



## A STUDY ON AWARENESS REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005 AMONG FEMALE WORKERS WORKING AT JYOTI SANGH AND HEERABA MAHILA MANDAL.

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### ABSTRACT

Women have always played specific and crucial role whether visible or not in society. Traditionally the Indian women have been the foundation stone of the family and society in the general. In our society which is tradition bound and male dominated, women is still a second class citizen. She is confined to domestic servitude, her movements are restricted, she is given no freedom to choose his career or husband, she merges her identity with that of her husband and consequently perceives herself as a subordinate person. The imposition of restriction starts in the family of orientation where she is born. We find lot of violence against women though the women are traditionally obedient. Woman has been victim of rape, husband beating, murder, dowry, violence, etc. Women always suffer in silence, suffer from physical and psychological abuse filled with terror and pain. They are very rarely assaulted by the strangers on the streets but by men whom they love. The marital relationship begins with vows to "LOVE" and "HONOUR" each other but results in violence. Domestic violence against women is an old phenomenon. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited.

This study focused on "Awareness regarding Domestic Violence Act, 2005 among 60 female workers working in NGOs namely, Jyoti Sangh and Heeraba Mahila Mandal from Ahmadabad and Vallabh Vidyanagar respectively.

### KEYWORDS :

### INTRODUCTION

One Beijing Plus five documents revealed that "There is increase awareness of and commitment to domestic violence, which violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedom through, improved legislation, policies and programmes. Government has initiated policy reform and mechanisms, such as interdepartmental committees, guidelines and protocol, national, multidisciplinary and coordinated programme to address violence."<sup>1</sup> (Goel A. & et.al, 2006)

Numerous studies at the national and international levels have revealed the widespread nature of the violence against women. The NGO Country Report on Beijing Plus Five gives some shocking revelations. "In September 1998, an NGO working with victims of incest revealed that almost 76 per cent of women in India have suffered some form of sexual abuse, and 40 percent of them at the hands of males in the extended family setting." It further reveals that at the "first convention on women and mental health, held under the aegis of the Vidyasagar Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science (VIMHANS) in 1998, doctors made the staggering claim that 60 percent of women detained in psychiatric wards all over the country, are, "not mad, but victims of ruthless husbands and in-laws" – the motive could be remarriage, inability to produce a son, property, insufficient dowry..."<sup>2</sup> (Goel A. & et.al, 2006)

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Study on Analysis of Domestic Violence by Pallavi Mahajan (2011) indicated that Domestic Violence can be described as when one adult in a relationship misuses power to control another. It is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. The violence may involve physical abuse, sexual assault and threats. Sometimes it's more subtle, like making someone feel worthless, not letting them have any money, or not allowing them to leave the home. Social isolation and emotional abuse can have long-lasting effects as well as physical violence. It is one of the crimes against women which is linked to their advantageous position in the society.

Domestic violence refers to violence against women especially in matrimonial homes. Therefore domestic violence is recognized as a significant barrier to the empowerment of women, with consequences for women's health, their health-seeking behaviour and their adoption of small family norms. The question raised in this article is how far the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has succeeded in

fulfilling the requirements of adequately defining all forms of domestic violence and providing redressed and protection to its victims. The issue has been tackled on conceptual and practical grounds, while the aforesaid enactment is an important first step in terms of the concepts it introduces into the Indian legal system, the viability of its implementation may be contested on certain grounds. (Mahajan, P., 2005)

### MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The present study was conducted on Awareness regarding domestic violence act-2005 among female workers working in developmental sectors. Descriptive Design was adopted in the present study. The present study includes 60 female workers working in Jyotisangh N.G.O at Ahemadabad and Hiraba Mahila Mandal at Vallabh idhyanagar by using Simple Random Sampling Method. Self structured Interview Schedule was used to collect data.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To check awareness regarding Domestic Violence Act, 2005 among women
2. To know about various forms of Domestic Violence

