

Survey Report on Domestic Violence In Patna



Recognize it, Report it, Prevent it

Conducted by:

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Supported by:

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

New Delhi

Survey report on Domestic Violence

This report is prepared by Sahyogi with the support of Paula Hamlyn Foundation.

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Executive Summary:

Domestic violence is the most common form of violence which is least discussed about or reported due to various social stigma attached to it. The society in which we live frowns upon people in general who discusses their domestic problems in the public sphere. Women who faces various types of violence in their daily lives shy away from talking about their personal lives as it may harm the status of their so called loved ones which in popular parlance is also known as the family.

A baseline survey to find about the incidence of domestic violence in the urban and mostly rural areas in and around Patna was necessitated for the AAN project being implemented by Sahyogi in the said demographical areas. 1444 respondents were interviewed during the period of August'16. Married and unmarried female were both asked a set of questions which were researched and prepared by Sahyogi. Though the number targeted was much higher but many people backtracked and some refused to talk fearing more backlash from their family members.

One very common finding which came out of the survey was that physical violence is quite frequent and most of the female respondents feel this to be natural, verbal or any other form of violence is not even thought to be unnatural. Male generally feel it to be their birth right and find nothing wrong with this.

The findings of the survey are part of the strategic framework that will guide the team to understand the conditions better and interact with the target group to enable women from diverse backgrounds to realize their fundamental right to lead a happy domestic life devoid of any violence.

Survey Methodology:

The study used purposive sampling methods to collect information from respondents belonging to diverse occupational categories spread across eight Panchayat and wards comprising mostly rural and urban population. Women above 18 years of age were part of the sample group.

The survey covered more than 1700 households of which 1444 women from the respective households agreed to be a part of this survey. The survey based on questionnaire were put forward to these women verbally as many of them were illiterate and it was not possible to solicit response from them otherwise.

Major Highlights:

- A first of its kind survey done in this demographical area
- Door to door sampling method was adopted
- Married and unmarried women both were identified as prospective respondents
- Survey to find about the prevalence of Domestic violence was a huge challenge
- The form of violence which people are reluctant to confess,
- Survey completed within a span of one month.
- Only women enumerators were used to elicit response from the respondents
- Domestic violence in some form or the other is widely prevalent

- High percentage of women reported about domestic violence perpetrated by their own family members
- Female in-laws are more inclined to commit such violence than the male members.
- Domestic violence is an accepted norm in most of the families covered under the survey

Key Achievements:

An overwhelming percentage of women agreed that domestic violence exist and they have been subjected to such in some form or the other. Verbal abuse is the most common form of violence which came out of this survey. Social stigma and honour are the common factors which prevent these women to talk freely about their plight.

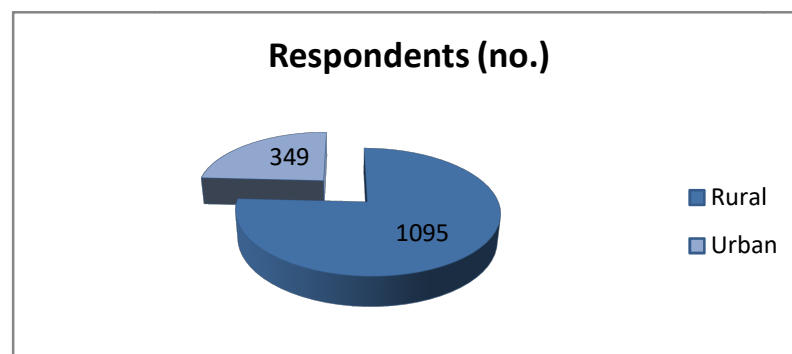
Maximum numbers of women who are part of this survey agreed that social taboos are very strong and to talk about such things lower the dignity of their respective families. Most of the respondents have grown up seeing such violence in their own households and have accepted this to be normal routine.

Though domestic violence is talked about in hushed tones in our society the survey was a tough exercise undertaken by the team as they faced many hurdles to complete it. The exercise broke a long standing silence which forces the women to follow the century old tradition of false honour and acceptance of such violence in its name. The findings are across the demographic spectrum of rural and urban population covered.

Table 1

Topographical representation of respondents		
Topography	Respondents (no.)	Respondents (%age)
Rural	1095	75.83
Urban	349	24.17

Fig.1 (Geographical configuration of respondents)



Who are the main tormentors?

Interesting findings have come out of this survey. It was perceived that married women were more susceptible to domestic violence in the hands of their husbands but contrary

to this popular belief the survey threw very interesting stats. It was found that the family members were the dominant culprits.

