

A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KERALA

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INTRODUCTION

In the chequered history of mankind one finds that different and disparate cultures, however distant they may be in time and space have at least one thing in common and that is the contempt of women. However, the Gandhian era and the decades after independence have seen tremendous changes in the status and the position of the women in the Indian society. The constitution of India has laid down as a fundamental right- the equality of the sexes. But the change from a position of utter degradation of women in the nineteenth century to a position of equality in the middle of the twentieth century is not a simple case of the progress of men in the modern era. The position of women in the Indian society has been a very complicated one. In fact, it could not be an exaggeration to say that the recent changes in the status of women in India is not a sign of progress but it is really a recapturing of the position that they held in the early Vedic period.

Yet, the status of women who constitute almost half of the Indian population is not that encouraging. Gender based violence – including rape, domestic violence, mutilation, murder and sexual abuse- is a profound health problem for women across the globe. Nonetheless, it is not considered as a public problem of serious concern.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the UN 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 private life”. Paragraph 117 of the Beijing Platform for Action quotes: “The fear of violence, including harassment is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic

activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men”.

Gender based violence is clearly based on unequal power relation between men and women. The status of women in India is not equal to the status of men in terms of access, participation and reward. It owes this situation to the patriarchal and feudalistic structure of the society. The issue of gender discrimination manifests itself as violence in the family, community and society. It takes the form of female foeticide, female infanticide, abuse of the girl child, social harassment, mental torture, physical violence and cruelty affecting the body and mind of the women.

Domestic Violence

Article 2 of the UN draft Declaration of Violence against women identifies three areas in which violence commonly takes place. They are a) violence occurring within the family b) violence occurring in the general community and c) violence perpetrated or condoned by the state.

Violence occurring within the family, which is referred as Domestic violence, cuts across lines of race, nationality, language, culture, economics, sexual orientation, physical ability and religion to affect people from all walks of life. It is the most pervasive form of gender violence.

Although men are victims of street violence, brawls, homicide and crime, violence directed at women is a distinctly different phenomenon.

Men tend to be attacked and killed by strangers or casual acquaintances whereas women are most at risk at home from men whom they trust. Violence against them is often grounded in power imbalances between men and women and is caused and perpetuated by factors different than violence against men.

Domestic violence though means violence in the family refers to violence against women in particular, as almost always the victims are women. Domestic violence means physical or mental assault of women by their male partners. The term wife abuse is also often used to mean the same. Masculine behaviour-aggression, risk taking, and the consumption of drugs and alcohol –is often believed to underlie male violence against women. Domestic violence is not only on the increase, but is also assuming subtler forms every day. Earlier victims of domestic violence did not lodge complaints, as they feared that such complaints might create a hostile home environment. Very often, women used to endure the violence towards them in silence for fear of repercussions.

Violence is willful behaviour that is criminal and punishable by law. To define domestic violence against women, two areas need to be taken into account – physical violence (violence on the body) and emotional/Psychological violence (Violence on the mind).

The various forms of physical violence are:-

- ? Female foeticide and female infanticide.
- ? Incest, connivance, and collusion of family members to selfish, sexual abuse, rape within marriage.
- ? Physical torture like slapping punching, grabbing, murder.

? Overwork, lack of rest, Neglect of health care

Psychological violence takes different forms like:-

? Curbing freedom to associate with the natal family, neighbours friends etc.

? Curtailment of self-expression.

? Promiscuity of the husband, Accusing of unchaste behaviour

? Alcoholic and irresponsible husband, Scapegoatism and victim blaming

? Money related violence namely persuasion and coercion to get more money from the women's parents, denial of freedom to spend money, refusal to spend money to run the household.

Physically abused women live under constant fear, threats and humiliation. She is a potential candidate for personality disorder and psychosomatic problems. Indian women feel the entire responsibility of preserving the family as her duty; hence she makes all adjustments unilaterally in her husband's home. In spite of the extreme physical and psychological violence meted out on many women, they do not seek divorce, as they feel their trauma and that of their children is too great a price to be paid instead. Thus to a great extent she accepts domestic violence as part of her family life. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) findings released at the end of the year 2000 points out this fact. Although no direct link has been established, the survey reveals the extent to which women lack autonomy, even as more than 50percent justify, or accept violence within the home. Three out of every five women (56percent) said that they believed wife beating was justified on at least one of six grounds – neglecting the house or children, going out without telling the husband, showing disrespect to

the in-laws, not cooking food properly, if he suspects her of unfaithfulness and if she does not bring enough money or goods home. However, a brighter picture seems to be emerging. Women have broken their silence by coming out and complaining about violence and harassment. Though international covenants, human rights, constitutional and legal provisions to protect women already existed, most women were not aware of these. Even if they were aware, they lacked the resources in terms of money, skill, time, confidence, contacts and coverage to invoke these provisions. Thanks to legal literacy campaigns, social activists, social work institutions, government initiatives towards gender sensitization programme for all level of administration and the law enforcing machinery strengthening of existing legislation regarding violence against women, etc have made women more confident to register complaints against the atrocities meted out towards them by the family members.

‘Domestic Violence Bill 2005’

The cabinet approval of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill 2005 is the latest effort in this regard. The current bill has been hanging fire since 2001 and has lapsed with the fall of the 13th Lok sabha. The Bill was further modified in December 2004. The present Bill envisages further improvement on the earlier one. The definition of domestic violence has been extended to include not only actual abuse but also the threat of abuse i.e., physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic and what is more, it covers single women in a live-in relationship and women living in joint families- sisters, mothers, widows- often physically and emotionally abused. Harassment by way of dowry demands to the women or her relatives would also be covered by this definition

The most empowering clause, however, relates to women's right to residence in shared households. The Bill seeks to protect the rights of a woman to live in her matrimonial home or shared accommodation, whether or not she holds any title or rights. This right will be secured by an order passed by a magistrate.

The draft Bill also provides for appointment of protection officers and NGOs to provide assistance to the victims with regard to medical examination, legal aid, safe shelter, etc. The relief also includes power of the court to pass protection orders that prevent the abuser from aiding or committing an act of domestic violence or any other specified act, entering a workplace, or any other place frequented by the abused, or attempting to communicate with the abused, etc. In a patriarchal society where women's rights are often denied, the Bill is a progressive piece of legislation, providing much relief to the victims of domestic violence.

Kerala, the proposed area of study has often been cited as a model and is considered to be unique in many aspects as compared to the rest of India. In spite of having a low per capita income and unemployment when compared to other Indian states, Kerala has achieved a quality of life, which is much higher than all the other states in India as well as some industrialized countries. This unique phenomenon of Socio-economic development has been widely acclaimed as the 'Kerala Model of Development.'

Although, much has been proclaimed and written about the status of women especially related to educational advancement, health improvement, entrepreneurship, etc. the status of women as against the indicators reveal that women in Kerala are relatively disadvantaged as compared to men in the state.

But, even with this increased rate of literacy and increased pace towards ultra-modernization, the state of women is no way better. Women's welfare is the greatest need of the day. This development is not required just on humanitarian grounds or for the sake of attaining social justice to all sections of society, but the same is a must for the overall development of the society.

Domestic violence has attracted the attention of the general public and the judiciary in the district due to series of unpleasant incidents – the loss of life and threat to life in several parts of the districts. There were several cases of women who were ill treated, tortured and even murdered for not meeting the demands of the so called – head of the family.

The daily Deepika reported on 18-10-98 of a case where a man was convicted by the Parur Court for 7years imprisonment and Rs. 5000/- fine for severely abusing his own 16 years old daughter following harassment by husband and in laws a woman hanged herself to death in Parur. This was reported by Malayala Manorama on 23-07-1998.

The ultimate solution lies in awareness building geared through determined community action. For preparing an effective action plan, it

is imperative that we understand and gain a clear picture of the major forms of domestic violence prevalent, the factors leading to it, the physical psychological impact of domestic violence not only on the aggrieved party but also on her immediate environment consisting of her children and also on the society.

It is in this background, the present study analyzing the causes, nature& Manifestations and consequences/implications of domestic violence was undertaken.

1.1 Review of Literature

Gender based violence including rape, domestic violence, mutilation, murder, sexual abuse- is increasing on an alarming rate across the globe. Often this represents a hidden obstacle to economic and social development. By sapping women's energy, undermining their confidence and compromising their health, gender violence deprives society of women's full participation.

Violence against women can be identified in 3 areas a) violence within the family b) violence occurring in the community and c) violence perpetrated by the state.

Violence within the family **refers to violence occurring within the private sphere of the women's life. This include marital rape female genital mutilation, dowry related violence, battering etc.**

Violence occurring in the community include sexual violence including lurid comments, staring, stalking and rape at he level of the community, sexual harassment at he workplaces, forced prostitution and trafficking of women.

Violence perpetrated by the state included verbal or physical abuses in custody, sexual or physical torture and violence such as rape in situations like armed conflict or against vulnerable, marginalized refugees or internally displaced women.

As violence against women is increasing several theories are also on the board to understand the violence committed by individuals.

Ahuja (1998) and Sharma (1997) highlight a common approach in some of the theories that focus on individual aggressors. There are two kinds of explanations focusing on individuals. One includes psycho-pathological explanations that focus on personality characteristics of victims and offenders. These theories provide pathological explanation for violent behaviour focusing on brain structures chemical imbalances, dietary deficiencies, hormonal factors as well as evolutionary theories and genetic characteristics to explain violent behaviours. This model thus links mental illnesses and other intra individual phenomena such as alcoholism and drug use to violent behaviour.

The socio- psychological model on the other hand argues that violent behaviour can be understood by careful examination of the external environmental factors that have an impact on the behaviour of individual leading to stressful situation or family inter-actional patterns.

