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Investigating Domestic Violence Against Women in North Bengal: A Gender-Based Violence Study

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Abstract: After years of taboo, violence against women is now receiving serious attention in both the media and scholarly circles, especially in developing nations. This tragic circumstance has also affected India. In India, women make up almost half of the population. Tragically, 2,44,270 incidents of women being violated have been documented in recent years, with as high as 70% of those cases being related to domestic abuse. All socioeconomic groups and cultural backgrounds are vulnerable to this kind of silent violence. Legislators in India have passed many laws aimed at achieving gender equality, like the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, despite the fact that women continue to face discrimination and injustice in the country even after its independence. With the advent of gender-specific legislation in the research region, this article seeks to conduct a thorough evaluation of 30 female respondents from the northern region of West Bengal on factors like the causes of their discrimination, the forms of violence they encounter, the severity of such violence, and the support they receive from the state's legal system, police, and society at large.

Keywords: Gender, Inequality, North Bengal, Violence, Women.

I. INTRODUCTION

The prevalence and severity of violence against women throughout the last 20 years have been far higher than first thought, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Worldwide, an estimated one-third of women have experienced some kind of sexual assault. Although it happens in every culture and society, the prevalence of gender-based violence against women differs from one country to another [1]. Women are more likely to be victims of violence in societies that value old patriarchal traditions, which serve to perpetuate gender inequality and subjugation. This tragic circumstance has also affected India. There has been an increasing problem with violence in India, including rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, and verbal abuse, which has long been seen as normal [2]. Crimes perpetrated against women accounted for over 59% of all crimes committed in the nation from 2001 to 2011, with rape ranking highest. Up to 2014, there were 244,270 reports of women being violated, with 70% of those incidents being domestic abuse. Women make up over half of India's population, at 48%. Unfortunately, they are still subject to humiliation and mistreatment, even after years of freedom.

objectification, women have lost much of their agency and sense of self-worth. Within the confines of her own home, they have been subjected to abuse by her saviors, in addition to having their pride and dignity snatched away by those outside [3]. But her suffering doesn't stop there; it might lead to her suicide or even dowry-related causes of death like burning to death. This kind of brutality has no bounds whether it comes to religion, class, geography, or caste; it is widespread in almost every society.

Section A. Women's Role in the World

According to Gustave Speth, who described the global situation of women in the 1995 preface to the Human Development Report, 70% of the world's impoverished are women, and 2/3 of the world's illiterate are women. But women and men are basically the same from the moment of conception. The mistreatment of women persists in the majority of global societies. Developed or industrialized nations, North America, Europe, and Australia are examples of economically advanced regions dominated by Western culture, where women have made great strides [4]. There have been cases of a lower birth rate and a preference for not remaining at home on an individual level. However, women still face

Because of their historical and cultural

oppression and even denial of fundamental human rights in emerging regions where non-Western cultures predominate. In societies where women are socially and legally devalued, it is legitimate to exploit and mistreat women in general [5]. The societal subordination of women and girls always leads to violence against them.

Violence against women is institutionalized and reinforced by cultural practices, beliefs, and conventions in premodern societies, according to the Global Women's Issues report. In undeveloped nations, women who experience abuse often internalize the conventional norms of subordination and servility and come to terms with their own inferiority. As a worldwide public health issue, violence is also a major breach of human rights.

B. Women's Position in India

There are two polar opposing roles for women in Indian society. In Indian mythology, female deities such as Durga, Bhairavi, and Laxmi have always represented strength, or Shakti, and women have been elevated to a heavenly position. On the other side, The standards established by a culture in which males predominate have also contributed to the oppression and marginalization of women [6]. In ancient Indian holy texts, the male and female halves of a person are depicted as interdependent. It was believed that women have more power than males. Both at home and in society, they played important roles. While males in the Aryan Golden Age were bold, free, and daring, women were wise, independent, and culturally significant; they stood for the ideals of matrimony and selflessness. The subcontinent's gender dynamic shifted with the arrival of the Turks and Afghans. After losing the resistance war, the people were forced to give over their ladies. Invaders seldom rode in groups, preferring to ride solo, and they wanted to write subjugation laws all over the ladies they captured. The preservation of women's dignity and virginity became an important social goal for the inhabitants of the area. Indian women were formally relegated to the home when the 'purdah' system gained popularity. Their role was equivalent to that of a housekeeper. Childhood marriages and the practice of sati both emerged in the post-Vedic era. Despite being honoured as sacred in the Hindu culture, with the passage of time women's position

started deteriorating and they became victims of various atrocities. Even after civilisations and revolutions in the country, women failed in getting a legitimate place. Thus, towards the end of British rule, Saints like Swami Dayanand, raised their voices fearlessly against such ill treatments and discriminations of women, and this led to the culmination of the laws for women. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru pointed out that the status of women indicates the character of the country and the social standing of any society just seems to be determined by the social status of its women. Women have played an important role in the evolution of man and his progeny. They continue to be the edifices of tolerance, personifications of sacrifice, effulgent emblems of selflessness and the towers of grace. Mahatma Gandhi believed that intellectually, mentally and spiritually women should run a race with man and should not continue to be caught up in the ever-tightening noose of exploitation [7].

