

# A Study on Perception of Married Women towards Domestic Violence in Boginadi Block of Lakhimpur District, Assam

Sri Surajit Borah<sup>1</sup>, Ishmi Rekha Handique Konwar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Asstt. Professor, Dep't. of education, Dhemaji College

<sup>2</sup>Asstt. Professor, Dep't. of education, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)

**Abstract:** Domestic violence means violence against children, older people, spouses and other members of the family, which can be of different types like, physical, verbal, social and emotional. Domestic violence can be against any one at home or family including all the members' i.e male, female, elderly and children. Women are pivot around which the family, the society and humanity itself revolves. They play a significant and prominent role in the development of a society. The purpose of this study is to study the married women's awareness about domestic violence and also to identify the different factors that lead to domestic violence. This paper will provide the different data related to perception of married women on domestic violence, and also help to understand the types of domestic violence, its promoting factors and also awareness on present legislations and institutions that protect them from domestic violence. The study was conducted in the Boginadi Block of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

**Keywords:** Violence, Domestic Violence, Perception, Awareness, Married Woman

## 1. Introduction

Human rights may be regarded as those fundamental and inalienable rights which are possessed by every human being irrespective of caste, religion, ethnicity, region, language, sex etc. It is a universal concept and has been accepted by all the nations. It may be defined as moral claims which are inborn and inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human being.

According to U.N. Report, 1980 "women constitute half of the world population, perform two- third of its work hours, received one- tenth of the world's income and own less than one hundred of the world's property."

Women are pivot around which the family, the society and humanity itself revolves. They play a significant and prominent role in the development of the society. It is to be said that if a man is educated, one person is educated but if a women is educated the whole family gets educated.

Domestic violence also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, emotional, verbal, psychological abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking and intimate partner violence. It means violence against children, older people, spouses and other members of the family. The different forms of violence include physical, emotional, verbal, economical and sexual abuse. The world Health Organization (WHO) reports that globally 38% of murders against women are committed by an intimate partner.

Violence is usually occurs more than one factor. One of the most important is a belief that abuse, whether physical or verbal, is acceptable. Other factors are substance abuse, unemployment, psychological problems, poor coping skills, isolation and excessive dependence on the abuser.

## 2. Multi Factorial Systematic Model of Family Violence

Societal, cultural and social political development phases of a developing society bring a variety of changes in the value system.

**Table 1:** Different kinds of gender violence over the cycle

Parental	Sex selection abortion, battering during pregnancy
Infancy	Female Infanticide, physical differential access to food and medical care for the girls students
Childhood	Child marriage, sexual abuse by family members and strangers, child prostitution
Adolescence	Forced sex, sexual abuse in the workplace, rape and sexual harassment
Reproductive	Abuse of women by intimate male partners, marital rape, dowry abuse and murder, psychological abuse sexual abuse in the workplace, sexual harassment rape abuse etc.
Old Age	Abuse of widows, elderly abuse

Adapted from Heike, Pita guay and Germaine, 1994

Domestic violence badly effects on children. During the mid 1990s, the Adverse Childhood Experiences study found that children who were exposed to domestic violence and other forms of abuse had a higher risk of developing mental and physical health problems. Some emotional and behavioural problems that can be found due to domestic violence include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in how a child socializes with friends, family and authorities. Depression, emotional insecurity and mental health disorder can follow due to traumatic experiences. School related disorder also occurs due to domestic violence of the child. On the other hand, adolescent are also badly affected by domestic violence. Some emotional problems like insecure, identify crisis, low self esteem, hyper sensitivity etc are arise due to effect of violence. Domestic violence sometimes leads to some psychological problems like depression, suicide etc.

### 3. Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives of this present study:

1. To find out the perception of married women on domestic violence.
2. To study the married woman's awareness about present legislations and institutions that protects them from domestic violence.
3. To identify the different types of domestic violence which the respondents face in their family.
4. To find out the different factors this is causing domestic violence.

### 4. Methodology

Methodology is an important part of research study. In the present study, methodology has been presented under the following heads:

1. Research Design
2. Population and Sample
3. Tools for Data Collection
4. Analysis of Data.

Each of these is discussed below:

#### 4.1 Research Design

For the present study, the investigator was employed "Descriptive Method". The method has been used as a most widely used research method. It is the method of investigation which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes, beliefs etc.

#### 4.2 Population and Sample

The population of the study were married women in Boginadi Block of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

Sample coverage a group of representation items. A sample must be as nearly representation of the entire population as possible and ineptly it provides the whole of the information about the population from which the sample has been drawn. The researcher always selects some items from the universe or population for his study purpose that is technically called a sample.