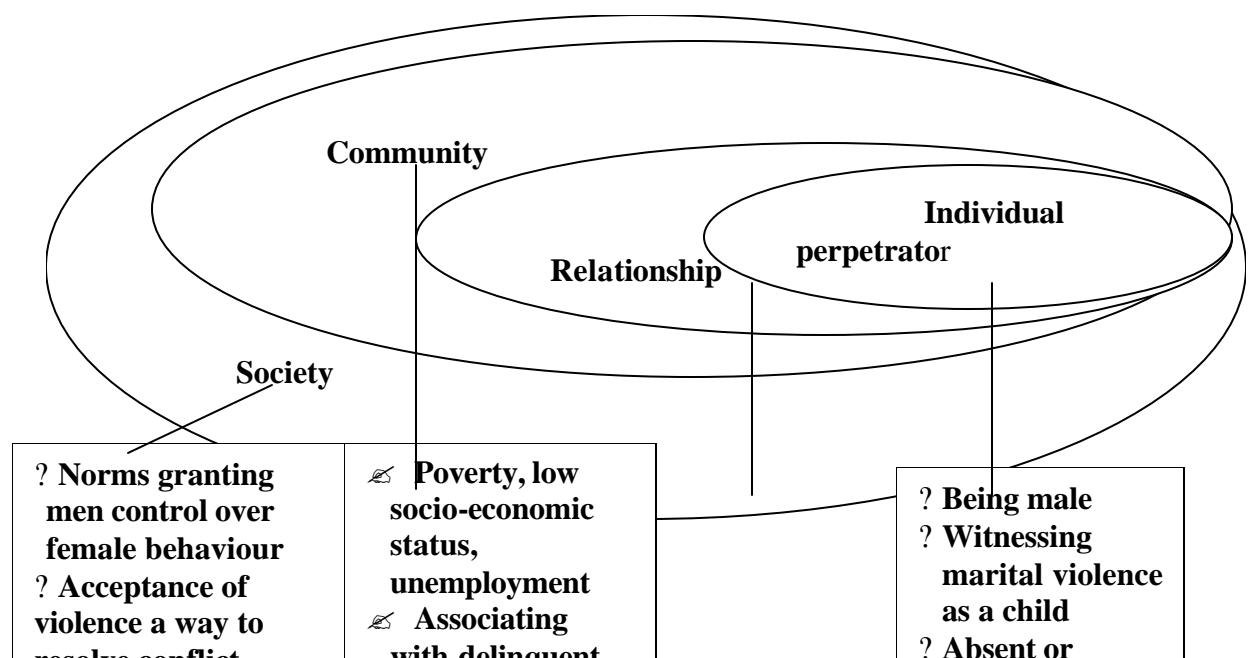
Feminist analysis of violence has been based on power relations between men and women that deny women equal access to power and resources thus making them more vulnerable to violence from men. The cause of this violence can be traced to patriarchy-the ideology that bestows on men power and authority over all aspects of women's lives including her bodies.

Ahuja proposes an integrated model that includes a combination of the above factors to explain violent behaviours among individuals. The model proposes the influence of four factors on violent behaviour among individuals. They are : Social norms and social organizations that socialize the individuals personal characteristics; Intrapersonal characteristics of the individual that include his or her relations and interactions with other individuals and family; economic and environmental factors that influence the behaviour of individuals.

Heise (1998) proposes a clearer and interrelated ecological framework for understanding violent behaviour among individuals. This framework includes a range of physical, social, emotional and psychological factors at the personal community and societal levels. In this model, the causative factors are represented in the form of four concentric circles. The innermost circle includes the personal history of the man and the woman who are in the relationship. For example, this includes factors influencing their personalities such as being male, childhood experience of marital violence in their families, childhood experience of abuse. The second circle represents the micro system factors that influence familial relationship and include the immediate context within which violence takes place such as male dominance in the family, control over money and decision making at the household level by men, low status of women such as daughter –in –law within the family, use of alcohol, marital conflict situations.

The third circle represents the exo system representing the social systems and structures at the micro level or community level such as poor socio-economic status, unemployment, poor social surroundings leading to delinquent behaviour, lack of access of women to economic and other resources, and lack of support structures leading to powerlessness. The macro system represents the broader societal norms that serve to create a favourable environment for the other three factors to act.

These include: the general societal acceptance of power structures that represent dominance, aggression and control of men over women, of rigid gender roles, of acceptance of inter personal violence.



<p>? Marital conflict</p> <p>? Male control of wealth and decision making in the family</p>

Ecological model of factors associated with partner abuse

Domestic Violence

Violence against women within the family is a global phenomenon. However, it is complex and deeply embedded in the Indian context. The most pathetic aspect of disrespect for human rights is domestic violence.

The National Crime Records Bureau has recorded an increase of 40% in the case of social harassment, and 15.2% in cases of dowry deaths. The steady decline in the sex ratio noted for over a century in India from 972 females for 1000males in the population in 1901 to 927 females in 1991 and the prevalence of female foeticide in at least ten states of India are critical indicators of the issue of violence against women.

Female foeticide and female infanticide are basically a Socio-cultural problem and not law and order problem alone. UNICEF reports that 40-50 million women are missing from Indian population due to foeticide. (The World's Women –1978-1990 Trends and Statistics, United Nations, New York, 1991).

A study carried out in a private clinic in Bombay shows that, of the 80,000 abortions done after the parents determined the sex of the foetus only one was male foetus. Violence towards women starts from the foetal stage and continues to spread to other parts of India at an alarming rate.

Another study on female infanticide conducted by Adhiti, a non-government organisation in 1995 reports that in Tamil Nadu fresh female babies were murdered by covering their faces with wet clothes, feeding them poisoned herbal milk etc. 35 Dais in a town called Kathihar in Bihar testified that each of them killed 3 to 4 babies per month. Adhiti pointed out that there are at least 5,30,000 Dais in the state. These cold-blooded murders take place in private hospitals also with connivance of doctors.(Ref. Usha Rai, Indian Express, dated 03-06-1995)

‘Economic Times’ reports that after Latur incident there was a rush to the hospital by women to reanalyze the fallopian tubes. This is consequent to the ultimatum given by some husbands to produce male heirs to replace the ones lost in the disaster.

National Crime report of 1991 reveals that in every 33 minutes one Indian woman is being abused by her husband. It also reveals that in 1989 one dowry death occurred in every 125th minute. In 1990, 91,92 and 93 the figures were 109th, 102nd, 106th and 90th minute. This shows a great leap in the increase of dowry death.

Rapes within marriage, wife battering, incest, overwork etc. are other areas of gross violence on a woman's body. Incest and forced sexual relationship usually had frozen the child with fear and guilt after the traumatic experience. Studies have shown that in 70% of the rape cases of children, the rape is done within the child's own home in the absence of parents and that the culprits are close relatives, friends, neighbours etc.

A woman works inside home in the multiple capacities as mother, cook, tailor, laundry person, nurse, housekeeper etc. Performing excellently in all the roles is a strenuous task, which affects her health adversely. India ranks medium risk in terms of women's health and reproductive health. India has a reproductive risk index of 39.5 worked out by looking at several factors including the number of births per women, abortions, policies, anaemia and other illnesses and maternal deaths. While maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births in 1980-1992 is 8 in U.K., the figure is 460 in India. This figure is comparable to the figure of 400 in U.K in 1928 (UNDP report 1995). 80% of the women are anaemic in India. It needs special mention that out of the 5 million abortions performed in India 4.5 million is performed illegally (The Hindu dated 7.1.1996). About 61% of abortions in India are induced abortions and it is well known that most of them are instances of female foeticide. (The Hindu dated 02.06.1995).

The threat to the backbone of the society-the girl child- is vivid from the fact that of the 15million girls born every year almost a quarter do not live to see their 15th birthday.(World Youth 1996 – extends by Ms. Pameela Philipose in Indian Express dated 03.10.1996)

Within the last few decades, gradual improvements in women's status due to women's activism in various parts of the world has helped slowly to increase the visibility of domestic violence as a social problem. Despite this, violence against women within the family/home, until very recently has received little attention as either a social or public health issue. The sensitivities and stigma associated with domestic violence, the perception that it is primarily a judicial and legal issue, and the lack of data on the dimensions of abuse, have hampered understanding and the development of appropriate interaction (Heise et al. 1994), Research to address these obstacles has begun to make a difference.

Within the public health literature, epidemiological studies have largely focused on estimating the prevalence of physical violence. In a 1986 study, nearly 30 percent couples in the United States reported experiencing at least one violent episode in their marriage (Strauss and Gelles 1986). In 1990 family planning survey in Kenya, 42 percent of women said their husbands had beaten them. (Human Rights Watch Global Report) in China, Xu (1997) found conclusive evidence of wife beating. The Nepal maternal mortality and morbidity study reported that 4 of 132 maternal deaths were suicides. Almost of 16% of the deaths in pregnancy were caused by domestic violence according to a community and hospital based prospective study, India conducted during 1993-1995.

In terms of economic loss due to domestic violence, a Canadian study showed that the total cost to abused women and to government due to domestic violence was more than \$3.2 billion in 1993 (Greaves, Hankisky, and Kingston – Richers 1995)

Women in India are subject to violence not only from husbands but also from members of both the natal and marital home. Girls and women in India are usually less privileged than boys in terms of access to material resources. Nevertheless, there are regional and community variations. Women in the north have relatively less autonomy than their counterparts in south, and experience fewer opportunities for control over economic resources (Karve 1965).

Although there are some difference in reporting by region-women in the south report fewer beatings than their counterparts in the north –in depth qualitative studies have found considerable under reporting in the data (Rao 1997)

Research into the determining factors underlying the existence of domestic violence remains meagre, but points repeatedly to the lack of women's autonomy as the key.

Spouse disparity in educational attainment level or marital age, lack of autonomy within the home, dowry pressure, childhood abuse, unemployment, alcoholism and poverty are all linked to high rates of domestic violence in India (Jejeeboy 1998, Ahuja 1987, Mahajan and Madhurima 1995)

The role of dowry in the abuse of women adds to the complexity of domestic violence in India. Despite the dowry prohibition Act of 1961, research indicates there was a 169.7 percent increase in dowry related deaths from the year 1987 to 1991 and a 37.5 percent increase in acts of cruelty by husband and relatives (National Crimes Record Bureau 1995)

In India comprehensive household data on the prevalence and costs of domestic violence were lacking. The multi-site study by the International clinical Epidemiologists Network (INCLEN) is a pioneering effort to estimate comparable rates of violence within and across for countries: India, Chile Brazil, Egypt and Philippines. The multi-site household survey conducted by INCLEN was a part of the 3 year research programme conducted by the International centre for Research on Women (ICRW) on Domestic violence in India (1997-2000) in partnership with researchers from a range of Indian academics and activist organisations.

