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A STUDY ON INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACED BY WOMEN DURING PANDEMIC

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Abstract:

COVID-19 is posing larger challenges in terms of human rights including health rights of women and children. Since the mandatory lockdown has been imposed, violence against women is exponentially rising world over. Several countries have enacted special policies, laws and programs to deal with violence against women in homes. The research method followed here is empirical research. The sample size is 208 and the samples were selected through simple random sampling technique. The research problem was identified through the review of literature. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The sample frame taken by the researcher in public under the limit of the corporation and municipalities. Data collection included both primary and secondary resources. Primary data was collected through questionnaires. Secondary sources included published information from journals, reports and newsletters. The analysis was done by using the SPSS 21 version. The independent variable is Age, gender, place of residence, educational qualification. The dependent variable in which among the age group people are more aware about unemployment and also many of the pros and cons they have been faced by the people in the society. Data was analysed using graphical representation through bar charts. Comparisons were done across the demographic variables using these bar charts and the mean value of the ratings received.

Key words: Women, children, Human rights, Exponential, violence.

Introduction:

Around the world, as cities have gone into lockdown to stop the spread of coronavirus, the mass efforts to save lives have put one vulnerable group more at risk. Women and children who live with domestic violence have no escape from their abusers during quarantine, and from Brazil to Germany, Italy to China, activists and survivors say they are already seeing an alarming rise in abuse. Domestic violence in India poses an interesting paradox: in addition to being the most ubiquitous of basic human rights violations, it is also the least reported and discussed. The tightly patriarchal norms and structure of traditional Indian culture, and the sharp distinction between public and private life, have made the question of domestic violence a complex and nuanced one, resulting in a long and tireless struggle for justice against the heinous practice. “The epidemic has had a huge impact on domestic violence,” Wan Fei, a retired police officer who founded a charity campaigning against abuse, told Sixth Tone website. “According to our statistics, 90% of the causes of violence [in this period] are related to the Covid-19 epidemic.” The All India Council of Human Rights Liberties and Social Justice filed a petition for the safety of victims of domestic violence which has increased rapidly since Lockdown imposed by the Government. A bench of Justices J.R. Midha and Jyoti Singh of the Delhi High Court directed the Central Government, Delhi government, Delhi Commission of Women and other authorities to summon the meeting at a high level and consider the issue of victims of domestic abuse during this period and required steps should be immediately implemented to protect the sufferers of domestic violence from abusers. The cases of domestic violence have increased around the world during the lockdown period. In France reports of domestic violence have risen to 30% after the onset of lockdown. In China, according to their reports, the offenses of domestic violence nearly doubled during the lockdown, with 90% related to the pandemic. In a recent study, UN agency for sexual and reproductive health (UNFPA) stated that if the lockdown continues for another few months the cases of domestic violence would be more than 31 million worldwide. In a country with deep-rooted patriarchal morals, where the women are supposed to tolerate each and everything that is thrown in their way, there needs to be an equitable way out. With the extension of lockdown, the sentence of confinement for the sufferers only gets prolonged. Fighting these abusers and the beasts who prey upon the fragility of women, is as salient as tackling with the pandemic. The administration and law enforcement agencies need to understand the severity of the issue. The protection of women cannot be put on hold until we win the battle against the pandemic. The aim of the paper is to study about the increase of domestic violence during the pandemic by the women in different states.

Objectives:

- To know about the increase of domestic violence in the pandemic period.
- To study the effective measures the government took for the control of domestic violence.
- To analyse the effectiveness of the law meant for the protectiveness of women and though occurs in increase of violence.
- To study more steps need to be involved in protecting the women and children from domestic violence in the pandemic period.