The main tormentors were the female members specially the mother-in-law. As can be seen from the table below, a larger number of respondents blamed them for domestic violence towards them. The father- in –law comes a close second in the list.

Table 2

Persons committed incidents of violence/discrimination											
Mother-in-law	Father-in-law	Sister-in-law	Brother-in-law	Son/Daughter	Daughter-in-law	Son-in-law	Sister-in-law	Police	Employer	Others	Didn't respond
35	34	10	12	9	7	2	16	0	0	25	297

Background:

A society ensures that people irrespective of their sexual identity has an equal and specific role and responsibilities. The rising violence against women in general is a clear blot in the realm of society which we as human beings have envisaged for ourselves. The violence against women is not particular to any region or religion. It is universal in nature and the outcome is always the same irrespective of the society where it was committed.

The violence towards women happens just because she is treated as inferior to her male counterparts and so is thought to be powerless. The crux of this type of violence lies in the deep rooted system of dominance. The underlying fact remains that women are often subjected to discrimination just on the basis of their gender. India is no different from other geographically different locations, violence against women are on the rise in many different shades and hues.

When we talk of violence against women be it physical, mental or even social, financial or cultural we have to find out from different categories of peoples including the women who face such violence believing it to be normal and mundane. Violence against women includes not only the physical violation but also the mental and sexual violence which are committed with them. This type of violence leaves a very shattered and painful memory on the lives of the victim and they lead a much stressed existence. These kinds of violence have a deep impact which cripples the confidence of the individual and they retract within a shell and are afraid to face the world at large.

Domestic violence specially targeting women is the least talked about amongst the types of violence which are normally mentioned. This is a very sensitive issue as nobody wants to talk about it as it affects the family or the honor of the said person. Women who are subjected to such violence seldom speak about it thinking that it will bring much shame to them as well as their families. Domestic violence is rampant in our society but it is also the best guarded secret as people are reluctant to come forward and speak or share their experience.

To conduct a survey based on domestic violence was a huge task for Sahyogi as part of their AAN Project. The issue is not only sensitive but brings out extreme reactions from people as it is felt like an intrusion on their personal lives. The survey became more difficult as the target

population was mostly rural and urban. The populations covered were mostly semi literate or illiterate and intrusive questions brought very negative and sometimes very volatile reactions from the male members of the families.

This survey was a challenge undertaken by Sahyogi and the team members put in their best effort to elicit response from the respondents. Facing tremendous amount of hurdles and negative response they shouldered on and finished this survey on the given time schedule.

Methodology:

Door to door:

In complete variance to other surveys where normally sampling method is adhered to this was intensive door to door data collection system. Every household was targeted to find out the prevalence of domestic violence. All the women of the designated area were targeted.

Survey area:

4 wards and 4 Panchayat were identified where the project was running and it was decided to cover maximum number of households in the area.

Table 3

Geographical configuration of the respondents		
Panchayat/Ward	Respondents (no.)	Respondents (%age)
Hatiyakandh	305	21.12
Jamsaut	286	19.81
Lakhnibigha	74	5.12
Mubarakpur Raghurampur	430	29.78
Ward no. 3	156	10.80
Ward no. 4	80	5.54
Ward no. 5	40	2.77
Ward no. 40	73	5.06

Sample size:

The actual households covered during the survey were much more than the actual count which is shown. In total 1444 respondents shared their views which can be shown from the figure: The idea was to get response from maximum women of that area. Women above the age of 18 yrs were only considered. The below given table elucidates the age wise demarcation of the respondents covered by the survey.

Table 4

Age wise configuration of respondents					
Age	18-25 yrs.	26-35 yrs.	36-45 yrs.	46-55 yrs.	56 yrs. and above
No.	259	596	308	133	148
%age	17.94	41.27	21.33	9.21	10.25

Sample distribution:

The respondent categories were further divided into various occupational and educational categories. This categorization was done both for the respondent as well as their husbands and in some cases other male members of the respective family. This kind of distribution gives us a clear picture of the incidence of violence in an educated background as well as in an uneducated family.

Table 5

Educational status of respondents							
Status	Illiterate	Can do signature	Non-matric	Matric	Intermediate	Graduation	Higher Education
%age	44.39	34.83	13.16	4.85	1.66	1.04	0.07

Table 6

Educational status of respondents' husband								
Status	Illiterate	Can do signature	Non-matric	Matric	Intermediate	Graduation	Higher Education	Didn't respond
%age	26.14	29.33	19.63	12.21	3.95	3.95	0.49	4.30

It also helps when we break it up on the occupational platform. The picture is clear from the given figure that working class in whatever form be it agricultural labor to other forms of labor or doing jobs in government or being privately employed the pattern is more towards domestic work for the maximum number of women. We have tried to cover both the respondent and their spouse for the purpose.