In India the study by INCLEN was undertaken between 1997 and 1999 at seven diverse and regional sites: Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, Nagpur, Thiruvananthapuram and Vellore. According to this study the overall figure of domestic violence for India is 36.9% physical violence and 35.5% psychological violence, while for Kerala it is 62.3% and 61.61% respectively. In the rural areas the overall figure is 51.7% of physical violence and 49.7% of psychological violence, while the Kerala figure 68.8% physical violence and 68.9% psychological violence.

The study tried to determine what women consider to be the precipitating factors for the violence. Women identified lapses in fulfilling their responsibilities (Cooking, attending to household, looking after children and in laws) as key factors influencing the occurrence of violence. These findings reiterate that violence is mechanism for enforcing the gender roles and expectations within the

family. Moreover, mother-in-law too reported these same factors as precipitating violence in their own marriages. Not infrequently, women attributed violence due to infidelity or suspicion of infidelity of either of the spouses. Another area of conflict was dissatisfaction with the dowry.

The same study conducted in Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram) by Dr. Raj Mohan of R-CERTC and Dr. M.K.C Nair of Child Development Centre, Trivandrum states that overall 45% of women reported at least one incident of physical violence in their lifetime. Psychological and physical violence were reported in higher numbers by women who have less social support. Despite the violence more than 95% of women remained in their marriage. The study also analyzed that if the gap between husband and wife's education and employment status (especially if the woman is more educated and better employed than her husband) is greater, the possibility of Psychological and physical violence is greater. A violent episode results in an average Rs.2000 of lost wages and health care for their injuries. Violence against women spans all geographical region, economic strata, education levels, and age and employment status. It could be seen that despite the total literacy and global model of development, Kerala tops the list in Domestic Violence, according to the survey conducted by ICRW.

1.2 Relevance of the Study

The foregoing paragraphs are a sure indicator towards the prevalence of domestic violence in our society. This is in stark contrast to the UN Human Rights Declaration (of which India signatory) and our constitutional and legal provisions. But most women are not aware of

their rights to protection of life, liberty etc. Even if they were aware, they would lack the resources in terms of money, skill, time, experience, confidence and courage to invoke these provisions. Moreover, traditionally women believe in tolerating harassment at home.

Domestic violence is to be perceived not as a law and order problem alone. Primarily it is a socio cultural problem. Its impact has far reaching effects on the family life, health of woman, life of children etc. Studies such as these which examines the causes, its nature and manifestations and consequences would assist the general society to understand the magnitude as well as its implications on the lives as well as the institution of family.

Moreover, it would be an elementary step in bringing together the victims of domestic violence under one umbrella and fight against this vice that breaks down the bonds that exists within the primary institution of the society i.e.; the family and thereby make efforts to formulate appropriate measures/strategies that could contribute to the minimization of domestic violence and uphold their rights before the society.

Similarly, studies of this nature that focuses more on the root causes and veracity of domestic violence would enable the society to present before the judiciary, legislature and executive on the gravity of the problem and thereby influence them to formulate and execute laws that would uphold the dignity of women in a manner that would give them justice.

This would also assist the local bodies at the grass root levels to be vigilant against the menace and chalk out meaningful and effective measures to create a blockage to domestic violence against them by empowering them through the efforts of SHG.

The study thus will enable the various institutions like PRIs, NGOs and the general public to capture the multifaceted effects of domestic violence and take genuine efforts to sensitize the whole society on the same. Furthermore, it would function as a handy matter to planners and policy makers while formulating plans to reassign the women the position they held in the early Vedic period.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

a. General Objective

The general objective of the study was to have a situational analysis of Domestic violence against women in Kerala

b. Specific Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic profile of women under study.
2. To find out the different types of Domestic Violence prevalent in the state
3. To analyze the existing types of violence in terms of:
 - ✍ Characteristics of the affected parties viz. Husband and in-laws
 - ✍ Nature and Frequency of Domestic violence
 - ✍ Causative factors for violence
4. To find out the consequences/impact of violence on women in terms of personal, familial, social and cultural levels
5. To study the services which address domestic violence in terms of availability, and effectiveness and to suggest measures for improving them.
6. To suggest suitable measures for reducing the occurrence and prevalence of domestic violence.

c. Definition of Concepts

The significant terms like type of violence its nature, manifestation and consequences have been defined here, with respect to this study. In the agencies from where the preliminary data were collected cases of domestic violence were registered under the heads of their major cause.

Hence in this study, types of domestic violence are synonymous with their major cause.

Nature of violence includes both physical nature-violence on the body and psychological nature i.e. violence on the mind.

By manifestation of violence is meant, the way in which violence is evident. For. eg: hitting, beating etc in the case of physical violence and threatening, demeaning etc in psychological violence.

In this study, the parties affected in domestic violence include husband, wife, children and in-laws. The study has not only looked into the consequences/impact of violence in the personal lives of the victims but also in their family and societal lives too.

1.4 Methodology

a) Universe and Geographical Area:

All women affected by Domestic Violence in the fourteen districts of the state of Kerala formed the universe and geographical area of the study respectively.

b) Sampling

As a preliminary step, an enlistment survey of the registered/recorded cases was conducted to identify the various cases of domestic violence. Women Cells, family courts, police stations, Counselling centers, NGO's working for women, Social workers, Women activists and members of the general public were contacted for this purpose.

Based on the enlistment survey, 100 victimized women from each district were selected, considering the seriousness of the problem and interviewed for collecting the information. In addition, discussions with key persons numbering 10 each were also undertaken to draw more information regarding the subject. The key personnel were drawn from the following categories viz. Teachers (2), Elderly persons (2), religious persons (2), SHG representatives (2) and Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (2).

In toto, 1540 respondents (1400 respondents + 140 key persons) came under the purview of the study.

1.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

Enlistment Schedule, Interview schedule and interview Guides were the major tools of data collection. The schedules and guides were pre-tested and suitably modified. In-depth Interviews and discussions were conducted as the techniques of data collection to elicit information from the respondents.

a. Enlistment schedule

This was used to collect data from various sources to enumerate various cases of domestic violence prevalent in the state.

b. Interview Schedule for Victims

The interview schedule which formed the major tool was catered to the victims to draw information from them. This comprised mainly the personal data of the victims, their profile, type of violence, its reasons, nature, manifestations, frequency and consequences.

c. Interview Guide for Key Personnel

This was meant for drawing out the viewpoints and suggestions regarding the various aspects of domestic violence.

Preparation and Finalization of Tools

Tools viz. Enlistment survey schedule, interview schedule for the respondents and Interview guide for the key personnel were drafted and were discussed with various experts in the field. Later it was pre-tested on a sample of 5 victims of domestic violence. Taking stock of the responses from the victims appropriate modifications were made in the draft tool and subsequently it was finalized and administered to the wider sample population.

1.6 Sources of data

a. Primary Data

The respondents viz. the victims and key personnel constituted the source of primary data.

b. Secondary data

Documents, books, reports of surveys and studies, literature pertaining to domestic violence and other relevant publications formed the secondary data source.

1.7 Orientation to Investigators

Four investigators along with six staff members of the institute who had previous experience in taking part in social surveys were recruited for the study. They were given a one-day orientation at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. The forenoon session of the orientation was set apart for a brief introduction on the concepts of gender equality and violence against women. Thereafter, an outline of the study including the objectives was presented. Familiarization and discussion on the various tools followed the above. The post lunch session included mock interviews using the various tools of data collection and a demonstration on the verification of the data. The orientation came to an end by 5 pm in the evening.

1.8 Actual Data Collection

The investigators after the orientation were asked to collect the addresses of the women who have been subjected for domestic violence. 10 investigators thus set off to various districts to collect the addresses by approaching various agencies. The agencies from where the addresses were collected included: NGOs, Family court, Women's cell, Vanitha police station, De-addiction centerS, FCCs, ICDS centers, Kudumbasree units and various Church organizations. On an average 100-150 cases were recorded from each district for the enlistment survey. From the enlistment survey, the respondents were selected on a random basis.

The trained investigators approached the selected victims for collecting relevant information related to the study. Thus, 100 women who had been succumbed to domestic violence were interviewed from each district. The data collection took more time than conceived, as we had to change the respondents due to the indifference showed to respond to certain queries. Moreover, on several occasions, the data collection took

longer duration as it turned out to be a catharsis. Yet, the data collection was completed by the first week of May 2005.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

Despite, dedicated/committed efforts to gather the data that depicted the true scenario, certain limitations seemed to be inevitable. Inability of the beneficiaries to respond to the queries was the major constraint

Due to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the issue, the agencies that we approached for gathering the addresses of the victims were very reluctant to provide the same. Similarly, the data collection took a prolonged period than expected as in several cases the interviews became a catharsis itself. More hours than anticipated had to be allotted for each interview. Moreover, the unwillingness of several respondents to disclose their experience for fear of their husbands had resulted in repeated visits to these families. Subsequently, the investigators had to go to another house, which sometimes were quite far. All these consumed a great deal of time delaying the data collection process.

Another limitation of the study was that it included only the perception or response of the woman ignoring the response of the husband, which could contribute to the exaggeration of the incidents by the woman.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the women who were victimized and the key personnel who were providers of useful information related to domestic violence. For an easy understanding, the analysis has been divided into 9 sections. Section 1 details the socio-economic profile of the victims; section 2 portrays the characteristics of the affected parties; section 3 elaborates on the major causes leading to domestic violence; section 4 depicts the nature/ manifestation and frequency of violence; section 5 delves into the consequences of domestic violence; section 6 sketches on the availability and effectiveness of organizations addressing domestic violence; section 7 presents the views of key personnel on domestic violence; and section 8 pictures the case studies.

2.1 Socio-Economic Profile of the Victims

In spite of having a low per capita income and unemployment when compared to other Indian states, Kerala has achieved a quality of life, which is much higher than all the other states in India as well as some industrialized countries. Notable among its achievement is the good health indicator in terms of mortality and fertility rates and high levels of utilization of formal health services. This unique model of socio-economic development has also been widely referred to as '*Kerala Model of Development*'.