Review of literature:

Dowry to ensure her happiness or toe disinherit her” feels that oppression of wives for bringing inadequate dowry is only another excuse for using violence against them : in other words and in fact evidence from other country has indicted as much even without additional tradition of dowry, inter spousal violence is endemic. She has also pointed out that dowry payments in themselves do not transform girls into burdens but rather dowry makes daughters burden some only because daughters are unwanted to begin with”.(Nigam). Women's movement in India during the period of freedom struggle and subsequently, after independence clearly pointed out that the women's issues were taken for granted during the freedom struggle and its almost became a non issues were taken for granted during the freedom struggle and it almost became a non-issue after independence i.e., there is hardly any concerted action toward achieving the goal of equality.(“The COVID-19 Shadow Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the World of Work - A Call to Action for the Private Sector”). Women & social violence clearly points out that social violence against women are mainly based on a (a) social or institutional structure of the patriarchal order perpetuating all kinds of discrimination and oppressions against women which result into (b) behavioural violence. In general, she reports that because women are 'easy' victims, they experience a great deal of direct behavioural violence in every society. Of the most common expressions of behavioural violence against themselves women as victims find involved in rape, wife-beating and prostitution all over the world.(Rabel et al.). “Violence against Women: Dynamics of Conjugal Relations” points that Cooperation and conflicts are normal features of familial relationships. However, presences of these features in the intimate relationships create a paradox. The concept of family violence not only ranges from physical assault through psychological abuse to denial of freedom but also involves different networks of relationships. Further, one cannot overlook the fact that different familial networks are

governed by different normative patterns resulting in differential quality of interpersonal relations between them. **(Jan et al.)**. “Social Problems in India” considers violence against women or domestic violence a major social problem in India. He points out that this problem is not a new problem. Women in the Indian society have been victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation for as long as we have written records of social organization and family life. Today women are being gradually recognized as important, powerful and meaningful contributors to the life of men; but till a few decades back, their condition was pitiable. **(Bhatia)**. Ideologies, institutional practices and the existing norms in society have contributed much to their harassment. In spite of the legislative measures adopted in favor of women in our society after independence, the spread of education and women’s gradual economic independence, countless women still continue to be victims of violence. They are beaten at homes, raped, burnt and murdered. Violence towards women in the Context of marriage becomes more significant when a husband who is supposed to love and protect his wife beats her.. Sometimes the violence may be related to drunkenness but not always. Bred in Indian culture, a wife rarely thinks in terms of reporting a case of battering to the police. She suffers humiliation in silence and takes it as her destiny. **(Bhate-Deosthali et al.)**. Ram Ahuja also points out that even if the woman wants to revolt, she cannot do it because of the fear that her own parents would refuse to keep her in their house permanently after the marital break down. He also mentions“ that dowry is related to domestic violence. According to him most of the dowry-deaths either by way of suicide by a harassed wife or murder by greedy husband and in-laws have indeed become a cause of great concern for parents, legislators, police, courts and society as a whole. **(Volfa)**. “Violence in the Family” in their extensive study on violence in the family point that husbands who turn to violence in dealing with their wives in general experience a serious inability to control a specific situation to their satisfaction and perceive the situation as polarizing even further, thus precluding a self-concept of “being in control”. In fact, this felt inability to control and to feel any realistic possibility of instituting an accommodative possibility in the relationship is a sine qua non of marital violence. How these situations arise in such a large number of marriages, their implications for both the society and individuals. **(Mahapatro)**. The general problem of violent responses of husband “s vis-à-vis wives involves failure on the part of the husband to perceive him as in control. The impact of media, especially television, cannot be underestimated in terms of its impact on freedom-seeking females. They also point about culturally derived problems manifesting itself in male-female relationships that bode ill for the wife who violates (or whose husband defines her as violating) the sexual norms of a double- standard society. **(Organization et al.)**. Susan Wadley