Fig.2 (Occupational status of respondent' husband)

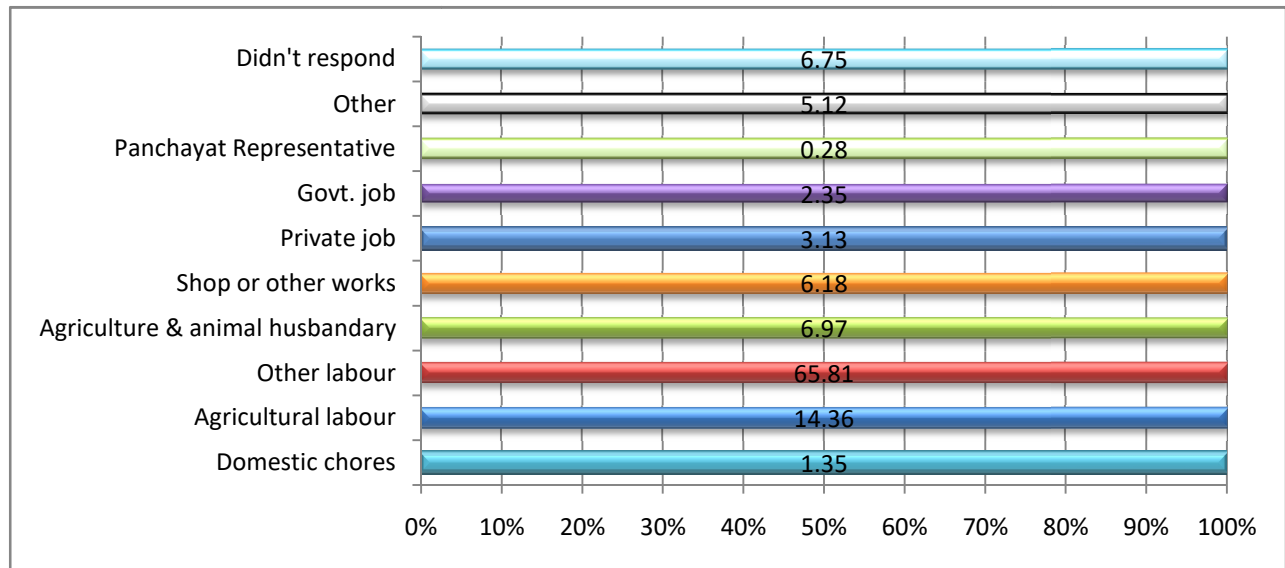
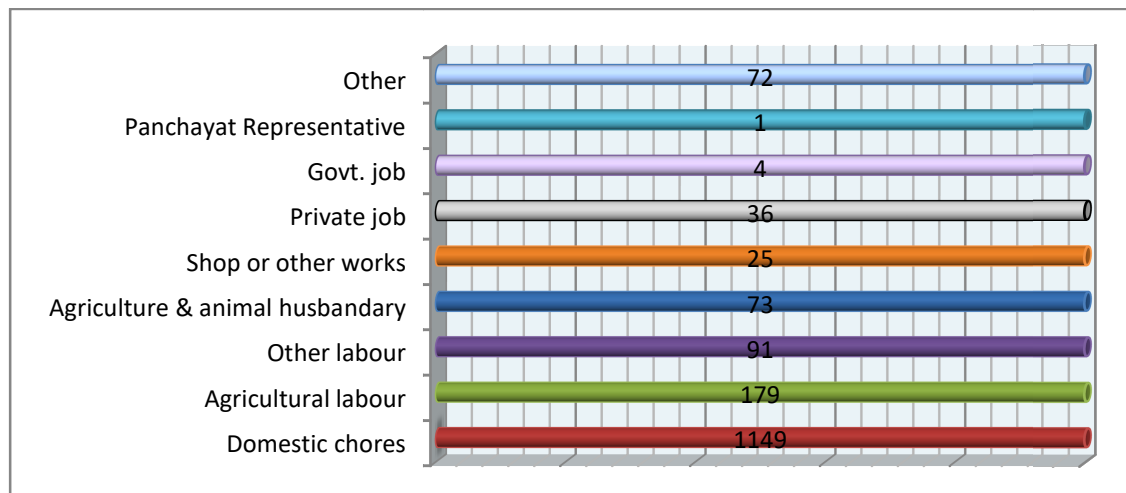