Due to the rapid socio-economic changes, life has become highly competitive creating severe challenges towards survival. Living style has also become more materialistic oriented. Economic crisis may be due to several reasons, these include possible sources of stress and inter-individual conflict because of factors such as poor economic conditions, bad housing, poverty, lack of job opportunities, unfavorable and frustrating work condition arising out of inequalities in the society and unequal distribution of resources.

The social profile was analysed by the variables viz., Age, education, religion, community, duration of marriage, type of marriage and type of family. Under the economic profile the following factors were examined: Employment, income, source of income, housing conditions, household assets, savings and loans etc.

Age of Victims

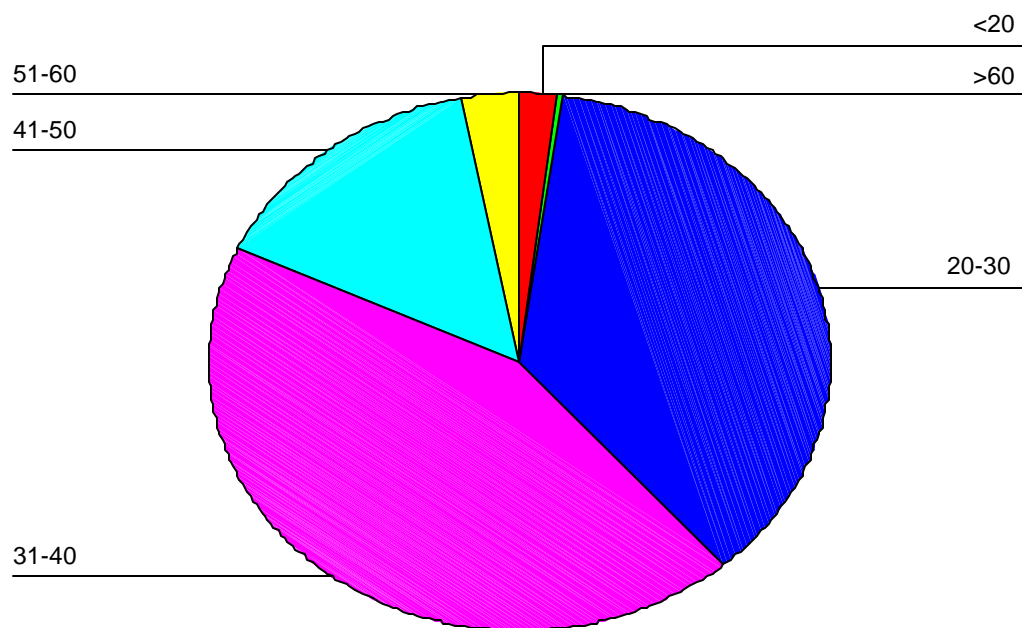
Of the 1400 women who took part in the study, a good number of the respondents (43.3%) belonged to the age group between 31-40 years old, followed by 36.5% in the age category 20 –30 years and 14.9% in the age group 41–50 years. A small percentage of the respondents i.e., 3.1% and 2 % belonged to the age groups 51 – 60 years and below 20 years of age respectively. Conspicuously, among the respondents were three women (0.2%) above the age of 60 years. (*Refer Table No.1 & Figure No.1*)

The data clearly dispels the fact that age is not a barrier for domestic violence and it can happen at any age level. However, from the data it is obvious that women between the age group of 20-40 years old are at a higher risk of being subjected to domestic violence than women of other age groups.

Table No. 1 Age of the Respondents

District	Age Group					
	20-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	<20	>60
Trivandrum	50	31	12	2	5	
	50.0%	31.0%	12.0%	2.0%	5.0%	
	9.8%	5.1%	5.8%	4.5%	17.9%	
Kollam	27	52	18	2	1	
	27.0%	52.0%	18.0%	2.0%	1.0%	
	5.3%	8.6%	8.7%	4.5%	3.6%	
Pathanamthitta	40	37	19	2	1	1
	40.0%	37.0%	19.0%	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%
	7.8%	6.1%	9.1%	4.5%	3.6%	33.3%
Iddukki	17	49	25	8		1
	17.0%	49.0%	25.0%	8.0%		1.0%
	3.3%	8.1%	12.0%	18.2%		33.3%
Alappuzha	50	33	13	4		
	50.0%	33.0%	13.0%	4.0%		
	9.8%	5.4%	6.3%	9.1%		
Kottayam	24	48	18	9		1
	24.0%	48.0%	18.0%	9.0%		1.0%
	4.7%	7.9%	8.7%	20.5%		33.3%
Ernakulam	48	35	11	5	1	
	48.0%	35.0%	11.0%	5.0%	1.0%	
	9.4%	5.8%	5.3%	11.4%	3.6%	
Thrissur	39	47	10		4	
	39.0%	47.0%	10.0%		4.0%	
	7.6%	7.8%	4.8%		14.3%	
Palakkad	55	30	12	3		
	55.0%	30.0%	12.0%	3.0%		
	10.8%	5.0%	5.8%	6.8%		
Malappuram	55	26	4		15	
	55.0%	26.0%	4.0%		15.0%	
	10.8%	4.3%	1.9%		53.6%	
Wynad	18	57	22	3		
	18.0%	57.0%	22.0%	3.0%		
	3.5%	9.4%	10.6%	6.8%		
Kozhikode	23	50	25	2		
	23.0%	50.0%	25.0%	2.0%		
	4.5%	8.3%	12.0%	4.5%		
Kannur	39	53	6	1	1	
	39.0%	53.0%	6.0%	1.0%	1.0%	
	7.6%	8.7%	2.9%	2.3%	3.6%	
Kasargode	26	58	13	3		
	26.0%	58.0%	13.0%	3.0%		
	5.1%	9.6%	6.3%	6.8%		
Total	511	606	208	44	28	3
	36.5%	43.3%	14.9%	3.1%	2.0%	.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Figure No. 1 Age of the Respondents



Education of Victims

Education can boost a young woman's confidence and teach her life skill, equipping her to make her own judgements. The educational status of the respondents revealed that vast majority of them was literate. This may be because of the high literacy level of women in Kerala when compared to other states. Most of the literature related to Kerala cited that, Kerala has the highest literacy rates of 88% for women and 94% for men in the country as compared to the national rates of 54% for women and 76% for men.

The study showed that 48.6% of the victims had secondary school education and 15.1% had higher secondary education. 8.9% of the respondents were graduates whereas 1.5% of them were postgraduates and 1.6% professionals. Among the respondents, 19.5% had only primary education. However, 4.9% of the victims were illiterate. (*Refer Table No.2*)

Table No. 2 Education of the Respondents

DISTRICT	Education						
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	higher secondary	Graduate	Post-Graduate	Professionals
Trivandrum	2 2.0% 2.9%	4 4.0% 1.5%	25 25.0% 3.7%	23 23.0% 10.8%	33 33.0% 26.6%	7 7.0% 33.3%	6 6.0% 27.3%
Kollam		13 13.0% 4.8%	84 84.0% 12.4%	3 3.0% 1.4%			
Pathanamthitta		6 6.0% 2.2%	75 75.0% 11.0%	19 19.0% 9.0%			
Iddukki	14 14.0% 20.6%	27 27.0% 9.9%	24 24.0% 3.5%	31 31.0% 14.6%	3 3.0% 2.4%		1 1.0% 4.5%
Alappuzha	3 3.0% 4.4%	19 19.0% 7.0%	56 56.0% 8.2%	8 8.0% 3.8%	12 12.0% 9.7%	1 1.0% 4.8%	1 1.0% 4.5%
Kottayam	6 6.0% 8.8%	16 16.0% 5.9%	55 55.0% 8.1%	11 11.0% 5.2%	12 12.0% 9.7%		
Ernakulam	1 1.0% 1.5%	14 14.0% 5.1%	46 46.0% 6.8%	11 11.0% 5.2%	19 19.0% 15.3%	4 4.0% 19.0%	5 5.0% 22.7%
Thrissur	13 13.0% 19.1%	25 25.0% 9.2%	45 45.0% 6.6%	11 11.0% 5.2%	3 3.0% 2.4%	1 1.0% 4.8%	2 2.0% 9.1%
Palakkad	12 12.0% 17.6%	29 29.0% 10.6%	28 28.0% 4.1%	7 7.0% 3.3%	15 15.0% 12.1%	6 6.0% 28.6%	3 3.0% 13.6%
Malappuram		7 7.0% 2.6%	70 70.0% 10.3%	13 13.0% 6.1%	9 9.0% 7.3%	1 1.0% 4.8%	
Wayanad	14 14.0% 20.6%	49 49.0% 17.9%	23 23.0% 3.4%	10 10.0% 4.7%	2 2.0% 1.6%		2 2.0% 9.1%
Kozhikkode	1 1.0% 1.5%	26 26.0% 9.5%	45 45.0% 6.6%	17 17.0% 8.0%	9 9.0% 7.3%	1 1.0% 4.8%	1 1.0% 4.5%
Kannur		14 14.0% 5.1%	45 45.0% 6.6%	34 34.0% 16.0%	6 6.0% 4.8%		1 1.0% 4.5%
Kasargode	2 2.0% 2.9%	24 24.0% 8.8%	59 59.0% 8.7%	14 14.0% 6.6%	1 1.0% .8%		
Total	68 4.9% 100%	273 19.5% 100.0%	680 48.6% 100%	212 15.1% 100.0%	124 8.9% 100%	21 1.5% 100.0%	22 1.6% 100.0%

*

** Illiterates here denote both those who cannot read and write and who can read only and has no formal schooling*

From the above it can be inferred that domestic violence occurred irrespective of the educational status, though more cases of violence were seen in the less educated category.