in her paper on “Women and the Hindu Tradition” in the book with the same name edited by mentions about Hindu ideology and practice relating to women and their roles. She talks about the story of Rama and Sita which is well known to most Hindus and is enacted yearly, with greater or lesser splendor, in villages and cities all over India. Pictures of Sita following her husband to the forest, of Sita being kidnapped by Ravana, of Sita on the pyre, are found in a great many homes, on walls of shops and even in government offices. **(Pant)**. Famous cinema stars portray Rama and Sita in gargantuan film epics. The message of the Ramayana is clear, and remarkably similar to that of the more esoteric and inaccessible law book written years before. Women should always follow whatever her husband says. She should obey her husband. It is always said that a wife should be like Sita. She is to most Hindu the epitome of the proper wife. Sita represents the ideal towards which all should strive. Other wife in the Hindu tradition also provide popular role models. **(Mehta et al.)**. Women who have committed Sati (burning themselves on their husbands’ funeral pyres), are acclaimed as goddesses and are honored with shrines and rituals. The themes of the devoted wife also recur in connection with calendrical rites. Throughout North India, women yearly worship the goddesses Savitri. Her renown emanates from her extreme devotion to her husband, through which she saves him from the god of death. The story of Savitri is held up as a prime example of lengths to which a wife should go in aiding her husband. The good wife saves her husband from death, follows him anywhere, proves her virtue, remains under his control and gives him her power. In this she has pointed that in Indian society and in Hindu ideology certain norms are fixed only for women or wives. What are the duties of her; She should always be ready to serve her husband in any kind of situation and circumstances. As a wife, a woman should be cultured via male control and a good subordinate. **(Westendorp et al.)**. “Domestic Violence Against Women” talks about how development is there and its increasing day-by-day but violence against women or domestic violence against women instead of decreasing it is increasing. Development is all about protection of human rights of the concerned populations. Domestic violence is the most serious violation of all basic rights that a woman suffers in her own home at the hands of members within her own family. The manifold problems associated with domestic violence have been systematically exposed by data and in depth work undertaken by several people in the women’s movement. **(Secretariat and Commonwealth Secretariat)**. Domestic violence may take many forms like the main categories are physical, sexual and emotional or psychological; but the classification is fairly crude and there are endless variations within each category. Violence can mean, among other things: threats, intimidation, manipulation, isolation, keeping a woman without money, locked in, deprived of food, or using and abusing

her children in various ways to frighten her or enforce compliance. She points that the effects of repeated and prolonged violence on the women can be divided into the physical and the psychological. The physical effects are serious injury, sometimes permanent and a great deal of pain. The psychological effects include high rates of anxiety and depression. **(Isgandarova)**. Women live in constant fear. They know that when their partner returns from his night out drink they will be beaten or raped and possibly both. Almost as bad as the certainty of a beating is uncertainty and unpredictability - not knowing when the next attack will take place or which of their actions will be used as an excuse for it. Isolation, lack of personal contacts with friends and family, creates further stress. She is forcibly restrained, by threats or worse, from seeking help or even medical treatment. Violence and constant criticism lead to a loss of self-esteem and confidence. **(Riecher-Rössler and García-Moreno)**. If a woman is constantly told that she is worthless, she may come to believe it and begin to blame herself for that situation she is in. Even the presence of children in a violent relationship creates additional stress for a woman, who may fear for their safety. Domestic violence may be more visible in lower socio-economic groups because the area in which they live have a greater police presence, or it may be more in middle class families as they are less willing to admit its domestic violence or also they are less willing to draw attention to problems they experience and make more use of private medical care and other resources available at their disposal. **(Radhika Devi and Subbulakshmi)**. Women suffer, and are made to suffer. In behavioral terms violence against women ranges from simple suppression to abuse, aggression, exploitation and severe oppression. Violence is a coercive mechanism to assert one's will over another. In order to prove or feel a sense of power, it can be perpetuated by those in power against the powerless, or by the powerless in retaliation against coercion by others, to deny their powerlessness. Violence as a coercive mechanism to assert one's will over another to prove a sense of power left wondering about where one would place punitive action considered socially legitimate. **(García-Moreno et al.)**. Violence is inflicted upon or caused by one human being to another. Women all over the world have started to resent the discrimination they suffer in different spheres of life. Much of this resentment has been channeled into constructive activism towards the empowerment of women, and towards legal measures and structural reforms aimed at improving their status and situation in life. However some of it has exploded into angry feminism and resulted in deep personal conflict, even breakdown among women who have been unable to cope with their resentment against gender discrimination. **(Solotaroff and Pande)**. "Violence against Women: Dynamics of Conjugal Relations" points that Cooperation and conflicts are normal features of familial relationships. However, presences of these features in the intimate relationships create