A. Gender Based Violence against Women in

India According to the Indian Constitution, women are the legal citizens of the country and have equal rights with men. But in

reality Indian women are the worst victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation for centuries and centuries. They have been the victims of atrocities and crimes. The crumbling mansion of women's life is made to stand on the weakening pillars of injustice, inequality and indifference. Crimes against women are assertion of dominance over them [8].

The studies on the rate of incidence and prevalence suggest that this violence is in its alarming state. It exists not only in India but also in other nations though in different forms and trends. In the Indian society it is a social evil that has deep seated roots in its culture. The National Crime Record Bureau suggests that in India there is:-

- One dowry death every 78 hours
- One act of sexual harassment every 59 minutes,
- One rape every 34 minutes,
- One act of torture every 12 minutes, and
- One out of every three married women experience domestic violence.

According to some, violence against women is also not considered as violence at all because of the general acceptance of man's superiority over them. Women also do not consider it as violence because of their misconstrued religious values and fears of misinterpreting it as a social and spiritual question. Violence against women is partly a result of gender relations that assumes men to be superior to women. Given the subordinate status of women, much of gender violence is considered normal and enjoys social sanction. Manifestations of violence include physical aggression, such as blows of varying intensity, burns,

attempted hanging, sexual abuse and rape, psychological violence through insults, humiliation, coercion, blackmail, economic or emotional threats, and control over speech and actions. In extreme, but not unknown cases, death is the result.

One reason why violence has been largely ignored as a social

problem is because of a well accepted definition. Violence is an extremely diffused and complex phenomenon. Defining it is a not an easy task but it is a matter of judgment. Notions of what is acceptable and unacceptable in terms of behavior and what constitutes harm, are culturally influenced and are constantly under review as values and social norms are always on an evolution. The wide variety of moral codes throughout the world makes the topic of violence one of the most challenging and sensitive to address in a global forum. There are many possible ways to define violence, depending on who is defining it and for what purpose of arrest and conviction.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against

Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

The World Health Organization defines violence as ‘the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation’.

Gelles and Straus (1979) Violence is an act carried out with the intention or perceives intention of physically hurting another person.

B. Domestic Violence

The term used to describe the exploding problem of violence within homes is Domestic Violence. This violence is towards someone who we are in a relationship with, be it a wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, grandparent or any other family member.

It can be a male’s or a female’s atrocities towards another male or a female. Anyone can be a victim and a victimizer. This violence has a tendency to explode in various forms such as physical, sexual or emotional [9]. Since times immemorial, domestic violence has been an intrinsic part of the society we are living in.

The contributing factors could be the desire to gain control over another family member, the desire to exploit someone for personal benefits, the flare to be in a commanding position all the time showcasing one’s supremacy so on and so forth. On various occasions, psychological problems and social influence also add to the vehemence.

The term ‘domestic violence’ is not exactly defined under the Indian laws. Under the Indian law the term ‘cruelty to wife’ is being used to address this growing menace. All acts of gender-based on physical,

psychological, abuse by family member, ranging from simple assaults to aggravated physical battery, kidnapping, threats, intimidation, coercion and stalking, humiliating verbal abuse, forcible or unlawful entry, arson, destruction of property, sexual violence, genital mutilation, violence related to exploitation through prostitution, violence against household workers and attempts to commit such acts shall be termed as ‘domestic violence’ [10].

The National Commission for Women defined domestic

violence to connote ‘Domestic violence’ means any of the following acts or any willful conduct which is committed on a women by her husband or any of his or her relatives,

- Which is of such a nature as is likely to drive the women out of the house or commit suicide or to injure herself;
- Causes injury or danger to the life, limb or health whether physical or mental of the women;
- Any harassment which causes distress to the women;
- Any act which compels the women to do any activity against her will or on the pressure of the husband or the relatives;
- Any act which is unsuitable and destroying the dignity of the women;
- Any act of omission or commission, which is likely to cause mental torture or mental agony to the women.

