondary data were collected from printed books, journal, magazines, official records and documents, e-bulletins and relevant websites.

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**Scope of the study:** To make this seminar paper more effective a case study has been taken to understand the cause and impact of Domestic Violence with special reference to the Sadiya Sub- Division of Tinsukia District of Assam. The Tinsukia District has 3 Sub-Divisions, out of the 3 Sub- Divisions Sadiya-Sub- Division is considered as one of the most important historical region. It is located on the North Eastern part of Tinsukia District of Assam. The Sub-Division is at the distance of about 75 Km. from the District Headquarter. It has been covering a land area of 863.47 sq. km. Total population of the Sub-Division is 1, 04,893 out of which 53912(51.37%) are male and 51026(48.63%) are female. Out of the total population 10.01% people live in urban area while 89.9% live in the rural area. Density of population in the Sadiya Sub-Division is 113 persons per sq. km. (Sub-Divisional Office-2014). The people of Sadiya Sub-Division are seen so loyal and have a good behaviour. The major religions of this region are Hinduism (92.52%), Muslim (3.07%), Christian (2.04%) and Buddhist (2.03%),(As per 2011 census) etc. The major tribes and non tribes of this region can be included Assamese, Bengali, Nepali, Mising, Deori, Boro, Kachari, Lalung and SonowalKachari etc. It is observed that Sadiya is ethnically and linguistically distinct from others part of Tinsukia District. The people of Sadiya speak multiple languages such as Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, and other. Apart from that they also speak several local dialects which have been understood in this region.

**Study design and parameters:** The study covers the background profile as well as the impact of Domestic Violence on the people of Sadiya Sub-Division. The Parameters include the background profile of the respondents' viz. statistical tools like percentage and diagrams.

**Profile of selected respondents**

It has been mentioned in the methodology the 100 women respondents have been selected for the field study. The respondents were interviewed personally by the researcher to find out their socio- economic bases like- sex, age group, religion, caste, literacy and occupation etc.

**Table 1** Sex-wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	53912	51.37%
2	Female	51026	48.63%

Source: Sub-Divisional Office-2014.

**Sex**

Sex is the most essential biological characteristics of a population. It influence Socio-economic and political structure of the society. The above table reveals that the percentage of women in the selected area is comparatively lower than male. The majority of the respondents 51.37% are male and only 48.63% respondents are female.

**Table 2** Age- wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	18 to 30 years	30	30%
2	31 to 50 years	60	60%
3	51 to above	10	10%

Source: field study- 2019.

**Age**

Age is also an important part of social background of an individual. The above table shows that the majority of the respondents belong to the age groups of 31 to 50 years i.e. 60%, 30% from the age groups of 18 to 30 years and only 10% of the respondents belong to the age group of 51 years of age.

**Table 3** Religion wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hindu	50	50%
2	Muslim	20	20%
3	Christen	10	10%
4	Buddhist	10	10%

Source: field study- 2019.

**Religion**

Religion is regarded as an important part of social background because it helps to identify the social identity. The above table reveals that the majority of the respondents belong to the Hindu religion i.e. 50%. 20% belong to the Muslim religion, 10% belong to the Christian religion and only 10% of the respondents belong to the Buddhist religion.

**Table 4** Caste wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Criteria	Frequency	Percentage
1	Schedule Caste	50	50%
2	Schedule Tribe	40	40%
3	Others	10	10%

Source: field study- 2019.

**Caste**

Caste is the system of the dividing people in a society into different social classes. The above table reveals that most of the respondents of the selected area belong to the Schedule Caste community i.e.50%, 40% of the respondents belong to the Schedule Tribe community and only 10% of the respondents belong to the others community.

**Table 5** Literacy wise Distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiteracy	Nil	Nil
2	Literacy (able to singe)	8	8%
3	HSLC	30	30%
4	AHSEC	50	50%
5	B.A.	12	12%

Source: field study- 2019.

**Literacy**

Literacy is an important aspect by which it is found whether the village is advanced or not. The above table shows that literacy rate of female in the selected area is lower i.e.8% only. 30% of the respondents had education up to HSLC level, 12% of the respondents had education up to B.A. level and most of the respondents i.e. 50%had received AHSEC level. There were no respondents founded in the field study who could not write his or her name.

**Table 6** Occupation wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Cultivator	90	90%
2	Business	10	10%

Source: field study -2019.

**Occupation**

Occupation is regarded as a means of earning of livelihood. As per the 2011 census the above table reveals that 90% of the respondents involved in agriculture where only 10% are engaged in business.

**Table 7** income wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rs.10,000 to 15,000	60	60%
2	Rs.15,001 to 20,000	40	40%

Source: field study -2019.

**Income**

Income is the consumption and saving opportunity gained by an entity within a specified timeframe, which is generally expressed in minority terms. The above table reveals that the majority of the respondents i.e. 60% annual income is approximately around the Rs.10,000 to 15,000 and 40% of the respondent’s annual income is around the Rs.15,001 to 20,000.

**Table 7** Forms of Domestic Violence in the respective region

Sl. No	Forms of Domestic Violence	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sexual Abuse	40	40%
2	Physical and psychological Abuse	30	30%
3	Economic Abuse	20	20%
4	Emotional Abuse	05	05%

Source: field study-2019.