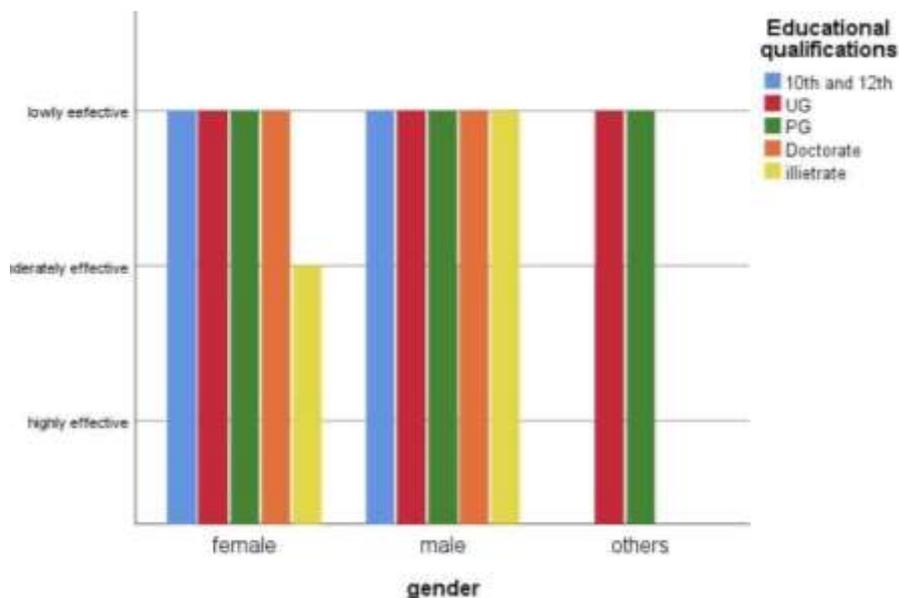
a paradox. The concept of family violence not only ranges from physical assault through psychological abuse to denial of freedom but also involves different network of relationships. Further, one cannot overlook the fact that different familial networks are governed by different normative patterns resulting in differential quality of interpersonal relations between them. Hence it would be problematic to club them together for explicating the nature and quality of interactions between them as well as for analytical purposes. **(Komarovsky)**. Different familial networks of relations are not only conceptually distinct but causative factors of violence between them are also likely to be different. It is therefore most appropriate to limit one's field of research to one network at one time. It is for these reasons that subsequent discussion revolves around marital relationships only. It would be most appropriate to explicate the process by which wife abuse became a social problem in the Indian context. In patriarchal Indian society the relationship between a man and a woman as husband and wife was of asymmetrical type. **(Baviskar)**. Sexual division of labor provides the husband's role as a provider and the wife is made responsible for upkeep of the household. Such division of labor gives rise to asymmetrical relations. As and when such asymmetrical relations are challenged, marital discord occurs because men would not give up their dominant position. Even when a wife does not question her husband's absolute authority she is still abused. **(Ahmed-Ghosh)**.

Research methodology:

The research method followed here is empirical research. The sample size is 208 and the samples were selected through simple random sampling technique. The research problem was identified through the review of literature. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The sample frame taken by the researcher in public under the limit of the corporation and municipalities. Data collection included both primary and secondary resources. Primary data was collected through questionnaires. Secondary sources included published information from journals, reports and newsletters. The analysis was done by using the SPSS 21 version. The independent variable is **Age, gender, place of residence, educational qualification**. The dependent variable in which among the age group people are more aware about unemployment and also many of the pros and cons they have been faced by the people in the society. Data was analysed using graphical representation through bar charts. Comparisons were done across the demographic variables using these bar charts and the mean value of the ratings received.