Table I: Classifications of Domestic Violence

Physical Violence	Sexual Violence	Emotional Violence
Physical violence occurs when someone uses a part of their body or an object to control a person’s actions.	Sexual violence occurs when a person is forced to unwillingly take part in sexual activity.	Emotional violence occurs when someone says or does something to make a person feel stupid or worthless.
Psychological Violence	Spiritual Violence	Cultural violence
Psychological violence occurs when someone uses threats and causes fear in an individual to gain	Spiritual (or religious) violence occurs when someone uses an individual’s	Cultural violence occurs when an individual is harmed as a result of practices that are part of

control.	spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control that person.	her or his culture, religion or tradition.
Verbal Abuse	Financial Abuse	Neglect
Verbal abuse occurs when someone uses language, whether spoken or written, to cause harm to an individual.	Financial abuse occurs when someone controls an individual's financial resources without the person's consent or misuses those resources.	Neglect occurs when someone has the responsibility to provide care or assistance for an individual but does not.

beatings (Ram, 1993). Married women with some level of education are just as likely to be beaten as those with little or no education at all. In Ahuja's research, 24% of batterers had a moderate level of education, while 26% had a high level of education. But he did add that husbands with lower levels of education are more likely to physically abuse their wives than those with higher levels of education. According to Ahuja's research, wife-battering affects women of all ages.

C. Factors responsible for Domestic Violence

When it comes to acts of violence against women, there is no one explanation. In order to better comprehend the issue in diverse cultural settings, researchers have been increasingly concentrating on the interconnectedness of different aspects. As a result of a long history of gender inequality in power, women continue to face unique challenges in overcoming the entrenched social and cultural norms that make them more susceptible to violent acts. Some of the causes of these imbalances of power are:

The role of society: Children and women do not have equal legal and social standing because of the patriarchal family structure, which encourages fear and control of female sexuality, perpetuates the assumption that men are fundamentally superior, and is reinforced by laws and cultural norms. We looked at the correlation between domestic violence and educational attainment in our search for causes of this problem [11]. His research in Gujarat found that compared to educated women, illiterate women experience higher rates of violence. The correlation between educational attainment and abusive behavior is statistically significant. Women who have not completed elementary school or who have only completed a basic education program are more likely to be victims of violence than their more educated counterparts. Keep in mind, meanwhile, that the general literacy rate among Gujarati women is anywhere between 20% and 50%. On the other hand, one research found no correlation between the couple's educational level and the frequency of

Seventy-two percent of victims fall into the category of individuals whose marriages are more than ten years apart in age. Women who suffer domestic violence during the early years of their marriage are more likely to be abused as they get older, according to a report by Visaria. There is minimal correlation between wife battering and family size, marital status, or the presence or absence of children, according to the results.

Aspects related to money: When women are economically disadvantaged, they are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and have a harder time escaping abusive relationships. The cycle of violence, economic hardship, and dependency is self-perpetuating. On one hand, the threats and fear of violence keeps women from seeking employment or at the best compels them to accept low paid, home-based exploitative labour. Conversely, women are unable to leave an abusive relationship until they achieve economic independence.

Cultural factors: Ideologies within cultures legitimize violence against women in certain contexts, whether in developed or developing nations. The practice of scolding and physically abusing one's wife has long been accepted in religious and cultural circles. Under the guise of women's claim and ownership, physical punishment of spouses has been especially legitimized. When males have sway over family finances, it ultimately leads to patriarchy and proprietary rights for men and women. As a corollary, the idea of ownership provides legal cover for patrilineal inheritance by normalizing restrictions on women's sexuality [12]. With different processes of socialisation that men and women undergo, men take up stereotyped gender roles of domination and control, whereas women take up that of submission, dependence and respect for authority. From the time they are little girls, girls are taught that they are frail and require ongoing support, whether it be social, economic, or physical. Because of her lack of agency, she has been a victim of exploitation throughout her life. The family socialises its members to accept hierarchical relations expressed in unequal division of labour between the sexes and power over the allocation of resources. The family and its operational unit is where the child is exposed to gender differences since birth, and in recent times even before birth, in the form of sex-determination tests leading to foeticide and female infanticide. The

home, which is supposed to be the most secure place, is where women are most exposed to violence. Excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs have also been noted as the factor of provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women and children. The isolation of women in their families and communities is known to contribute to increased violence, particularly if those women have little access to family or local organisations. On the other hand however women's participation in social networks as acted as a critical factor for lessening their vulnerability to violence and in their ability to resolve domestic violence. Political factors: There is under representation of women in power, politics and media and in legal professions. Lack of legal protection, particularly within the sanctity of the home

is a strong factor in perpetuating violence against women. There are other factors too that cause domestic violence and these include sociological and historical factors. The pace of social changes in West Bengal has accelerated in the recent years but the problem of gender violence in the state almost reveals a new dimension. Despite being the land of various political, social, economic and cultural movements there has been a failure to look into the movement for married women's development. Patriarchy limits their lives and they are practically excluded from decision making processes. Studies estimate that from region to region a large percentage of women experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner or family member and based on this notion of violence this study is based on analysing violence in North Bengal. Thus, this study attempts to analyse the incidence of domestic violence in North Bengal region of West Bengal by surveying 30 women respondents as the sample for study. The primary objectives of this study are:- i) to study what is the meaning of domestic violence and its types, ii) to identify and examine the extent and the types of violence prevalent in North Bengal, iii) to identify the factor that cause violence in North Bengal, and iv) to understand who help the victims during their times of violence.