Family Type

Majority of the victims (63.8%) belonged to nuclear families. Only 36.2% of the victims were from joint families (Here, by joint family we mean nuclear families with their parents and unmarried/married brothers or sisters). The possible reason for the increase in domestic violence among nuclear families could be the deterioration of social values and customs unlike in the joint families of earlier days. *(Refer Table No.3 & Figure No.2)*

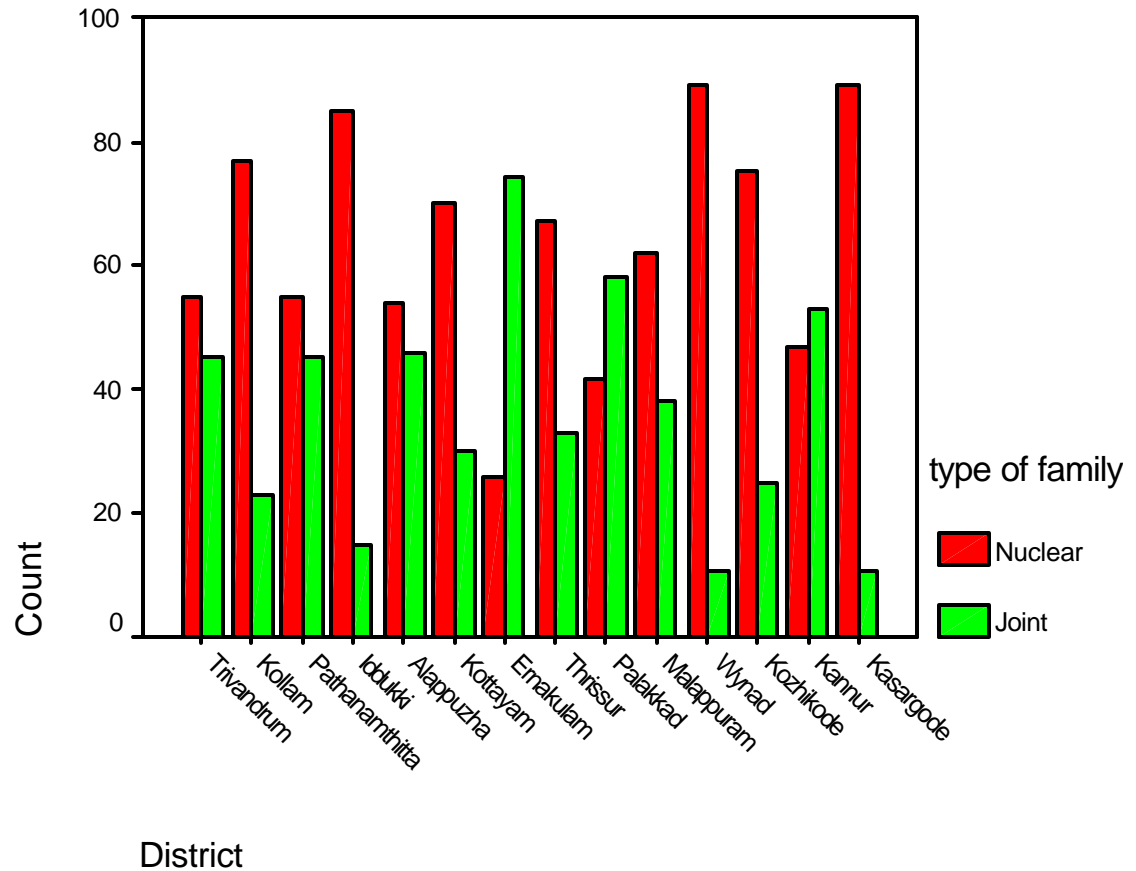
Religion

The religious composition of the respondents revealed that half of the respondents were Hindus (50%), followed by Christians (34%) and Muslims (16.8%) respectively. This may be because the life pattern in Kerala is based predominantly upon the Hindu religion, which forms the largest majority of some 304 million souls. The largest minority groups are the Muslims followed by Christians and Sikhs. Therefore, this data cannot be interpreted to show that the prevalence of domestic violence is more among Hindu families followed by Christian and Muslim families. *(Refer Table No.4)*

Table No. 3 Type of Family

District	Type of family		Total
	Nuclear	Joint	
Trivandrum	55	45	100
	55.0%	45.0%	100.0%
	6.2%	8.9%	7.1%
Kollam	77	23	100
	77.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	8.6%	4.5%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	55	45	100
	55.0%	45.0%	100.0%
	6.2%	8.9%	7.1%
Iddukki	85	15	100
	85.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	9.5%	3.0%	7.1%
Alappuzha	54	46	100
	54.0%	46.0%	100.0%
	6.0%	9.1%	7.1%
Kottayam	70	30	100
	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
	7.8%	5.9%	7.1%
Ernakulam	26	74	100
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	14.6%	7.1%
Thrissur	67	33	100
	67.0%	33.0%	100.0%
	7.5%	6.5%	7.1%
Palakkad	42	58	100
	42.0%	58.0%	100.0%
	4.7%	11.4%	7.1%
Malappuram	62	38	100
	62.0%	38.0%	100.0%
	6.9%	7.5%	7.1%
Wynad	89	11	100
	89.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	10.0%	2.2%	7.1%
Kozhikode	75	25	100
	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	8.4%	4.9%	7.1%
Kannur	47	53	100
	47.0%	53.0%	100.0%
	5.3%	10.5%	7.1%
Kasargode	89	11	100
	89.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	10.0%	2.2%	7.1%
Total	893	507	1400
	63.8%	36.2%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure No. 2 Type of Family



A major part of the Hindu respondents were from Alappuzha district (11.2%) followed by Kollam (9.6%) and Kannur (9.1%) districts. Among the Christian respondents maximum numbers were from Kottayam (13.9%) followed by Kasargode (12.4%) and Wayanad (11.1%) districts. Out of the Muslim respondents a higher number were from Malappuram (24.3%) followed by Thrissur (14.5%) and Kannur (9.8%) districts respectively. (*Refer Table No.4*).Malappuram being a Muslim dominated district in the northernregion of Kerala, showed a high percentage of Muslim women suffering from domestic violence.

From the data we can infer that domestic violence prevails in families irrespective of the differentiation in religious beliefs and values.

Table No. 4 Religion of the Respondents

District	Religion			Total
	Christian	Hindu	Muslim	
Trivandrum	31	58	11	100
	31.0%	58.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	8.4%	4.7%	7.1%
Kollam	23	66	11	100
	23.0%	66.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	4.8%	9.6%	4.7%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	32	62	6	100
	32.0%	62.0%	6.0%	100.0%
	6.7%	9.0%	2.6%	7.1%
Iddukki	52	45	3	100
	52.0%	45.0%	3.0%	100.0%
	10.9%	6.5%	1.3%	7.1%
Alappuzha	15	77	8	100
	15.0%	77.0%	8.0%	100.0%
	3.2%	11.2%	3.4%	7.1%
Kottayam	66	33	1	100
	66.0%	33.0%	1.0%	100.0%
	13.9%	4.8%	.4%	7.1%
Ernakulam	39	39	22	100
	39.0%	39.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	8.2%	5.7%	9.4%	7.1%
Thrissur	28	38	34	100
	28.0%	38.0%	34.0%	100.0%
	5.9%	5.5%	14.5%	7.1%
Palakkad	22	61	17	100
	22.0%	61.0%	17.0%	100.0%
	4.6%	8.9%	7.2%	7.1%
Malappuram	4	39	57	100
	4.0%	39.0%	57.0%	100.0%
	.8%	5.7%	24.3%	7.1%
Wynad	53	44	3	100
	53.0%	44.0%	3.0%	100.0%
	11.1%	6.4%	1.3%	7.1%
Kozhikode	38	41	21	100
	38.0%	41.0%	21.0%	100.0%
	8.0%	6.0%	8.9%	7.1%
Kannur	14	63	23	100
	14.0%	63.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	9.1%	9.8%	7.1%
Kasargode	59	23	18	100
	59.0%	23.0%	18.0%	100.0%
	12.4%	3.3%	7.7%	7.1%
Total	476	689	235	1400
	34.0%	49.2%	16.8%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Community

Community-wise distribution of the victims showed that 52% of the respondents belonged to Other Eligible Community (OEC). Kasargode and Malappuram districts (12.2%) topped among OEC respondents followed by Kottayam (9.6%) district respectively.

The figures from the data revealed that Other Backward Castes (OBC) comprised 32.6 percent. District-wise analysis of OBC community showed that Alappuzha and Ernakulam districts figured prominently with 13% each and Palakkad district with 11.8%. (*Refer Table No.5*)

From the total respondents, Scheduled Castes (SC) constituted 9.7% and it was highest (18.4%) in Idukki district followed by Palakkad and Pathanamthitta districts with an equal distribution of 11% each. (*Refer Table No.5*)

Only very few victims belonged to Scheduled Tribe (ST) (3.7%) and General Category (2%). Majority of the scheduled tribes (21.2%) belonged to Idukki district and the least were from Thrissur and Wayanad districts with 13% each. (*Refer Table No.5*)

Among the General Category, majority (85.7%) were from Ernakulam district followed by 14.3% in Alappuzha district. Interestingly, there were no respondents in the *general category* from the remaining 12 districts. (*Refer Table No.5*)

Table No. 5 Community of the Respondents

District	Community					Total
	SC	ST	OBC	OEC	Others	
Trivandrum	13	8	23	56		1
	13.0%	8.0%	23.0%	56.0%		100.0%
	9.6%	15.4%	5.0%	7.7%		7.7%
Kollam	10	4	24	62		1
	10.0%	4.0%	24.0%	62.0%		100.0%
	7.4%	7.7%	5.3%	8.5%		7.7%
Pathanamthitta	15	1	24	60		1
	15.0%	1.0%	24.0%	60.0%		100.0%
	11.0%	1.9%	5.3%	8.2%		7.7%
Iddukki	25	11	30	34		1
	25.0%	11.0%	30.0%	34.0%		100.0%
	18.4%	21.2%	6.6%	4.7%		7.7%
Alappuzha	6	3	63	24	4	1
	6.0%	3.0%	63.0%	24.0%	4.0%	100.0%
	4.4%	5.8%	13.8%	3.3%	14.3%	7.7%
Kottayam	7	3	20	70		1
	7.0%	3.0%	20.0%	70.0%		100.0%
	5.1%	5.8%	4.4%	9.6%		7.7%
Ernakulam	7		61	8	24	1
	7.0%		61.0%	8.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	5.1%		13.4%	1.1%	85.7%	7.7%
Thrissur	10	7	40	43		1
	10.0%	7.0%	40.0%	43.0%		100.0%
	7.4%	13.5%	8.8%	5.9%		7.7%
Palakkad	16	2	50	32		1
	16.0%	2.0%	50.0%	32.0%		100.0%
	11.8%	3.8%	11.0%	4.4%		7.7%
Malappuram	7	3	3	87		1
	7.0%	3.0%	3.0%	87.0%		100.0%
	5.1%	5.8%	.7%	12.0%		7.7%
Wynad	6	7	35	52		1
	6.0%	7.0%	35.0%	52.0%		100.0%
	4.4%	13.5%	7.7%	7.1%		7.7%
Kozhikode	13		44	43		1
	13.0%		44.0%	43.0%		100.0%
	9.6%		9.6%	5.9%		7.7%
Kannur	1	1	30	68		1
	1.0%	1.0%	30.0%	68.0%		100.0%
	.7%	1.9%	6.6%	9.3%		7.7%
Kasargode		2	9	89		1
		2.0%	9.0%	89.0%		100.0%
		3.8%	2.0%	12.2%		7.7%
Total	136	52	456	728	28	14
	9.7%	3.7%	32.6%	52.0%	2.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Marital Status

Of the 1400 victims who took part in the study, 84.6% of the marriages were arranged by their own parents and only 15.4% had marriages according to the respondent's own choices. District-wise analysis of arranged marriages showed that Kasargode, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta districts topped with 7.9%, 7.8% and 7.7% respectively. Love marriages were found higher in the districts of Idukki, Wyanad and Thiruvananthapuram with 13%, 11% and 10% each.