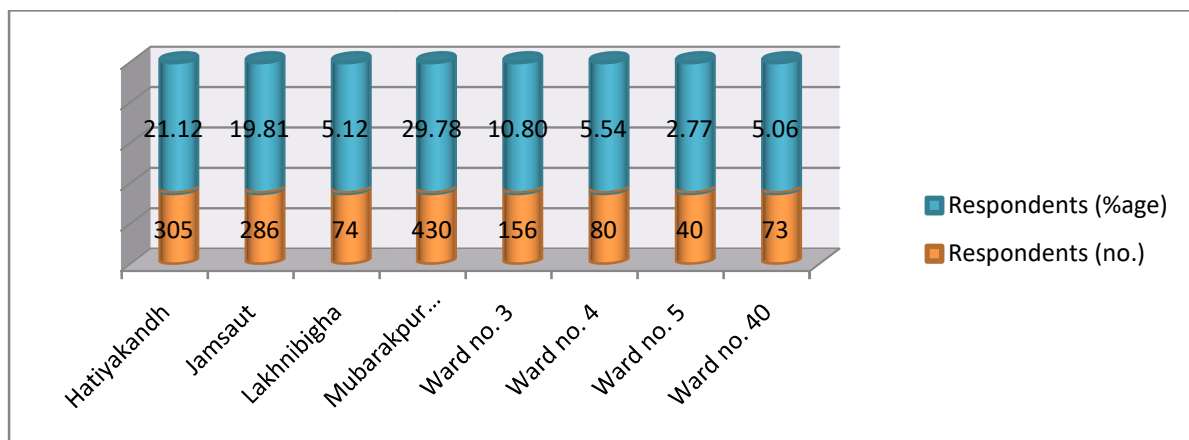
Fig.3 (Occupational status of respondents)



Scope and coverage:

Households across 4 Panchayat and 4 wards were targeted. It was envisaged that random door to door survey was the best method to follow. The aim was to cover the maximum number of households so that the aim of the survey can be achieved.

Fig.4 (Geographical configuration of respondents)



Research tools:

- a) Basic questions to make them aware about the meaning of domestic violence.
- b) Verbal abuse is also a form of domestic violence and it can happen in different ways was told to them to make the respondents aware about its implications.
- c) Scolding in any form within the family or outside before the family members or in front of outsiders were also talked about before the actual interview.
- d) Not allowing women to work or keep the earned money for themselves are also part of domestic violence were briefed to the respondents.

The questionnaires were prepared in a manner to elicit answers about perceptions of threats/risks of Domestic violence and actual experiences.

Demographic profile of the respondents

Age:

17.94% of the women covered were from the 18 to 25 yrs group. The bulk of the respondents amounting to 41.27% belonged to the 26 to 35 yrs bracket. 21.33% belonged to the 36 – 45 yrs age group. 9.21% belonged to the age group of 46 – 55 yrs and the remaining 10.25 were 56 years and above.

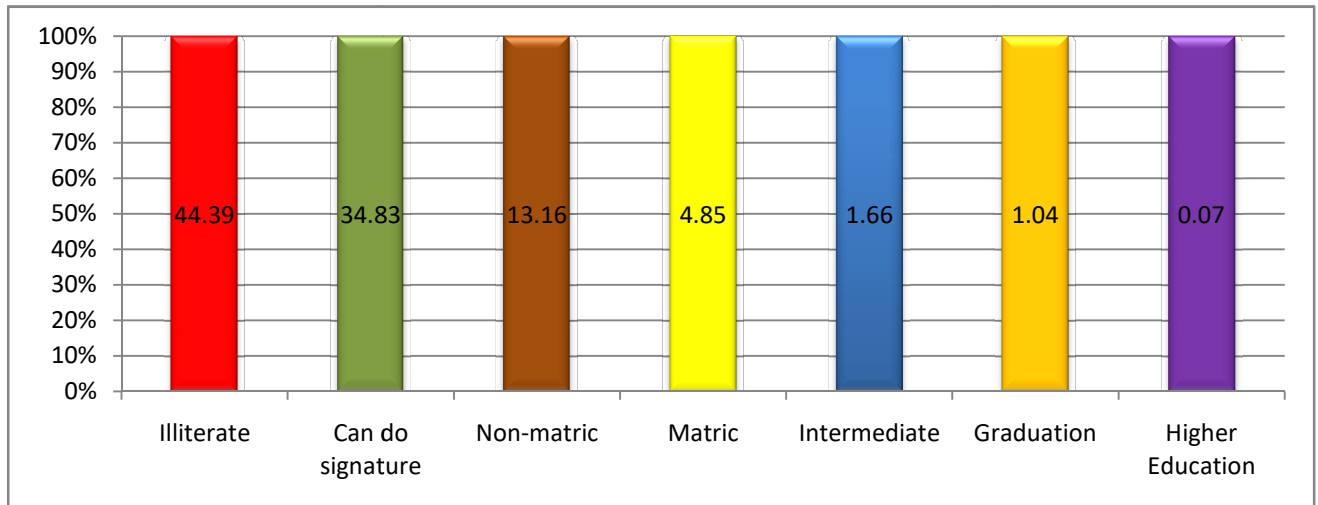
Table 7

Age wise configuration of respondents					
Age	18-25 yrs.	26-35 yrs.	36-45 yrs.	46-55 yrs.	56 yrs. and above
No.	259	596	308	133	148
%age	17.94	41.27	21.33	9.21	10.25