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

**This table showing highest frequency and highest percentage and indicate majority part of the responses.**

SR. NO.	PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age of respondents			
1	28 to 37	44	73.33%
Educational qualification of the respondents:			
2	Graduation	51	85.00%
Marital status of respondents			
3	Married	55	91.66%
The knowledge of domestic violence			
4	Physical abuse/ sexual abuse	35	58.33%
Name of act of protection of women against domestic violence			
7	Harms or injuries or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or wellbeing, whether mental or physical, of aggrieved person or tends to do so	28	46.66%
The aspects covered in Dowry			

8	Before or after marriage in connection with marriage the presents and financial amount	35	58.33%
The penalty of dowry			
9	5 years of imprisonment	25	41.66%
Duties of shelter home			
10	To provide financial help	41	68.33%
Whether government provides medical facility to the aggrieved person			
11	Yes	53	88.33%
Table about physical abuse			
12	Impair the health or development of aggrieved person and includes assault, criminal intimidation and criminal force	41	68.33%
Table about sexual abuse			
13	Any conduct that violates the dignity of women	30	50.00%
Knowledge about aspects included in verbal and emotional abuse			
14	Insult or ridicule specially with regard to not having a child or a male child	21	35.00%
Knowledge about economic abuse			
15	Deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources to which the aggrieved person is entitled under any law or custom	24	40%
Knowledge about appointment of protection officers:			
16	Yes	53	88.33%
Duties of protection officers			
17	To provide legal aid to the aggrieved person	16	30.18%
Duties of government in domestic violence act:			
18	Effective co-ordination between the services provided by concerned Ministries and departments dealing with law, home affairs including law and order, health and human resource to address issues of domestic violence is established and periodical review of the same is conducted	29	48.33%
Knowledge about duties of magistrate			
19	Yes	55	91.66%
Duties of magistrate:			
20	Of availability of services of service providers	25	45.45%
Whether the aggrieved person has right to reside in the shared household			
21	Yes	48	80%
Knowledge about the powers of service provider:			
22	Yes	45	75%
The powers of service provider			
23	Get the aggrieved person medically examined and forward a copy of the medical report to the	31	68.88%

	protection officer and the police station within the local limits of which the domestic violence occurred		
The knowledge about protection order			
24	Yes	47	78.33%
Protection order clauses that prohibit the respondent:			
25	Aiding or abetting in the commission of acts of domestic violence	14	29.78%
Power of magistrate to grant interim and ex parte orders:			
26	If the magistrate is satisfied that an application prima facie discloses that the respondent is committing or has committed the act of domestic violence, he may grant ex parte order	18	58.06%
Difficulties faced for protection against domestic violence			
27	Pressure from police	20	52.63%
Possible reason for domestic violence			
28	Family members	31	51.66%
Clauses need to be changed:			
29	More protection and faster award for women	17	89.47%

**CONCLUSION**

From this study it can be concluded that, the female workers working in the social agency were of young age and they were well aware about the condition of present society. Majority of the Female workers in the developmental sectors were graduates and aware about domestic violence, and Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Most of the Women working in the NGOs were also aware about the major Provisions of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 like Duties of Shelter homes, Duties of Protection Officers, Power of Magistrate to grant interim and ex parte orders, Protection Order, Powers of Service Provider, Appointment of Protection Officers etc.

The female workers are well aware about the powers of the service provider and the power of magistrate to grant interim and ex parte orders. The female workers faced difficulties of pressure from police for protection against domestic violence. The workers have felt that due to corruption women victims could not get justice. Respondents were also getting few awards for their good performance to resolve cases of Domestic Violence. The workers opined that family members were the responsible factors as majority victims were living in the Joint Family. The female workers felt that clauses need not be changed as they were effective enough. The speed of legal procedure for acquiring Protection against Domestic Violence is not satisfactory so Government should take some concrete steps to push up the procedure. Most respondents said that due to the fear of strict provisions of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 the cases of violence were reduced.

Among the respondents, majority of the respondents were about dowry but they were not aware about punishment of dowry. The respondents were not aware about the duties of shelter homes and duties of medical facilities. The female workers knew about physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse as types of Domestic Violence. The female workers are well aware about appointment and duties of protection officer. They were aware about duties of magistrate.

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