Regarding the duration of marriage of the victims, a good number (42.3%) were in the range of 1-10 years. 37.1% and 14% of the respondents were married for 11-20 years and 21 –30 years respectively. A small proportion each i.e., 2.2% and 0.5% were married for 31-40 years and more than 40 years.

Significantly, among the victims 3.9% were married for less than a year. This showed that the problem of domestic violence arose during the early years of marriage. It is quite clear that the risk of being subjected to domestic violence decreases with the increase in the duration of the marriage.

Household Details of the Victims

Responses to questions about housing condition and standard of living of respondents indicated that about 54.9% of the victims lived in semi-pucca houses followed by pucca and kutcha houses with 32.9% and 12.2% each. Their tenure status pointed out that majority of the victims (92%) lived in their own houses. Only a very small percentage (8%) lived in rented houses. (*Refer Table No.6*)

Table No. 6 House Condition

District	House condition			Total
	Pucca	Semi-Pucca	kutchha	
Trivandrum	63	25	12	100
	63.0%	25.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	13.7%	3.3%	7.0%	7.1%
Kollam	73	25	2	100
	73.0%	25.0%	2.0%	100.0%
	15.9%	3.3%	1.2%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	57	37	6	100
	57.0%	37.0%	6.0%	100.0%
	12.4%	4.8%	3.5%	7.1%
Iddukki	15	74	11	100
	15.0%	74.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	3.3%	9.6%	6.4%	7.1%
Alappuzha	16	60	24	100
	16.0%	60.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	3.5%	7.8%	14.0%	7.1%
Kottayam	25	66	9	100
	25.0%	66.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	5.4%	8.6%	5.3%	7.1%
Ernakulam	43	53	4	100
	43.0%	53.0%	4.0%	100.0%
	9.3%	6.9%	2.3%	7.1%
Thrissur	37	34	29	100
	37.0%	34.0%	29.0%	100.0%
	8.0%	4.4%	17.0%	7.1%
Palakkad	34	50	16	100
	34.0%	50.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	7.4%	6.5%	9.4%	7.1%
Malappuram	26	58	16	100
	26.0%	58.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	5.7%	7.5%	9.4%	7.1%
Wynad	24	62	14	100
	24.0%	62.0%	14.0%	100.0%
	5.2%	8.1%	8.2%	7.1%
Kozhikode	30	50	20	100
	30.0%	50.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	6.5%	11.7%	7.1%
Kannur	15	84	1	100
	15.0%	84.0%	1.0%	100.0%
	3.3%	10.9%	.6%	7.1%
Kasargode	2	91	7	100
	2.0%	91.0%	7.0%	100.0%
	.4%	11.8%	4.1%	7.1%
Total	460	769	171	1400
	32.9%	54.9%	12.2%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

However, 85.2 % of the victims lived in individual houses, 9.1% and 3.7% in row houses and slums. Only a miniature percent (2%) lived in flats. A possible inference

from this data could be that women living in close proximity with their neighbor's i.e., in slums, row houses and flats - experience less domestic violence than those living in individual houses. This could be because family members, neighbors, elders and relatives in a joint family, act as a buffer that prevents domestic violence. (Refer Table No.7)

With regard to the area of their houses 40.1% lived in houses with a built up area of 301-750 sq.ft., followed by 38% in 751 – 1500 sq.ft., 18.8% in area less than 300 sq.ft. and 3.1% in area 1501 – 5,000 sq.ft.

Economic Details of the Victims

Employment Status of Victim

The employment status of victims revealed that majority (78.1%) of them were unemployed and the rest (21.9%) were engaged in casual labor. Of them 4.6% were employed in private sector and 2.6% were government servants. Agriculture was the main source of income for 1.4% followed by professionals and self-employed with 0.9% and 0.4% respectively.

This showed that employed women too are not immune to domestic violence inspite of the fact that they add additional income to the family and bring in more dowry at the time of marriage.

Table No.7 Housing Typology

District	Housing Typology				Total
	Individaul	Flats	Row house	slum	
Trivandrum	64 64.0% 5.4%	13 13.0% 46.4%	16 16.0% 12.6%	7 7.0% 13.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	94 94.0% 7.9%	1 1.0% 3.6%	5 5.0% 3.9%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	97 97.0% 8.1%		1 1.0% .8%	2 2.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	78 78.0% 6.5%		22 22.0% 17.3%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	70 70.0% 5.9%		24 24.0% 18.9%	6 6.0% 11.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	79 79.0% 6.6%	6 6.0% 21.4%	14 14.0% 11.0%	1 1.0% 1.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	92 92.0% 7.7%		8 8.0% 6.3%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	65 65.0% 5.4%	4 4.0% 14.3%	7 7.0% 5.5%	24 24.0% 46.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	82 82.0% 6.9%	1 1.0% 3.6%	15 15.0% 11.8%	2 2.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	91 91.0% 7.6%		6 6.0% 4.7%	3 3.0% 5.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	98 98.0% 8.2%	1 1.0% 3.6%	1 1.0% .8%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	90 90.0% 7.5%	2 2.0% 7.1%	4 4.0% 3.1%	4 4.0% 7.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	100 100.0% 8.4%				100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	93 93.0% 7.8%		4 4.0% 3.1%	3 3.0% 5.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	1193 85.2% 100.0%	28 2.0% 100.0%	127 9.1% 100.0%	52 3.7% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Income of the family

From the study it was unveiled that a good number (56%) of families had a monthly income of Rs 1,000/---5,000/- followed by Rs.5, 001/- – 10,000/- for 23.5% of the respondents and 9.9% with Rs. 10,001/- – 20,000/- respectively. Only a very small percent (1.4% and 0.6%) had income of Rs. 20,001/- – 30,000/- and above Rs 30,000/- respectively. Income below Rs. 1,000/- was comparatively low with 8.6%.

The figures from the data showed that occurrence of domestic violence were higher among the middle class society when compared to the high-income group (above Rs. 20,000/-) and low-income group (below Rs. 1,000/-). This does not mean that only middle classes are more prone towards domestic violence. Due to the fear of social stigma and the over anxiousness to project a good image in front of the relatives and friends many victims of domestic violence among the higher strata do not reveal their victimization. May be among the lower strata, many of the cases go unreported either because of the ignorance of the victim or because the victims are willing to suffer silently. It should also be noted that many among the lower strata are ignorant about organizations/persons dealing with domestic violence.

Sources of income

The main source of income for majority (71%) of the households of the victims was from salaried jobs. For 11.6% it was from both salaried jobs and agriculture.

Agriculture was the main source of income for 10.2% and business for 6.9%. The most interesting factor was that for the households of the two victims in Ernakulam district “Pension” was the main source of income. (*Refer table No. 8*)

Table No. 8 Major Source of Income

District	Source of Income					Total
	Salary/wage	Agriculture	Both	Business	Pension	
Trivandrum	93 93.0% 9.3%		2 2.0% 1.2%	5 5.0% 5.2%		100 7
Kollam	74 74.0% 7.4%	5 5.0% 3.5%	20 20.0% 12.3%	1 1.0% 1.0%		100 7
Pathanamthitta	67 67.0% 6.7%	8 8.0% 5.6%	15 15.0% 9.2%	10 10.0% 10.3%		100 7
Iddukki	68 68.0% 6.8%	25 25.0% 17.5%		7 7.0% 7.2%		100 7
Alappuzha	96 96.0% 9.6%	2 2.0% 1.4%		2 2.0% 2.1%		100 7
Kottayam	66 66.0% 6.6%	20 20.0% 14.0%	8 8.0% 4.9%	6 6.0% 6.2%		100 7
Ernakulam	74 74.0% 7.4%	5 5.0% 3.5%	1 1.0% .6%	18 18.0% 18.6%	2 2.0% 100.0%	100 7
Thrissur	94 94.0% 9.4%		5 5.0% 3.1%	1 1.0% 1.0%		100 7
Palakkad	56 56.0% 5.6%	8 8.0% 5.6%	34 34.0% 20.9%	2 2.0% 2.1%		100 7
Malappuram	70 70.0% 7.0%	5 5.0% 3.5%		25 25.0% 25.8%		100 7
Wynad	67 67.0% 6.7%	26 26.0% 18.2%	3 3.0% 1.8%	4 4.0% 4.1%		100 7
Kozhikode	78 78.0% 7.8%	11 11.0% 7.7%	8 8.0% 4.9%	3 3.0% 3.1%		100 7
Kannur	54 54.0% 5.4%	12 12.0% 8.4%	25 25.0% 15.3%	9 9.0% 9.3%		100 7
Kasargode	38 38.0% 3.8%	16 16.0% 11.2%	42 42.0% 25.8%	4 4.0% 4.1%		100 7
Total	995 71.1% 100.0%	143 10.2% 100.0%	163 11.6% 100.0%	97 6.9% 100.0%	2 .1% 100.0%	1 100 100

Occupation of the Victims

Occupational status of the victims showed that more than three fourth of the victims (78.1%) was unemployed and were pre-occupied with the household chores. Among the rest, 12.1 per cent of them were daily wage earners. The remaining was engaged in private jobs (4.6%), Govt. jobs (2.6%), agriculture (1.4%), professionals(.9%), and business (.4%).(*Refer table No. 9*)

The figures thus pointed out to the fact domestic violence is prevalent more among those who are unemployed. Nevertheless, it does not exclude the others from this abrasive problem that dismantles the bonds of family life. The dominance of unemployed suffering from domestic violence could be due to the reality that these cases come to light more prominently compared to those who are employed or those who are better off.