Education:

Majority of the respondents are illiterate and semi-literate. In fact 44.39% women are illiterate and 34.83% only knew how to sign their names. Only 1.04% is graduates and 0.07% had higher education.

Fig.5 (Educational status of respondents)



The survey would have been incomplete if the educational qualifications of the husbands were not taken into account as most perpetrators of such violence are them. 26.14% were found to be illiterate and only 29.33% knew how to sign their name. The Percentages of graduates were slightly higher among the males at 3.95% and the percentage of higher education was also slightly better at 0.49%.

Table 8

Educational status of respondents' husband								
Status	Illiterate	Can do signature	Non-matric	Matric	Intermediate	Graduation	Higher Education	Didn't respond
%age	26.14	29.33	19.63	12.21	3.95	3.95	0.49	4.30

Income:

Another major factor to be looked into was the earning capacity of the respondents and how that factor influences the occurrence of domestic violence in such households. Though most were not in the earning bracket and were primarily domesticated, we found some in various jobs as the below given table will illustrate.

Table 9

Respondents' profession									
Type of works	Domestic chores	Agricultural labour	Other labour	Agriculture & animal husbandary	Shop or other works	Private job	Govt. job	Panchayat Representative	Other

No.	1149	179	91	73	25	36	4	1	72
%age	79.57	12.40	6.30	5.06	1.73	2.49	0.28	0.07	4.99

Again the survey needed to know the earning capacity of the husbands and the kind of profession they were engaged in to get a better understanding of the situation. Most were engaged in some form of labour, be it daily, temporary or permanent basis. The following describes the pattern in detail.

Table 10

Respondents' husband profession										
Type of works	Domestic chores	Agricultural labour	Other labour	Agriculture & animal husbandary	Shop or other works	Private job	Govt. job	Panchayat Representative	Other	Didn't respond
%age	1.35	14.36	65.81	6.97	6.18	3.13	2.35	0.28	5.12	6.75

Respondents view about Gender discrimination/ Domestic violence:

It was very important to know the views of the respondents regarding gender discrimination and their perception of domestic violence. As the respondents came from rural and semi-urban background with minimum level of education, it was important to know what they as women felt about these issues.

Nine parameters were designed to elicit response so that we can understand the views which they have regarding their own plight. It was heartening to see that most of the respondents felt that higher education, jobs and monetary independence are basic rights that women deserve.

Table 11

Views shared by respondents regarding gender discrimination/violence			
Views on indicators	Yes	No	Didn't respond
Any incomppliance by a woman naturally vests in the husband the right to thrash her	1057	385	2
If husband beats her very seldom, then it is normal	1004	437	3
Passing comments for dowry by members of in-law's family is normal	319	1118	7
Marrying a girl in her early ages is also a violence against women	1370	70	4

Marrying a girl against her wishes is violence	1383	58	3
Taking away incomes of an earning woman is violence	1394	47	3
Do not let women/girls do jobs/works is violence	1421	18	5
Do not let women/girls pursue higher education is violence	1413	23	8
Do not provide money to wife/mother/sister/daughter for expenses is violence	1423	13	8

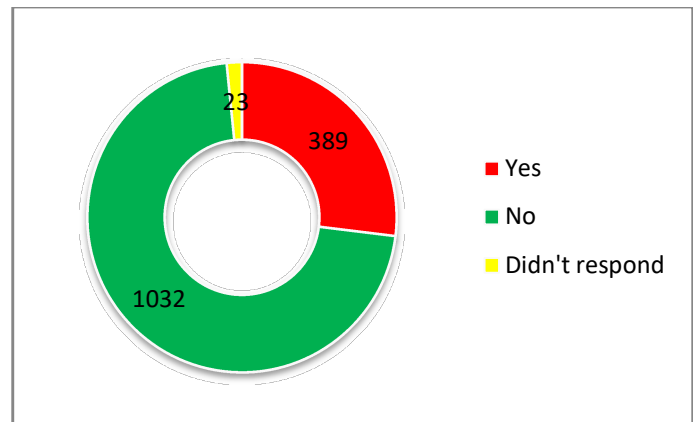
Observed domestic violence/ discrimination in the neighbourhood:

An interesting finding came out of the survey. Most of the respondents refused to acknowledge such happenings in their neighbourhood. A high percentage of more than 70% felt that they have not seen or heard of such incidence occurring in their locality. The table below gives the complete picture.