II. METHODOLOGY

The method of data collection for this study is based both on the primary data acquired from the survey with women respondents and by the secondary data acquired

by journals, articles, books, newspapers, government reports and web sites. Fieldwork for this study has been carried out in Darjeeling district and Siliguri subdivision of West Bengal. The universe of the study is a sample of 30 women respondents and they are surveyed by employing research techniques that include a survey and in-depth interviews. It was structured on questions relating on their social and economic and personal experience. The responses of the surveyed women are analysed and interpreted through figures.

A. Profile of the Study Area

Darjeeling district forms the northernmost district of the state of West Bengal, in eastern India in the foothills of the Himalayas. The district is famous for its beautiful hill stations and is often referred to as the Queen of the Hills. It is surrounded by two important neighbouring countries namely, Nepal and Bhutan in the eastern and the western side and by the state of Bihar and the district of North Dinajpur in the southern and the state of Sikkim in its northern side. Thus being encircled by international boundary with the countries, this district has remained a place of immense strategic importance since last 200 years. The rivers Mechi, De Chu, Mahananda, Rangit, Teesta and Rangpo also form the natural border of the district. Darjeeling district is located between 26° 31' to 27° 31' North Latitude and 87° 59' to 88° 53' East Longitude at an average elevation of 6982 ft (2128m).

B. Population

The population growth of Darjeeling district is not static rather it is fluctuating in nature. The total population of the people of Darjeeling district was 10,06,434 in 1981 and it increased to 13,35,687 in 1991 (Census of India). A comparison of the census of a decade between 2001 and 2011 shows that in 2001, the total population of the district was 1,609,172 out of which there were 830,644 males and 778,528 females and according to 2011 census, the total population of the district is 18,42,034 out of which there have been 9,34,796 males & 9,07,238 females.

The district also comprises of both urban and rural areas. Out of the total population, 7, 27,963 (39.42%) people live in urban area and it includes 370,294 males and 357,669 females. On the other hand, 11,18,860 people (60%) live in the rural areas of the district which include 5,66,965 males and 5,51,895 females (Census of India,2011)

C. Geography

Geographically, the district can be divided into two broad divisions, the hills and the plains. The entire hilly region of the district initially came under the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, a semi-autonomous administrative body, which was replaced by the Gorkha Territorial Administration under the state government of West Bengal. The council covers the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. The foothill of Darjeeling Himalayas, which comes under the Siliguri subdivision, is known as the Terai. The Terai is bounded on the north by the mountains, on the south by Kishanganj district of Bihar state, on the east by Jalpaiguri district and on the west by Nepal. It has a

length from north to south of 18miles, and a breadth from east to west of 16miles. As of 2011 it is the second least populous district of West Bengal after Dakshin Dinajpur.

The survey has also been carried out in Siliguri subdivision which is situated at the base of the Himalaya Mountains in the plains of Darjeeling District by the side of river Mahananda. It is the second largest city in West Bengal and known as the gateway of North-Eastern India. The strategic location of the place makes sure that travelers to the North-East has to pass through Siliguri. It is also the commercial capital of the region. The Sub-Division is bounded on the north by the Sub-Himalayan ranges and on the south by Bangladesh, Uttar Dinajpur and Bihar. To its east lies Jalpaiguri District and Kalimpong Sub-Division and on the west by Nepal. Siliguri got its Sub-Divisional status in the year 1907 and it has got four Community Development Blocks, namely, Matigara, Phansidewa, Naxalbari and Khoribari block and one municipal Corporation area known as Siliguri Municipal Corporation under its administrative jurisdiction. The Sub-Division comprises of 7 Police Stations and 22 Gram Panchayats and three Assembly Constituencies.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