Financial Assets and Liabilities of the Victims

Apart from employment, a source of income as a means of social security for women is mainly her savings/bank balances. The study revealed that 67.1% of the victims lacked any sort of savings. Only 32.9% had some sort of savings and that too highest (13.4%) in Idukki district followed by Kottayam and Ernakulam districts (11.1%) respectively. Their savings were mainly in Banks, LIC, Post Office and Chit funds.

Though, it is seen that majority of the respondents lack saving mentality they also keep aloof from liabilities. Majority of them had no liabilities. The liability status of the respondents showed that only 38.1% had taken loans for various purposes such as constructing houses, business, agriculture, purchase of household assets and for education of their children's.

Among the debtors a good number (11.4%) were from Wayanad district followed by Palakkad (10.5%) and Kannur (9.9%) districts respectively. (*Refer table No. 10*)

Household Assets

While inquiring into the valuable possessions of the household assets, 90.9% of the respondents had land and property, 72.7% had TV and 40.1% had gold ornaments.

Of the respondents, 39.7% had telephones, 33.9% bicycles, 30.9% refrigerators and 23.9% two wheelers. Only a very low percent had other durable household assets such as - sewing machines (16.1%), 4 wheelers (7.8%), computers (6%), autorickshaws (3.4%) and fishing boats (0.5%). The picture of the household details and assets of the respondents disclosed that they constituted a blend of both lower and middle class of people.

Women's Autonomy and Decision Making Power

Variables such as seeking opinions during arranged marriages, dowry and the difference in the socio-economic status of the couples etc were analysed to have a perception on women's autonomy and decision making power.

Opinions of 65.3% of the arranged married respondents were sought before their marriages. Among them the highest were from Malappuram (27.8%) followed by Kollam (13.3%) and Idukki (10.4%) districts respectively. It is obvious that majority of the marriages in Kerala are arranged one. (*Refer table No. 11*)

Moreover, marriages among blood relations were on a declining trend. The present study too proved the same i.e., for 92% of the respondents their husbands were not their relatives. This data is on line with the concept that – Unlike the past, marriage among kinship is not a prevalent custom of Kerala. District-wise analysis showed that, of these marriages Malappuram district scored top with 20.5% of cases followed by Kasargode with 10.7% and Kannur, Alappuzha and Palakkad with 8.9% each respectively. (*Refer table No.12*)

Table no. 9 Occupation of the Victims

DISTRICT	Occupation						
	None	Agricu lture	Daily wage labourer	Govt. service	Private	Profess ional	Busin ess
Trivandrum	73 73.0% 6.7%		7 7.0% 4.1%	9 9.0% 25.0%	10 10.0% 15.6%		1 1.0% 20.0%
Kollam	100 100.0% 9.1%						
Pathanamthitta	98 98.0% 9.0%		2 2.0% 1.2%				
Iddukki	50 50.0% 4.6%	3 3.0% 15.8%	40 40.0% 23.5%	2 2.0% 5.6%	5 5.0% 7.8%		
Alappuzha	79 79.0% 7.2%		11 11.0% 6.5%	3 3.0% 8.3%	5 5.0% 7.8%	1 1.0% 8.3%	1 1.0% 20.0%
Kottayam	84 84.0% 7.7%		6 6.0% 3.5%	1 1.0% 2.8%	9 9.0% 14.1%		
Ernakulam	74 74.0% 6.8%	1 1.0% 5.3%	5 5.0% 2.9%	3 3.0% 8.3%	12 12.0% 18.8%	4 4.0% 33.3%	1 1.0% 20.0%
Thrissur	91 91.0% 8.3%		3 3.0% 1.8%	2 2.0% 5.6%	3 3.0% 4.7%	1 1.0% 8.3%	
Palakkad	67 67.0% 6.1%	2 2.0% 10.5%	21 21.0% 12.4%	5 5.0% 13.9%	4 4.0% 6.3%	1 1.0% 8.3%	
Malappuram	83 83.0% 7.6%		13 13.0% 7.6%	1 1.0% 2.8%	3 3.0% 4.7%		
Wayanad	65 65.0% 5.9%	8 8.0% 42.1%	24 24.0% 14.1%		2 2.0% 3.1%		1 1.0% 20.0%
Kozhikkode	60 60.0% 5.5%	4 4.0% 21.1%	27 27.0% 15.9%	7 7.0% 19.4%	1 1.0% 1.6%	1 1.0% 8.3%	
Kannur	80 80.0% 7.3%		5 5.0% 2.9%	3 3.0% 8.3%	8 8.0% 12.5%	3 3.0% 25.0%	1 1.0% 20.0%
Kasargode	90 90.0% 8.2%	1 1.0% 5.3%	6 6.0% 3.5%		2 2.0% 3.1%	1 1.0% 8.3%	
Total	1094 78.1% 100.0%	19 1.4% 100%	170 12.1% 100.0%	36 2.6% 100.0%	64 4.6% 100%	12 .9% 100.0%	5 .4% 100%

Table No. 10 Loans taken by the Respondents

District	loan		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	6	94	100
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%
	1.1%	10.9%	7.1%
Kollam	35	65	100
	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%
	6.6%	7.5%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	25	75	100
	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%
	4.7%	8.7%	7.1%
Iddukki	50	50	100
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	9.4%	5.8%	7.1%
Alappuzha	37	63	100
	37.0%	63.0%	100.0%
	6.9%	7.3%	7.1%
Kottayam	36	64	100
	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
	6.7%	7.4%	7.1%
Ernakulam	43	57	100
	43.0%	57.0%	100.0%
	8.1%	6.6%	7.1%
Thrissur	26	74	100
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
	4.9%	8.5%	7.1%
Palakkad	56	44	100
	56.0%	44.0%	100.0%
	10.5%	5.1%	7.1%
Malappuram	15	85	100
	15.0%	85.0%	100.0%
	2.8%	9.8%	7.1%
Wynad	61	39	100
	61.0%	39.0%	100.0%
	11.4%	4.5%	7.1%
Kozhikode	41	59	100
	41.0%	59.0%	100.0%
	7.7%	6.8%	7.1%
Kannur	53	47	100
	53.0%	47.0%	100.0%
	9.9%	5.4%	7.1%
Kasargode	50	50	100
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	9.4%	5.8%	7.1%
Total	534	866	1400
	38.1%	61.9%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table No. 11 Opinion Sought for Marriage

District	Opinion Sought for Marriage			Total
	Yes	No	NA	
Trivandrum	74	3	23	100
	74.0%	3.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	8.1%	1.1%	10.6%	7.1%
Kollam	53	36	11	100
	53.0%	36.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	5.8%	13.3%	5.1%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	69	22	9	100
	69.0%	22.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	7.5%	8.1%	4.2%	7.1%
Iddukki	44	28	28	100
	44.0%	28.0%	28.0%	100.0%
	4.8%	10.4%	13.0%	7.1%
Alappuzha	75	14	11	100
	75.0%	14.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	8.2%	5.2%	5.1%	7.1%
Kottayam	72	6	22	100
	72.0%	6.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	7.9%	2.2%	10.2%	7.1%
Ernakulam	81	11	8	100
	81.0%	11.0%	8.0%	100.0%
	8.9%	4.1%	3.7%	7.1%
Thrissur	63	15	22	100
	63.0%	15.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	6.9%	5.6%	10.2%	7.1%
Palakkad	63	24	13	100
	63.0%	24.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	6.9%	8.9%	6.0%	7.1%
Malappuram	13	75	12	100
	13.0%	75.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	1.4%	27.8%	5.6%	7.1%
Wynad	64	12	24	100
	64.0%	12.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	7.0%	4.4%	11.1%	7.1%
Kozhikode	68	16	16	100
	68.0%	16.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	7.4%	5.9%	7.4%	7.1%
Kannur	87	2	11	100
	87.0%	2.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	9.5%	.7%	5.1%	7.1%
Kasargode	88	6	6	100
	88.0%	6.0%	6.0%	100.0%
	9.6%	2.2%	2.8%	7.1%
Total	914	270	216	1400
	65.3%	19.3%	15.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table No. 12 Whether Husband is the relative of the Respondent

District	Whether Husband is a relative		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	9 9.0% 8.0%	91 91.0% 7.1%	100 7
Kollam	5 5.0% 4.5%	95 95.0% 7.4%	100 7
Pathanamthitta	2 2.0% 1.8%	98 98.0% 7.6%	100 7
Iddukki	7 7.0% 6.3%	93 93.0% 7.2%	100 7
Alappuzha	10 10.0% 8.9%	90 90.0% 7.0%	100 7
Kottayam		100 100.0% 7.8%	100 7
Ernakulam	7 7.0% 6.3%	93 93.0% 7.2%	100 7
Thrissur	4 4.0% 3.6%	96 96.0% 7.5%	100 7
Palakkad	10 10.0% 8.9%	90 90.0% 7.0%	100 7
Malappuram	23 23.0% 20.5%	77 77.0% 6.0%	100 7
Wynad	7 7.0% 6.3%	93 93.0% 7.2%	100 7
Kozhikode	6 6.0% 5.4%	94 94.0% 7.3%	100 7
Kannur	10 10.0% 8.9%	90 90.0% 7.0%	100 7
Kasargode	12 12.0% 10.7%	88 88.0% 6.8%	100 7
Total	112 8.0% 100.0%	1288 92.0% 100.0%	1 100 100

The problem of adjustment arises in married lives, when there exists disparity in the socio-economic level of the partners. The figures from the data also revealed that

difference in socio-economic status existed for 34% of the respondents. Among them a good number were from Alappuzha district (10.9%) followed by Kollam (10.7%) and Kannur (10.7%) districts respectively. The possible inference could be '*difference in socio-economic status*' could also lead to domestic violence. (Refer table No. 13)

A unique form of violence experienced by women is 'Dowry Deaths' and now, the most common one. Having been asked to give dowry and being subjected to dowry demands after marriage were taken as indicators of weak bargaining position for women. The study showed that 89.1% of the respondents had given dowry for their marriages. About 33.5% of the respondents had been subjected to demands for dowry from their husband's family. This showed that 'Dowry' which was once a token for the sublime sentiments of parents and relatives of a bride in a marriage gained all characteristics of a market transaction. However, 55.6 percent of women reported that their in-laws were satisfied with the dowry received. A very small percent preferred (10.9%) not to comment on it. (Refer table No. 14)

To feel safe during the period of atrocities, majority of the victims (55.9%) stayed away from their husbands due to victimization. Of them, 10% were from Kannur (10%) district. This showed the gravity of violence and how they were constantly subjected to violence. 44.1 percent opined that they have not stayed away from their husbands. This may be because women may cling to the hope that the man will change in due course.