Table 12

Observed such incidents of violence/discrimination in neighbourhood		
Yes	No	Didn't respond
389	1032	23
26.94%	71.47%	1.59%

Fig. 6



Who are the main perpetrators of domestic violence?

It was evident from the survey that most of the respondents did not want to discuss their personal life. The findings also speak volume about this as most of the respondents believed their husbands to be innocent and the main villains were the father-in-law and mother-in-law as is evident from the table below:

Table12

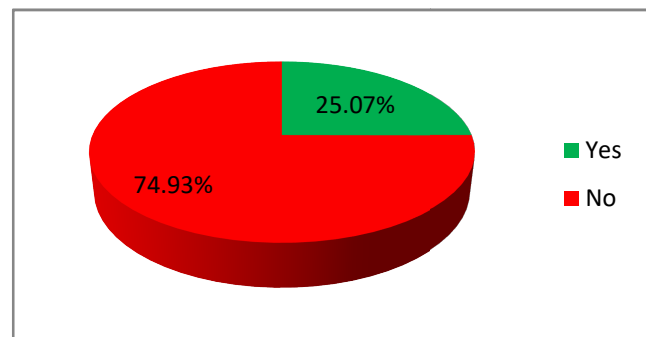
Persons committed incidents of violence/discrimination											
Mother-in-law	Father-in-law	Sister-in-law	Brother-in-law	Son/Daughter	Daughter-in-law	Son-in-law	Sister-in-law	Police	Employer	Others	Didn't respond
35	34	10	12	9	7	2	16	0	0	25	297

It is also very important to note that very few of the respondents actually allowed the surveyor to ask personal questions and in most cases refused to answer them. The following table below illustrates this very clearly.

Table 13

Fig. 7

Respondents allowed to ask questions pertaining to their personal life		
No. of respondents	Yes	No
1444	362	1082
	25.07%	74.93%



Types of domestic violence committed by the husband:

To cover the various aspects of domestic violence a set of ten questions were designed to bring about the prevalence of this from the respondents. The majority of the respondents denied having undergone such instances but few agreed as well. Extreme cases of physical violence were very few as is evident from the survey.

The reluctance to accept and acknowledge domestic violence as a crime is very much evident from the findings.

Table 14

Type of violence committed by husband			
Type of violence	Yes	No	Didn't want to respond
Rebuking or making insult in presence of others	156	197	9
Threaten to thrash	169	184	9
Character assassination	60	293	9

Pushed you or throws something upon you	130	222	10
Slapped	170	182	10
Wrenched your hands or pulled your hair	152	200	10
Kicked, pulled or thrashed	131	203	28
Tried deliberately to burn you or strangle	36	307	19
Attacked with knife, gun or any arms	13	327	22
Used force for making physical relation/ made any kind of pressure for making physical relation against your will	21	330	11

Other than husband who else has committed physical violence:

Physical abuse is an extreme case of violence and the survey was designed to understand that if the husband has the right to such acts do anyone else also has the same rights? It was expected that due to various societal reasons women will be reluctant to open up about their personal lives but if the same set of questions are asked in respect to other members of the family maybe they will infuse some insight.

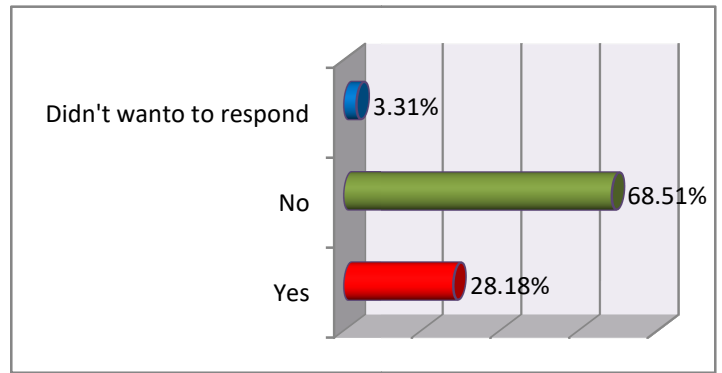
Table 15

Person other than your husband beat or pushed or <i>committed</i> something to torment you physically?										
Mothker-in-law	Father-in-law	Sister-in-law	Brother-in-law	Son/Daughter	Daughter-in-law	Son-in-law	Sister-in-law	Police	Employer	Others
32	22	17	21	9	9	1	15	0	0	7

