

Awareness among Women about Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is one of the forms of abuse which is often being executed against women within four walls of the family house. It is particularly so deeply engraved in the power dynamic and socio-economic structure of the society that it does not allow its recognition by the victim or the acknowledgment of such abuse. In India where half of the population consists of women, they have been maltreated from long time, which has deprived them from their rights. Therefore the women knowledge about Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the rights provided under are crucial in the present scenario so that at the time of violence against them, they could address their problem under the said law working in their favour and may also knock the doors of appropriate authorities. This law also prevents the police to trivialize the matter and empower the women to file complaints against evil happening to them.

Key Words : Domestic violence, PWDVA, 2005; Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The incidence of violence against women within and outside family has an alarming increase from the last some decades. Today, we hear a lot about beating wife, dowry deaths, and sexual crimes. Domestic violence is one of the forms of abuse which is often being executed against women in a shared household. It is particularly so deeply engraved in the power dynamic and socio-economic structure of the society that it does not allow its recognition by the victim or the acknowledgment of such

abuse. Domestic Violence usually committed by men (or his family) is violent victimization of women. Almost 8 out of 10 women face domestic violence by their partner¹. About 61.3% of married women experienced domestic violence within last 12 months in slums, where majority *i.e.* 75.8% of married women were illiterate who experienced domestic violence and about 56% were housewives². WHO published global estimates, which indicates that worldwide about 1 in 3 (35%) women in their lifetime have experienced either physical and/or

1. Agumasie Semahegn,¹ Tefera Belachew,² and Misra Abdulahi², *Domestic Violence And Its Predictors Among Married Women In Reproductive Age In Fagitalekoma Woreda, Awi Zone, Amhara Regional State, North Western Ethiopia, December*, *Reproductive Health Journal*, 5, 1-9 (2013), available at <https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1742-4755-10-63>
2. Sandeep Kaur, Anurag Bhai Patidar, Meenakshi, Sarit Sharma, Navneet, *Domestic Violence and Its Contributory Factors among Married Women in selected slums of Ludhiana, Punjab*, Vol-10, No.1, *Nursing and Midwifery Research Journal*, 30, 30-35, January (2014), available at <http://medind.nic.in/nad/t14/i1/nadt14i1p30.pdf>

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sexual Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) or non-partner sexual³. About one-third (30 %) of women worldwide under relationship report that some or the other form of physical and/or sexual violence is done by their intimate partner in their lifetime⁴.

For the first time the Data on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was collected in 2014 in which a total of 426 cases were reported under this Act during 2014⁵. A total of 461 cases were registered under this Act during 2015, showing an increase of 8.2% (from 426 cases in 2014 to 461 cases in 2015) during 2015 over 2014⁶.

At drastic level there is a need to take effective measures to improve the quality of life of women in India. Today there are numerous laws providing favorable rights to women in India. The rights available to women in India are classified in two categories- 'Constitutional Rights' and 'Legal Rights'. However the issue of domestic violence has been least talked about. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, between 2011 and 2013, India improved its ranking from 113th to 101th⁷. Several changes have been made and various sections have been inserted under criminal law to deal with the crime against women. Prof. Dr. Ute Klammer in "Winning Women: A dialogue between India, France and Germany", held in October 2013 spoke about the lack of women in high administrative positions in Germany and discussed the vitality of equal distribution of domestic responsibility between men and women as an important element in emancipating women professionally.

In India where half of the population consists of women, they have been maltreated from long time, which has deprived them from their rights. Therefore the women knowledge about Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is crucial in the present scenario so that at the time of violence against them, they could address their problem under the said law working in their favour. The knowledge of rights is crucial so that women when at the time of violation of their rights, they could ask for the same and can knock

the doors of appropriate authorities.