It has been observed that sexual abuse, Physical and psychological abuse, Economic abuse and Emotional abuse are the prime forms of Domestic Violence in India as well as abroad in which women have to be victimised in the patriarchal society. Above table reveals that majority of the respondent’s i.e. 40% have been facing sexual abuse, 30% of the respondents have been facing physical and psychological abuse, 20% of the respondents have been facing economical abused and only 05% of the respondents have been facing emotional abuse.

**Table 8** Causes of Domestic Violence

There are several types of cause such as Alcoholism, Extra marital affairs; Dowry and Male Child bearing were found in the field study. That can be discussed under the following table.

Sl. No.	Causes of Domestic Violence	Frequency	Percentage
1	Alcoholism	60	60%
2	Extra Marital Affair	30	30%
3	Dowry	05	05%
4	Male Child Bearing	05	05%

Source: field study-2019.

Alcoholism of husband is regarded the prime causes of Domestic Violence in the Selected Area. The above table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 60% have been facing Domestic Violence due to alcoholism of husband.

Extra Marital Affair is considered as a major cause of Domestic Violence in the selected area. The above table reveals that the total respondents i.e. 30% have been facing Domestic Violence due to Extra Marital Affaire.

Historically Dowry system is being a crucial socio-economic problem in India. It is gaining a lot of attentions of the central government as well as civil society. Most interestingly there was no immense amount of dowry problem founded in field

study only 05% respondents have been victimised Domestic Violence for demanding Dowry.

Every new marry couple wants their new-born baby should be a male child if the wife is not able to bear a male child than she would be punished by her husband. This is a rare case generally seen our society. The above table reveals that only 05% respondents have been facing such type of Domestic Violence in the selected area.

**Impact of Domestic Violence:** It has been observed that Domestic Violence is being a great wall against the all-round development of the selected area. There are several impacts of Domestic Violence were founded during the field study that can be prescribed bellow.

**Impact of Domestic Violence on Wife:** The total respondents of the selected area raised their voice against the issue of alcoholism of husband. Most of the respondents have to be victimised Domestic Violence through different manner such as wife battering, heating, slapping and torture etc. physical and mental abuse, body pain and unwanted sex and different types of harassment. Extra Marital Affair is being a crucial problem in the selected area. Most of the respondents always have to involve in domestic fights due to the Extra Marital Affair of their husband. Dowry and Male Child Bearing are also a rare case seen in the selected area.

**Impact of Domestic Violence on Children:** The 80% of the respondents of the selected area also raised their similar voice that, due to the alcoholism of husband their children have to be deprived from all assist to study. That is why a lot of children have to be lost their valuable life and dignity of the selected area.

**Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Relation:** During the field study it was founded that Domestic Violence against women badly affected in the harmonious relationship between the wife and husband along with the family.

**Findings and suggestions:** The field study reveals that the total respondents in the selected Sadiya Sub- Division i.e. 100%. On the other hand it is found that most of the respondents’ i.e.50% belongs to Hindu community. It is also seen that the highest number of respondents i.e. 50% read up to the 12th standard level, 30% read up to the 10<sup>th</sup> standard level and 12% read up to the B.A. level. The field study shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 60% belong to the income group of Rs.10,000 to 15,000 and 40% belong to the income group of Rs.15,001 to 20,000. The field study reveals that i.e. 50% belong to scheduled Caste community, 40% belong to the scheduled Tribe community and 10% belong to the Other Community. On the other hand, the majority of the respondents i.e. 60% belong to the middle age of 31 to 50 years, 30% of the respondents belong to the age of 18 to 30 years and only 10% of the respondents belong to the age of 51 years and above. The table also shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 90% are involving in the agriculture sector and 10% are engaging in the business sector.

Most importantly the field study reveals that out of the total respondents of the Sadiya Sub- Division i.e. 40% have been facing sexual abuse, 30% physical and psychological abuse, 20% economical abuse and 05% has been facing emotional abuse. In the field study it was found that, there are several causes of Domestic Violence prevailing in the Sadiya Sub-Division. The majority of the respondents i.e. 60% cause of

Domestic Violence occurred due to the alcoholism of the husband, 30% due to Extra Marital Affairs, 05% due to Dowry and only 05% due to the Male Child Bearing case.

After examining the available data and information collected from the field study the following suggestions have been prescribed below for eradicating domestic Violence in India.

Poverty, Unemployment, Illiteracy, Ignorance and Underdevelopment all are the basic determinates of Domestic Violence in India. So the union government need to provide adequate assist to the people so that they can fulfil their interest and aspiration.

Women must be aware about their rights, rules and regulations which have been taken by the government.

The union government need to take necessary steps to prevent the use of liquid alcohol and drugs.

The effective civil society such as academicians, scholars, intellectuals, social activists and all form of NGOs have a great roll to bring a massive awareness campaign to fight against this evil.

Proper education can be all means to prevent Domestic Violence in India. Hence the union government need to facilitate equal educational rights for both men and women.

The sexual division of labour should be banned as far as possible. There should be more employment opportunity for women with adequate skill so that women can become more empower in the society.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the above discussion now it is cleared that Domestic Violence is a very important as well as a debated issue in the realm of Indian politics. However there are some problems or factors responsible for the emergence of Domestic Violence in India which has been the burning challenge for government as well as civil society. such a critical phase of history it should be the responsibility as well as duty from the part of state apparatus, civil society, media, NGO's and most importantly from the part of the common masses to think and act to prevent the Domestic Violence from the society.

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