Table 16

Other than your husband, did any person rebuke or scold or insult in presence of your relatives		
Yes	No	Didn't want to respond
102	248	12
28.18%	68.51%	3.31%

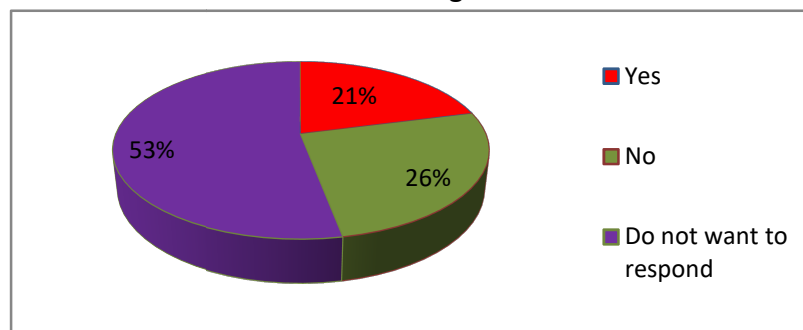
Fig. 8



Any permanent mark or cut due to such violence:

Though it was known that very few would open up about such incidence in their own family it was thought that maybe some amount of persuasion may reveal the clear picture. More than 50% of the respondents refused to answer this query which is clear from the figure below.

Fig. 9



It was decided to break the question in two more ways to get some response, but the outcome was the same as can be seen from the two other tables and figures given below:

Table 17

Did you suffer any wound, bruise, burn in your eyes?		
Yes	No	Do not want to respond
11.05%	38.12%	50.83%

Fig. 9

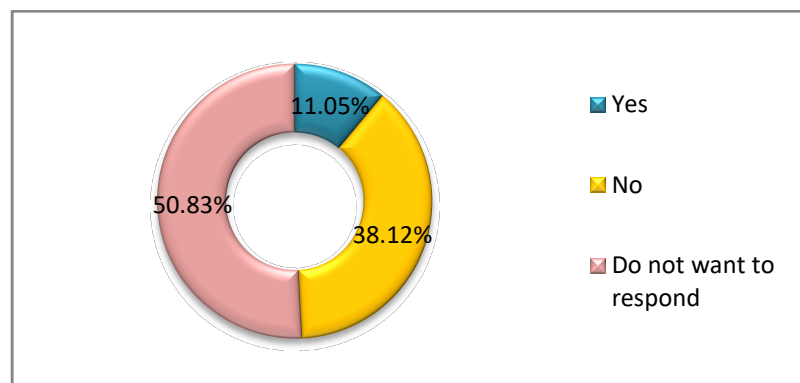
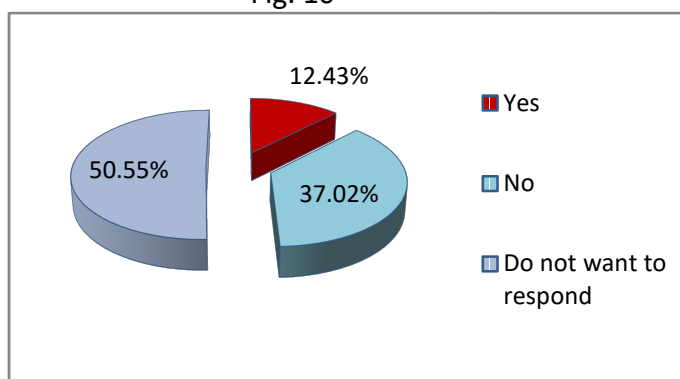


Table 18

Did you suffer deep wounds, fractured bones, damaged teeth or other bruises?		
Yes	No	Do not want to respond
12.43%	37.02%	50.55%

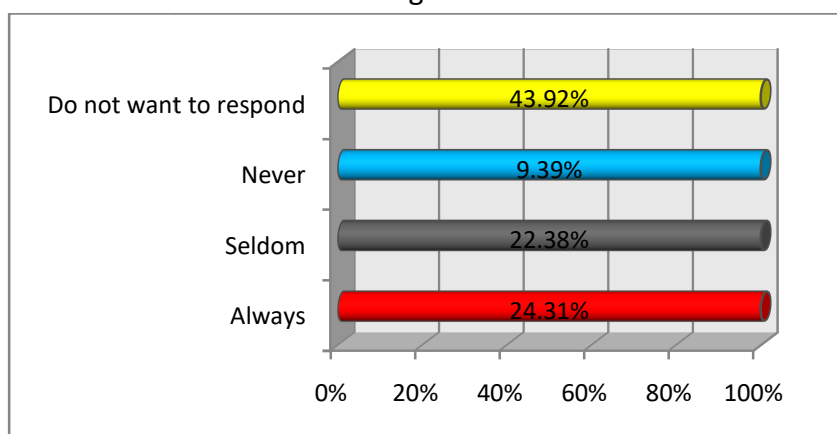
Fig. 10



Are you afraid of your husband?