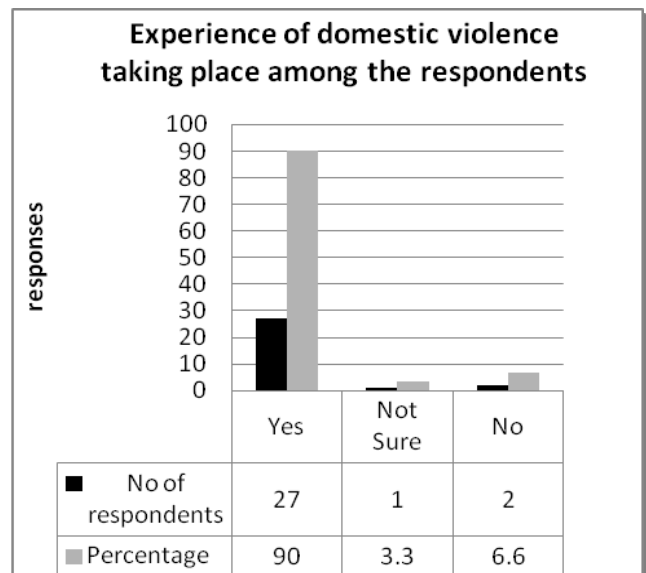
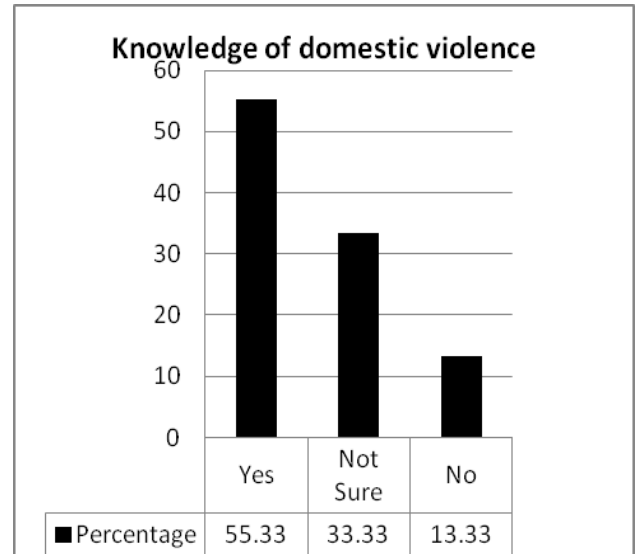
The questionnaire on analysing domestic violence was distributed to married girls and women whose age was between 19 yrs to 59yrs. The maximum number of respondents belonged to the age group of 30-39 years and

40-49 years. All of them had basic education, 6 of them had primary education, 7 of them who were graduates, other 6 were post graduates, 2 were professionals and maximum no. of 8 respondents were had secondary education till class 12. Out of the 30 respondents 24 of them were unemployed, in private business and daily wage earners, the remaining 6 were working as public servants. It was strange that even working women faced violence.

Fig 1: Respondents Knowledge of Domestic Violence Taking Place in the Area.

The figure represents that 16 women (55.3%) were aware of the fact that domestic violence is taking place in their area, which is in North Bengal. It seems that 4 women (13.3%) are still unaware of this evil because of their unawareness about the society and the remaining 10(33.3%) were not sure if the things experienced to them was even a situation that could be called violence (Fig 1).

Fig 2: Respondents Experience of Domestic Violence Taking Place among the Respondents



The above figure shows that there are about 27 women (90%) out of the 30 women, who said they had an experience of violence, after having understood what actually violence comprised of. 2 more women (6.6%) said that they had not experienced violence at all. while the remaining 1(3.3%) of them was not even sure of her own situation (Fig 2).

neglect(3.3%), sexual(13.3%),

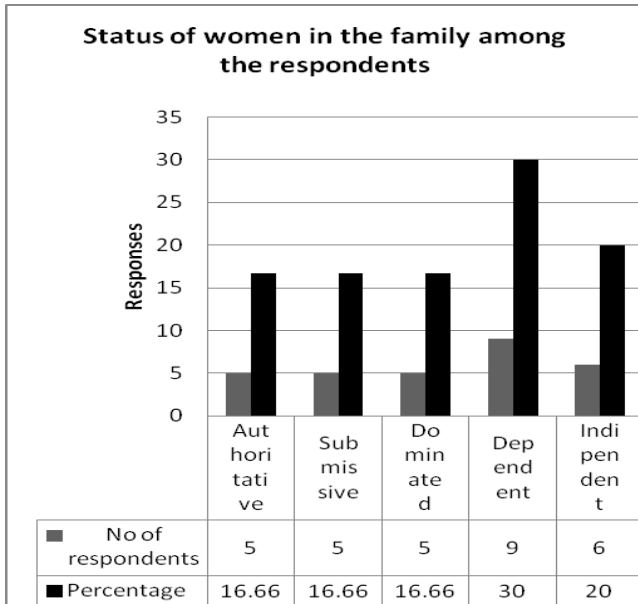


Fig 3: Responses on the Status of Women in the Family of the Respondents

The above graph suggests that the women in North Bengal have mixed types of status in their families. While the maximum respondents 9 women (30%) of the 30 women have a dependence towards their husband for food, shelter and clothing, the remaining 21 women respondents have either an authoritative (16.6%), submissive (16.6), independent roles in their family life, and 5 (16.6%) are rather dominated while being at home (Fig 3).