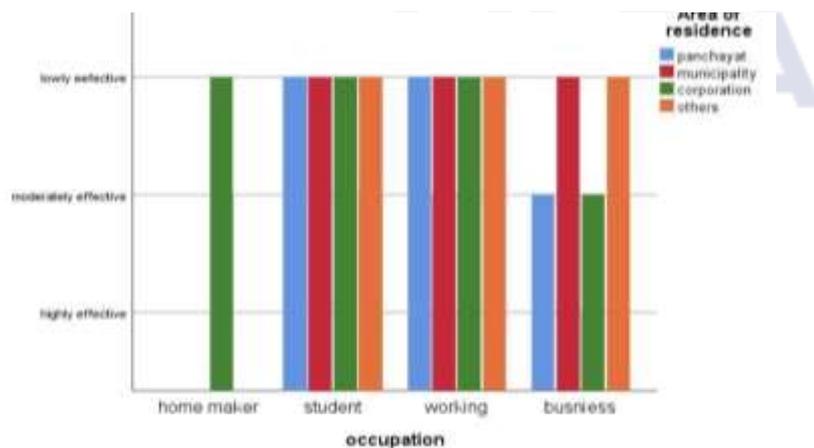
Analysis:

Graph 1.1:



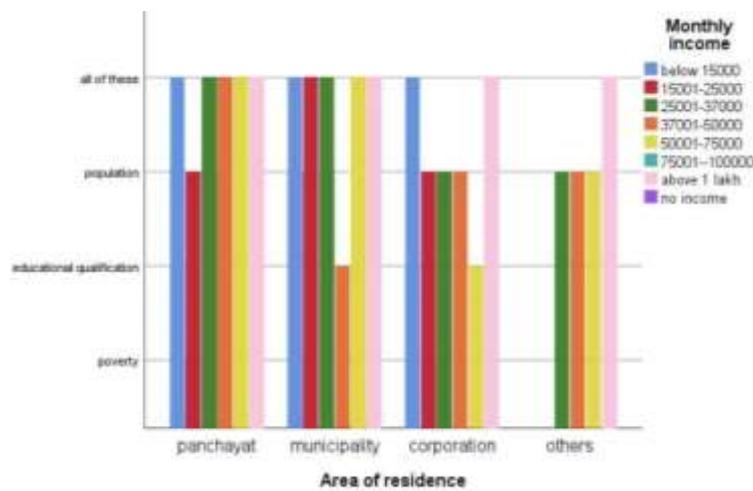
In the graph 1.1 the comparison has been made between the gender and the educational qualification on which the domestic violence have been increased in pandemic period.

Graph 1.2:



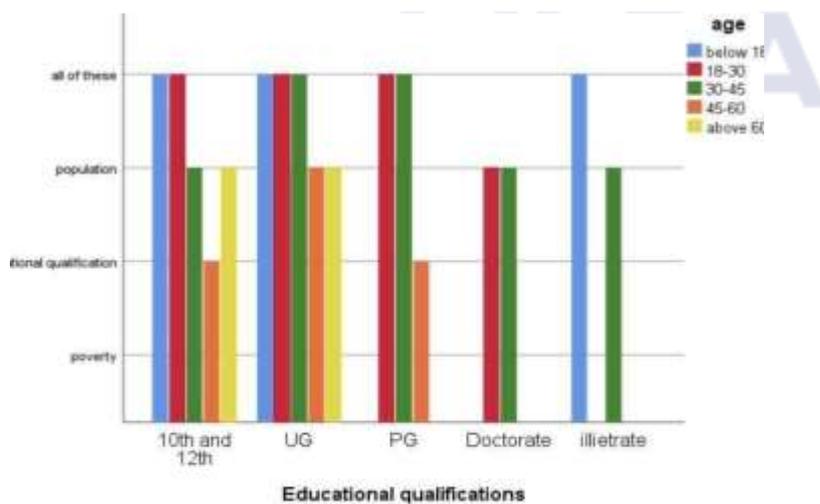
In graph 1.2., the comparison has been made between the occupation and the area of the residence on which domestic violence has increased in the pandemic period.