The findings speak for themselves as less than 10% were brave enough to say no right away. The fear is quite evident and it reflects the mindset which exists in our society till date.

Fig. 11



Did you seek support or help if yes than from whom.

Nearly 35% of the respondents agreed that they have asked for help in some way or the other which actually proves the incidence of domestic violence in our society though most are reluctant to disclose as such.

Table 19

Table 23. Whom did you ask for support after incidents of violence? (in %age)

Members of maternal family	Members of in-law's family	Visited Police Station	Visited lawyer	Shared with friend	Shared with husband	Shared with neighbours	Shared with organization	Shared with Panchayat representative	Court
18.51	3.31	4.42	1.38	0.28	2.49	19.34	1.38	3.04	2.21

In most cases the support was asked from the maternal family members as to seek outside help would go against the family reputation and also create a bad image.

Knowledge of existing laws regarding the safety of women against domestic violence:

As was evident from the survey most of the respondents knew that there are laws to safeguard them against such violence but it was clear that few preferred such course of action.

Table 20

Do you know that is there any law regarding domestic violence to safeguard women?			
No. of respondent	Yes	No	Didn't respond
	727	694	23
%age	50.35	48.06	1.59

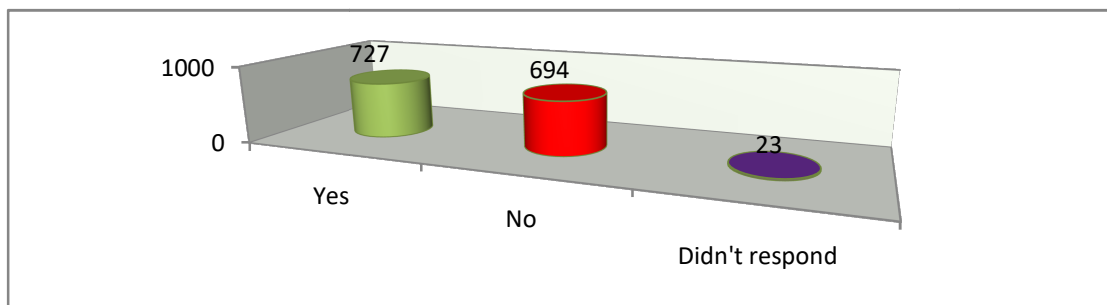


Fig. 12

Conclusion and way forward:

The survey was difficult to execute as it demanded many social taboos to be broken. There is an alarming level of normalization of domestic violence which threatens an individual household. Illiteracy and poverty clearly emerged as an important axis sharpening this vulnerability. The fear of violence and its social implications are a huge hindrance in tackling this serious issue.

Another important message which can be derived from the survey is that our rural and semi literate population still fear social reprisal and loss of face as the most important factors governing their existence. It was apparent during the course of the survey that most women were reluctant to discuss their personal life and most of them tried to shield their husbands from any blame.

Domestic violence is a curse and its genesis lies on the fact that women are still treated as secondary citizen. We as a nation are to blame for the plight of women in our society. Women empowerment and equality are well thought out concepts but it will require strong measures and will to be executed and implemented. We have to accept that there are serious concerns within our homes which need to be talked about openly and seriously so that we can derive a proper solution to such violence.

Laws regarding safeguard of women in domestic circumstances needs to be simplified and reachable for women, especially those living in rural areas and are illiterate. Social taboos are something which we grow up with, these needs to be looked into seriously because there are constraints which will require utmost care and understanding to deal with. Family honour and social standings are a big factor when we are dealing with domestic violence. The following points need a serious afterthought.

- Basic education of the population
- Domestic violence is a reality which needs to be talked about.
- Financial freedom and ability to earn is essential for a women
- The right to say yes or no to marriage
- Abolishment of the dowry system in whatever form it may exist
- Knowledge of the law and its mechanism to deal with such violence
- Timely intervention of the system in protecting the rights of the women
- Simplification of the rules and acts in dealing with such violence
- Fast and timely justice delivery system which upholds the dignity of the women

If we can improve on the above mentioned few points than we can definitely bring down the incidence of domestic violence in our society quite considerably. We must take this survey as an eye opener and try to reach out to a more vast number of populations. This kind of exercise helps the respondents to talk and come out in the open to acknowledge that such problems exist and should be abolished.