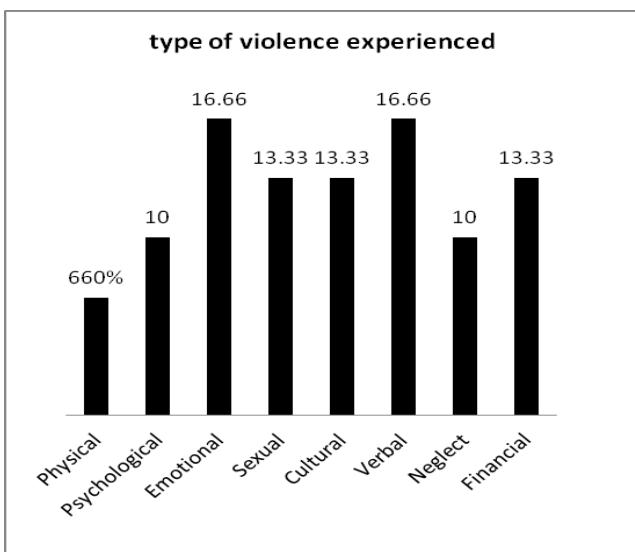


Fig 4: Experience of Violence under Different Category of among the Respondents in the Area

Among the various types of violence experienced by women they were of the opinion that out of 30 samples of answers, 2 of them (6.6) were facing physical violence, while of them faced psychological(3.3%)

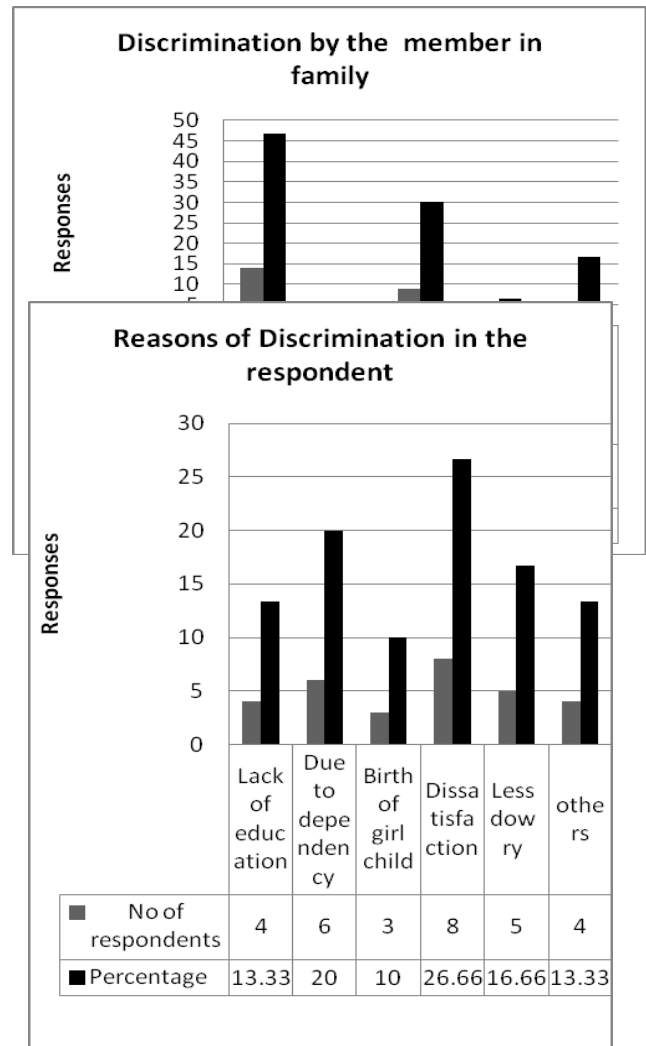
cultural(13.3%), financial(13%) and the maximum of them 5(16.6%) had an experience of verbal and emotional violence (Fig 4).

Fig 5: Discrimination by Certain Member of Family.

It suggests from the above figure that 14 of the 30 women (46%) are violated by their husbands; there are 9 of them (30%) who are discriminated by the mother-in-law. There are 2 of them whom often face discrimination at the hands of their sister in-laws and (16.6%) who are tortured by other members of the husbands family (Fig 5).

Fig 6: Reasons of Discrimination of the Respondents

The above figure suggests that women respondents were subjected to violence, criticism and inhuman treatment by their husband and family,



among the 30 respondents 3 of them (10%) birth to girl child, 4 of them had a lack of education (13.3%), 5 of them (16.6%) gave less dowry, 6 of them were dependent and acted like burden to the husband, while the maximum of 8 (26.6%) were of the opinion that their husbands family was dissatisfied with them (Fig 6).