Graph 1.3:



In graph 1.3., the comparison has been made between the area of the residence and the monthly income in which the government took an effective measure to control domestic violence.

Graph 1.4:



In graph 1.4., the comparison has been made between the educational qualification and the age in which the government took an effective measure to control of domestic violence.

Result:

In the graph 1.1 the comparison has been made between the gender and the educational qualification on which the domestic violence have been increased in pandemic period and this includes that the people with the educational qualification of which the 10th and 12th, UG ,PG , Doctorate of both male and the female in which they think that the steps which have been taken by the government has been more effective than that of the before steps and they have rated to the highly effective with the 85-90% and the moderately effective is 5-10%.

In the graph 1.2., the comparison has been made between the occupation and the area of the residence on which the domestic violence have been increased in pandemic period in which that the person in the area of the residence people with the occupation of the student, working of the panchayat, municipalities and the corporation and the person in the other areas have responded to the same extent in which they have rated to the same percent and the lowly effective with the rating of 85-90% and the moderate effective is of with the percent of 5-10%.

In graph 1.3., the comparison has been made between the area of the residence and the monthly income in which the government took an effective measure to control of domestic violence and the people of the area of residence of the panchayat with the monthly income of the below 15000,25000-37000,37002-50000,50001-75000,above 1 lakh have responded that the all of these because they think that the factors which have been specified are all the factors meant for the reasons of the unemployment and the person with the monthly income of the 15001-25000 have responded to the population is the major factor for the unemployment in which the all of these have been at the rate of 60-70%, and the population with the rate of 10-20%, and the educational qualification is of 5-10%.

In graph 1.4., the comparison has been made between the educational qualification and the age in which the government took an effective measure to control of domestic violence the people with the age of below 18 and 18-30 and with the educational qualification of 10 and 12th have responded that all of these have been the major factor for the unemployment in which they have think that the people in that are the young generation and they might know about the rate of the unemployment and the age of 30-45 and the above 60 have responded that the population and the age of the 45-60 have responded for the educational qualification is the major factor for the unemployment with the all of these they have responded for the all of these with the 40-50%, and the population of 20-30%, and the educational qualification with the 10-20%.

Discussion:

In the graph 1.1 the comparison has been made between the gender and the educational qualification on which the domestic violence have been increased in pandemic period and this includes that the people with the educational qualification of which the 10th and 12th, UG ,PG , Doctorate of both male and the female in which they think that the steps which have been took by the government has been more effective than that of the before steps , but the gender of female with the educational qualification of illiterate has responded to the lower effective in which they think that the law meant for the women for the domestic violence includes that they have been not benefited by the law, so that they have responded to the lower extend and the other have responded that they been more effective by the decision made by the government and also the other people have also started the roadside shops so that they have responded to the law effective for the cause of the unemployment.

In the graph 1.2., the comparison has been made between the occupation and the area of the residence on which the domestic violence have been increased in pandemic period in which that the person in the area of the residence people with the occupation of the student, working of the panchayat, municipalities and the corporation and the person in the other areas have responded to the same extent in which they have rated to the same percent and they include that the law is been low effective for the donestic violence, the panchayat and the municipal they have not responded and the occupation of the person with the business in the area of the panchayat and the business have rated to the same extent in which they think that the law is moderately effective because in the panchayat there might not have the more business so that they have rated to the moderate and the people of the corporation have rated to the moderate because they might have been more affected by the domestic violence or the laws are not effective as they feels and the municipality and the other have rated to the higher extent for the lowly effective and they think they the law meant for the unemployment is not more effective with reference to the increase in domestic violence.