Objectives:

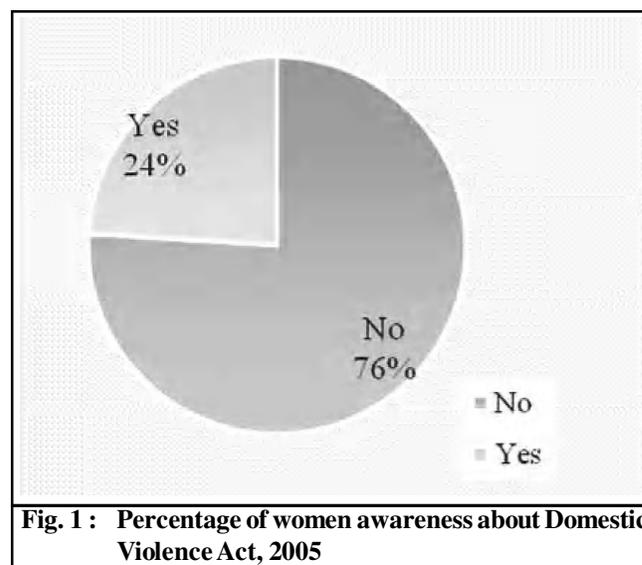
To examine the awareness level related to the laws for the prevention of domestic violence.

METHODOLOGY

The samples for the study were taken from North East district of Delhi. The size was comprised of 25 women, between the age group of 20-35 years who faced domestic Violence. The targeted groups for the study were married women of this area. "Simple Random Sampling Design" was adopted for the study. The data was collected through semi structured interview schedule, focus group discussion, observation schedule, Case laws/judgments were, Case studies, books, internet sources/library sources, journals, magazines, news paper articles and reports from U.N., WHO, NCRB etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 1 depicts that more than three-fourth of the women respondents out of 25, about 76 per cent were



3. *Violence Against Women*, World Health Organization (April 4,2017) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
4. *Ibid.*
5. Crime in India- 2014, 91 (April 26, 2017) <http://ncrb.nic.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2014/chapters/Chapter%205.pdf>
6. Crime in India- 2015 Compendium, NCRB Report p.91, April 26, 2017 <http://ncrb.nic.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2015/FILES/Compendium-15.11.16.pdf>
7. *Case study, Women's Rights in India*(2014). <<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/womens-rights-in-india>>.

unaware about the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Whereas, almost one-fourth (24 %) of women had knowledge about Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the reason they gave that neither they have heard about this Act nor they have faced any kind of such incidences or alike in their family before their marriage

Fig. 2 shows the knowledge among women of their rights and duties, and majority of women *i.e.* 44 per cent were not aware, 28 per cent of women had the knowledge about their rights and duties. About 16 per cent claimed that they have some idea and 12 per cent made the statement that they can't say *i.e.* their knowledge regarding their rights and duties were blurred.

Conclusion:

It is concluded from the study that it is plausible that wide numbers of women *i.e.* more than three-fourth are unwitting about the existence of PWDVA, 2005 as they were less educated and were hardly outgoing introverts. It is also that less than half of the women are unaware of their rights and duties because of poor or less education

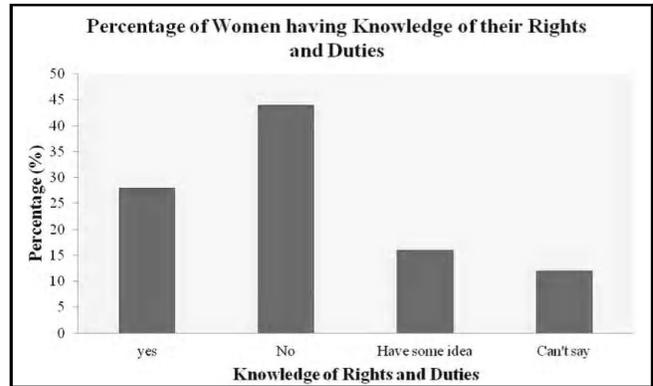


Fig. 2 : Awareness of women about their rights and duties

or illiteracy, followed by women who are aware because of better education or information received from their relatives or near friends and women having some idea for the same. However, minimal number of respondents cannot say clearly about the knowledge of their rights and duties.