Sampling is the process of selecting a sample from the population. A sample is a small proportion of a popular selected for observation and analysis.

In the present study, convenience sampling, this is a non-probability sampling method. The samples were divided into three clusters based on the age of the respondents.

- Cluster I - 20-30 years
- Cluster II - 30-40 years
- Cluster-III- 40-50 years

#### 4.2.1 Sample Size

The sample size for the study was 120. Each cluster had 40 samples each.

#### 4.2.2 Tool for Data Collection

Structured interview schedule was used as the tool of data collection, consisting of 50 questions with multiple choices. Questions were prepared on the basis the objectives.

#### 4.2.3 Pre –Testing

Pre test was conducted with 20 respondents to check the validity and reliability of of the schedule and to tailor irrelevant questions.

#### 4.3 Data collection

Data were collected through personal interview. Investigator met each respondent and collected his or her perceptions on Domestic violence.

#### 4.4 Analysis and Interpretation of data

Collected data were coded and analysed through percentage and frequency distribution. Observations and work- experiences also helped the researcher to interpret the data. The investigator analyzed and interpreted the collected data as the following ways (Table No- 2):

**Table No 2:** Family structure

S. No	Types of family	Total No. of women	%
1	Nuclear	96	80
2	Joint	22	18
3	Extended	02	02
4	Divorce	-	-
5	Single Mother	-	-

The table 2 reveals that majority i.e. 80% belong to nuclear family, followed by joint family 18% and extended family 02%.

**Table 3:** Domestic violence faced

S. No	Types	Total no of married women	%
1	Physical violence	115	95
2	Emotional	96	80
3	Sexual violence	105	87
4	Verbal	118	98
5	Economical	85	70
6	Child abuse	105	87

This table-3 reveals that 95% of the respondents perceived physical violence in the family. Most of the respondents 80% perceive about emotional violence. Majority of the respondents 87% aware about sexual violence. 98% of the respondents are aware about verbal violence. Most of the respondents 70% perceive economical violence. Majority of the respondents 87% perceived that there is a child abuse in the family.

**Table 4:** Factors causing Domestic violence

S. No.	Factors	Total no of married women	%
1	Alcoholism	118	98
2	Financial crisis	113	94
3	Job stress	115	95
4	Male dominance	105	87
5	Sexual dissatisfaction	107	89
6	Smoking	119	99
7	Mass Media	109	90
8	Early Marriage	96	80

The above table-4 shows about the percentage of different factors that leads to domestic violence. From this table it has been shown that 98% of the respondents perceived that alcoholism leads to domestic violence. Majority 94% respondents perceived that financial crisis leads to domestic violence. Good number of respondents 95% perceived that job stress leads to domestic violence. 87% of the respondents perceived that male dominance leads to domestic violence. Majority 89% perceived that sexual dissatisfaction leads to domestic violence. 99% of the respondents that smoking leads to domestic violence. Majority 90% perceived that mass media also lead to domestic violence. On the other hand, 80% of the respondents perceived that early marriage lead to domestic violence.

**Table 5:** Awareness about legislation of Domestic violence

S. No	Legislation	Total no of married women	%
1	Family court	62	51
2	Dowry prohibition Act	63	52
3	Human Rights	71	59
4	RTE	79	74
5	Enforcing Laws	64	53

From the table no. 5, it is found that only 51% of respondents are aware about family court. Only 52% of the respondents are aware about Dowry prohibition Act. Only 59% are aware about human rights. 74% of the respondents are aware about RTE. Only 53% respondents perceived that enforcing law will reduce domestic violence.

## 5. Conclusion

On the basis of the study, we can say that married women in Boginadi Block of Lakhimpur district, Assam on an average have awareness about domestic violence and the various factors leading to domestic violence. But it was found that they are not much aware about the legislation or constitutional remedies to tackle family violence.

From the above study, the following suggestion will be given for better understanding of domestic violence:

1. Measures should be taken by Government and NGOs to increase legal awareness of domestic violence.
2. Measures should be taken by social workers to reduce domestic violence and also to increase awareness.
3. Motivation meetings should be organised to the persons undergoing domestic violence.
4. Further studies should be arranged to know about the different kinds of domestic violence.

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## Author Profile



**Mr Surajit Borah** is working as Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Dhemaji College and also a research scholar, Dibrugarh University. He has presented one paper in International conference and 6 papers in National conference.



**Mrs. Ishmi Rekha Handique**, is working as Assistant Professor, Department of Education, North Lakhimpur College also a research scholar, Rajib Gandhi University. She has presented three paper in International conference and 12 papers in National conference.