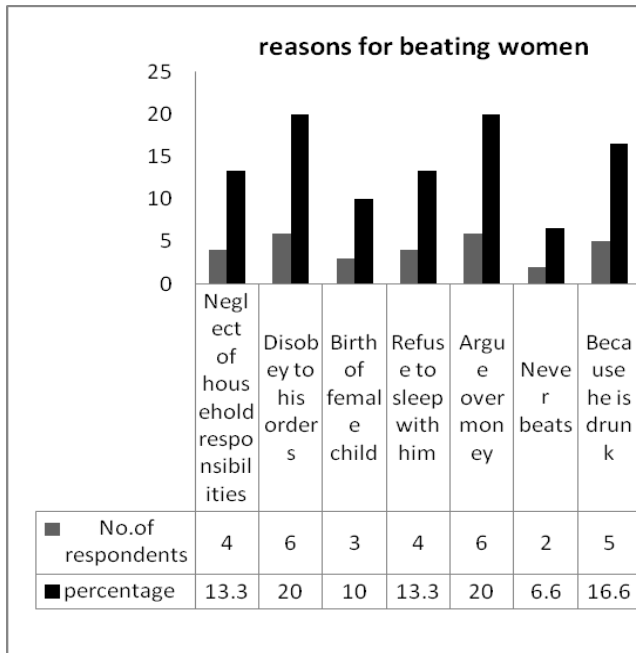


Fig 7: Reasons why Women Are Beaten by the Family Members

The above figure shows that 2 out of 30 women (6.6%) were never beaten by the husband or any family member. There were 8 of them beaten because they neglected household responsibilities (13.5%), and also because they refused to sleep with their husband (13.3%). The highest no. of responses 12 were received by disobeying of orders (20%) and argue over money (20%). There were even 5 of them (16.6%) who often got beaten by their husbands because their husbands were drunk and without reason they were subjected to their anger (Fig 7).

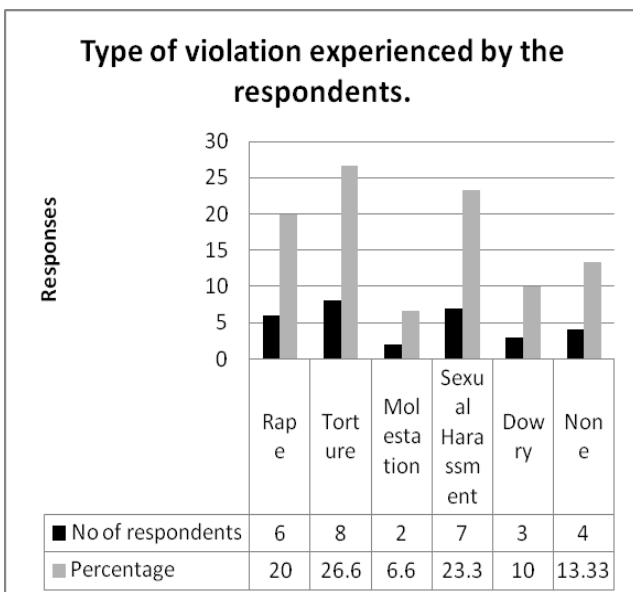


Fig 8: Responses on the type of Violation Experienced by the Respondents.

The above graph denotes molestation (6.6%) and dowry being experienced by women (10%), Rape being faced by (20%), while some more of them are being faced by the violence of sexual harassment while maximum respondents are being tortured (Fig 8).

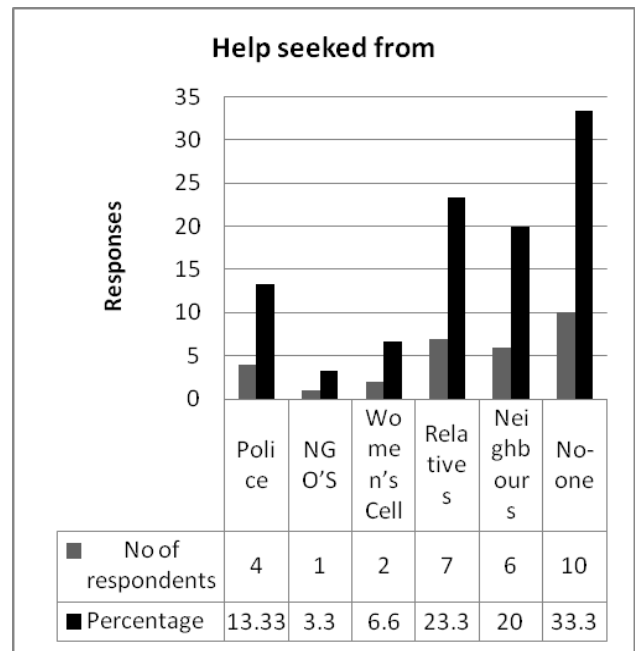


Fig 9: Help Sought During Violence by the Respondents.