In graph 1.3., the comparison has been made between the area of the residence and the monthly income in which the government took an effective measure to control of domestic violence for the increase and the people of the area of residence of the panchayat with the monthly income of the below 15000,25000-37000,37002-50000,50001-75000,above 1 lakh have responded that the all of these because they think that the factors which have been specified are all the factors meant for the reasons of the violence for the women and the person with the monthly income

of the 15001-25000 have responded to the population is the major factor for the domestic violence because those are the criteria used for the more people been working so they think that the population causes the more rate in the domestic violence, and the area of the municipality with the monthly income of below 15000, 15001-30000,25001-37000,50001-75000, and the above 1 lakh have rated to the same extent in which they responded that the all of these is the major factor for the violence , and the income of 37001-45000 in which they have responded that the population is the major factor in which in these current situation this is the stagnant income for all the people and they think that the this is the major factor for the violence , the area of residence in which the corporation with the income of the below 15000 and the above 1 lakh have responded to the same extent in which they have said that the all of these mentioned are the major factor and the people with the income of 15001-25000,25001-37000,37001-50000 have responded for the population is the major factor for the violence in which they might have experienced the factor, but the income of 50001-75000 have responded for the educational qualification is the major factor for the violence for the women as they have responded because the state is with well good and the educated person but with more increase of the domestic violence.

In graph 1.4., the comparison has been made between the educational qualification and the age in which the government took an effective measure to control of domestic violence for the increase the people with the age of below 18 and 18-30 and with the educational qualification of 10 and 12th have responded that all of these have been the major factor for the unemployment in which they have think that the people in that are the young generation and they might know about the rate of the violence and the age of 30-45 and the above 60 have responded that the population and the age of the 45-60 have responded for the educational qualification is the major factor for the violence and thus they have responded for the think because they have the thought the people with the young generation have known about the major factor that affecting the violence rate, and the people of the age below 18,18-30,30-45 of the education UG have responded for the all of these in which they think that this is the factor for the violence and the age of 45-60 and above 60 have responded for the population of the major factor for the violence and they think that the people have much more experienced in the field so that they have responded for the term population, and the education of PG with the age of 18-30 and 30-45 have responded for all of these and the age of 45-60 have rated to the educational qualification is the factor for the violence they think that due to the education the rate of the violence ave been increased, and the people with the education of the doctorate

with the age of 18-30,30-45 have responded that the population is the major factor for the violence in which they have made many research so that they feel that the violence the population is the major factor, and the age of 30-45 with the duration of the illiterate have rated to the population as they feel that due to the overpopulation the violence is simultaneously increasing and also non effectiveness of the government steps.

Limitation:

The major limitation of my study is the sample frame. The sample frame here includes the online survey and some of the random sampling and for the theme to get the educated samples. The various legislations and the provisions made for the all should be treated equally and the policies made by the government is also one of the drawbacks. The restricted area of the sample size is also another major drawback. The physical factors are the most impactful and a major factor that has been limiting the study.

Conclusion:

Beating of wife or domestic violence is the most pervasive and age-old method of subjugating women by the males in marital life. There are many factors responsible for increase in domestic violence. There is widespread hesitancy amongst most Indian women who experience domestic violence to report or prosecute against such crimes. A major reason for this reluctance is the patriarchal structure that is the framework for the vast majority of households in India and the misconception that it is almost always the woman's fault for provoking domestic abuse that such abuse occurs. The results of this hesitancy to report cases is clear in that reported data overwhelmingly tends to underestimate actual prevalence occurrences of domestic violence. The victims of domestic violence also hesitate to speak about it and seek redressal because it is as humiliating, disrespecting and seen as lowering standards in society.

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