When women of this region faced domestic violence there were 1 of the 30 who took help from NGO(3.3%), some took help from relatives and neighbors during minor incidents, while 4(13.3%) of them informed the police and the highest respondents of 10 women (33.3%) were helping herself without letting anyone know what she faced (Fig 9).

It has been clear through the above data that women in North Bengal have been facing domestic violence. Their family members including their husband have been discriminating them, mainly because of birth of girl child, a lack of education, gave less dowry and few were regarded as burden to the husband and were a source of dissatisfaction to them. Violence in this area has been found to be of a domestic violence type.

IV. CONCLUSION

Many women and girls throughout the globe, in both developing and developed nations, experience some kind of gender-based violence. Every woman on Earth has been the victim of physical violence, sexual coercion, or some other kind of abuse at some point in her life. The pervasive health issue of violence against women is becoming acknowledged as a barrier to growth in emerging nations such as India. In this research, which aimed to get a general understanding of this social plague by consulting books, journals, and interviewing married women in the Siliguri metropolitan region of West Bengal's Darjeeling District,

women's existence is diminished in their view. Education, the birth of a female child, or dowry are not the primary causes of domestic violence, according to the complete poll. Even when both partners in a marriage have completed their education, the "man" is still considered the ultimate authority figure in the home. Frequently, there is a person who lacks education and experience, but whose "will" must become the house's will regardless of the circumstances. Therefore, a girl or woman is mostly prevented from standing up for herself by patriarchal society. She is raised in an environment that discourages independence and self-reliance. It is expected that she is timid and subservient, that she knows her way about the house, that she should marry a guy who doesn't value life, that she should raise children, and that she should work harder than an office-going male at home. Just because she is female doesn't give her the right to keep whatever she has. In no world does a guy ever have to take a woman's burden. A woman is the essence of life in simple terms, she is the source of a life, nurtures a new life, handles not just one but two houses with same loyalty like she had in her own parents house, she possesses double the energy than any man has but still she is not respected, not cared and not appreciated. The real issue is not whether we will celebrate women when they achieve success in their chosen fields, but rather when they are able to provide a safe and nurturing home for their families without fear of abuse. Legal provisions will surely not change anything, at the end there should be realization among the men that women was not born to be lesser than him, to be subordinated by him but was born equal to him, without whom the world won't exist.

The devastating impact of spousal abuse on

women is its effect on her children. It is nature's phenomenon that a child generally has a greater attachment towards the mother for she is the one who gives birth. As long as the violence subjected to the mother is hidden from the child, he/she may behave normally at home. The day when mother's grief and suffering is revealed, a child may become upset about the happening deeply. Children may not even comprehend the severity of the problem. They may turn silent, reserved and express solace to the mother. When children see their parents or guardians engaging in violent acts, it may leave a lasting

and horrific impression on their brains. They get used to such happenings at home, and have a tendency to reciprocate the same in their lives. It's common in especially in rural homes in India which are victimised by the evil of domestic violence.

Battered women have tendency to remain quiet, agonised

and emotionally disturbed after the occurrence of the torment. A psychological set back and trauma because of domestic violence affects women's productivity in all forms of life. A working Indian woman drops out from work place because of the ill-treatment at home or office, she may lose efficiency in work. Her health may deteriorate if she is not well physically and mentally. Some women leave their home immediately after first few atrocious attacks and try to become self-dependent. Their survival becomes difficult and painful when they have to work hard for earning two meals a day.

Many such women come under rescue of women welfare

organizations like Women Welfare Association of India

(WWAI) and Woman's Emancipation and Development Trust (WEDT). Some of them who leave their homes are forcefully involved in women trafficking.

Domestic Violence effects the family, violence against women may keep them locked in homes succumbing to the torture they face. If they come out in open and reveal the wrong done to them for help and rescue, it influences the society both positively and negatively. At one hand where it acts as an inspiration and ray of hope for other suffering women, on the other hand it also spoils the atmosphere of the society. When something of this kind happens in the society, few families may witness the evil of domestic violence knocking their door steps. Some families try to imitate what others indulge in irrespective of it being good or bad for the family.

Domestic violence affects the productivity level

of the victim negatively. Men and women lose interest in household activities. If they are employed they fail to work with full capabilities in workplace. Children are found to concentrate less on studies. They drop out of school and do not get the education which otherwise they might have got if they were not tormented and thus the country loses a productive asset. Therefore, the nation's productivity altogether gets affected because of domestic violence in homes. Women should be aware of the rights for them, specially the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which is a landmark initiative for protection of women against domestic violence. This act was brought into force by the Indian government from 26 October 2006. The Act provides for the first time in Indian law a definition of domestic violence with this definition being broad and including not only physical violence, but also other forms of violence such as emotional/verbal, sexual, and economic abuse. It is a civil law meant primarily for protection orders and not meant to penalize criminally

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