Table No. 13 Difference in Socio Economic Status of Partner Families

District	Difference in the Socio Economic Status		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	7	93	100
	7.0%	93.0%	100.0%
	1.5%	10.1%	7.1%
Kollam	51	49	100
	51.0%	49.0%	100.0%
	10.7%	5.3%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	10	90	100
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
	2.1%	9.7%	7.1%
Iddukki	38	62	100
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
	8.0%	6.7%	7.1%
Alappuzha	52	48	100
	52.0%	48.0%	100.0%
	10.9%	5.2%	7.1%
Kottayam	31	69	100
	31.0%	69.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	7.5%	7.1%
Ernakulam	49	51	100
	49.0%	51.0%	100.0%
	10.3%	5.5%	7.1%
Thrissur	30	70	100
	30.0%	70.0%	100.0%
	6.3%	7.6%	7.1%
Palakkad	40	60	100
	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
	8.4%	6.5%	7.1%
Malappuram	13	87	100
	13.0%	87.0%	100.0%
	2.7%	9.4%	7.1%
Wynad	43	57	100
	43.0%	57.0%	100.0%
	9.0%	6.2%	7.1%
Kozhikode	25	75	100
	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%
	5.3%	8.1%	7.1%
Kannur	51	49	100
	51.0%	49.0%	100.0%
	10.7%	5.3%	7.1%
Kasargode	36	64	100
	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
	7.6%	6.9%	7.1%
Total	476	924	1400
	34.0%	66.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table No. 14 Satisfaction of In-laws regarding dowry

District	Satisfaction of Inlaws			Total
	NA	yes	no	
Trivandrum		57	43	100
		57.0%	43.0%	100.0%
		7.3%	9.2%	7.1%
Kollam	7	66	27	100
	7.0%	66.0%	27.0%	100.0%
	4.6%	8.5%	5.8%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	17	67	16	100
	17.0%	67.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	11.2%	8.6%	3.4%	7.1%
Iddukki	20	58	22	100
	20.0%	58.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	13.2%	7.5%	4.7%	7.1%
Alappuzha	2	51	47	100
	2.0%	51.0%	47.0%	100.0%
	1.3%	6.6%	10.0%	7.1%
Kottayam	10	68	21	99
	10.1%	68.7%	21.2%	100.0%
	6.6%	8.7%	4.5%	7.1%
Ernakulam	1	59	40	100
	1.0%	59.0%	40.0%	100.0%
	.7%	7.6%	8.5%	7.1%
Thrissur	17	42	41	100
	17.0%	42.0%	41.0%	100.0%
	11.2%	5.4%	8.7%	7.1%
Palakkad	6	46	48	100
	6.0%	46.0%	48.0%	100.0%
	3.9%	5.9%	10.2%	7.1%
Malappuram	12	40	48	100
	12.0%	40.0%	48.0%	100.0%
	7.9%	5.1%	10.2%	7.1%
Wynad	12	66	22	100
	12.0%	66.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	7.9%	8.5%	4.7%	7.1%
Kozhikode	20	62	18	100
	20.0%	62.0%	18.0%	100.0%
	13.2%	8.0%	3.8%	7.1%
Kannur	15	38	47	100
	15.0%	38.0%	47.0%	100.0%
	9.9%	4.9%	10.0%	7.1%
Kasargode	13	58	29	100
	13.0%	58.0%	29.0%	100.0%
	8.6%	7.5%	6.2%	7.1%
Total	152	778	469	1399
	10.9%	55.6%	33.5%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The provision of safe and secure accommodation is one of the prime requirements for women experiencing violence at the hands of their partners. Lack of such

accommodation may result in women reluctantly staying in violent relationships. Due to victimization a good number of respondents (43.2%) had chosen to stay at their parents' home. This may be because of the fear that if they move to an unfamiliar environment, the man would find them and become even more violent. The apprehension is connected with the uncertain future and perhaps doubts about their ability to manage their own. The rest, of about 6.5 % had chosen to stay along with their relatives. 2.8% of the victims preferred 'short stay home', 1.2 percent stayed along with their friends and only 1.2% preferred hostels to stay, due to victimization.

11.4 percent opined that they had stayed away from their husbands for more than 6 months. 9.4% and 10.6 % had stayed away for more than 2 months and 2 weeks respectively. Short-term separation of 1 week and 2 days was mentioned by 10% and 6.9 % of the respondents. The data showed that women often stay with their husband for years.

To conclude – While taking into account the varied social-factors it can be inferred that the chances of domestic violence is more among lower class of society. This does not mean that domestic violence is only a part of lower societal class. It exists more among nuclear families and less for older women when compared to younger women. When age of the victims is considered the odds for experiencing any type of violence is between 20-40years. The prevalence of domestic violence is high among illiterate and those who have only secondary school education compared to others. But for educated people the chance of occurring domestic violence is less. May be the women being less educated are less empowered to encounter violence The incidents of domestic violence are higher, during the early years of marriage ie., between 1-10 years.

The economic profile of the women proved that they belong to the low income group (Rs 1000-5000). Employment status of women had a profound effect on domestic violence i.e. 78 per cent of the women under study are unemployed and they had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime than any other workers and

casual laborers. Thus employment of women leading to more autonomy can be a great factor for women to combat violence. The incidents of domestic violence are higher, if there exist disparity in socio –economic status between the families. The study also stressed the fact that, though dowry was given at the time of marriage, the demand for it persists after marriage also. Thus ‘Education’ leading to empowerment of women through enhancement of their status and better decision making power have been identified as key factors to armour against violence.

2.2 Characteristics of The Affected Parties.

Domestic violence bruises not only the women but rather it affects the whole system of family. There are several factors/features of the members in the family that adversely affect the integrity and unity of the bond of the relationship pervades at home. It could be the behavioral characteristics either of the in-laws or the husband that lead to the onset of the violence at home. This section therefore probes into the various characteristics of the affected parties to unearth the factors that might have in one way or other contributed to the violence. Variables such as the controller of family affairs, late arrival at home, addiction to alcoholism, drug addiction, involvement in gambling, gangsterism, extra-marital affairs and the time spend together as a family were considered for assessing the husband. Concerning the features of in laws and others in the family variables such as togetherness of the family for meals/prayers, hurting the women physically/psychologically and instigating the husband for violence were looked into.

Characteristics of The Husband

Controller of Family Affairs

Often it is the centralization of power to oneself that blinds or misleads people to acts that are not in conformity with the human nature or law. The same is true regarding domestic violence too. The male partners always nurture a superior power position compared to women. The data too is in line with the above trend as it showed that majority of the families (57.9%) were controlled by the husbands themselves. Among the rest, 18% and 12.6% of the households were managed by in-laws and the wife and husband together

respectively. Only 11.5% of the families were controlled by the women themselves.

A further probe into the district-wise variation showed that Trivandrum and Kollam districts, which lay at the southern most part of Kerala, had a greater number of families, which were controlled by wives themselves (38% and 32% each).

These two districts are pre-dominantly fishermen communities and often it is the women who managed the families as the male members went to the sea for fishing for days together. Similarly the smooth sailing of the family matters often depended on women as the husbands after returning from fishing resort to consumption of alcohol and activities other than the responsibility of looking after the family. Probably, this could be the reason for the rise in women managing the households in these districts.

Regarding the households managed by husbands and wives together the districts of Thrissur and Iddukki topped with 41% and 28% each.

In general, the data is on line with the patriarchal nature of the families in Kerala where the male partners controlled the families prominently. It also showed that despite the development in education and health, Kerala is yet to advance in giving equal status to men and women in the family.

Reaching Home

A family that sits and prays together stays together. Spending time with family demands their early arrival at home. However, the figures from the data revealed a reverse picture where almost half (49.%) of the victims' husband reached home late either frequently (30.5%) or daily (18.3%). The husbands of 28.5% of the victims however were late only occasionally. The remaining i.e., 22.5% was late only rarely. (*Refer table No. 15*)

District-wise analysis showed that Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kasargode districts figured prominently with 32%, 30% and 30% each of the husbands who came late daily. Among those who came late frequently, the districts of Thrissur, Pathanamthitta and Kannur topped with 47%, 43%, and 40% respectively

Table No. 15 Husband Reaching Home Late

District	Husband Reaching Home Late				
	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	9	25	34	32	
	9.0%	25.0%	34.0%	32.0%	
	3.5%	5.8%	8.5%	10.3%	
Kollam	5	37	57	1	
	5.0%	37.0%	57.0%	1.0%	
	2.0%	8.5%	14.3%	.3%	
Pathanamthitta	19	43	19	19	
	19.0%	43.0%	19.0%	19.0%	
	7.4%	9.9%	4.8%	6.1%	
Iddukki	22	16	44	18	
	22.0%	16.0%	44.0%	18.0%	
	8.6%	3.7%	11.0%	5.8%	
Alappuzha	30	17	30	23	
	30.0%	17.0%	30.0%	23.0%	
	11.7%	3.9%	7.5%	7.4%	
Kottayam	8	25	42	25	
	8.0%	25.0%	42.0%	25.0%	
	3.1%	5.8%	10.5%	8.0%	
Ernakulam	32	30	15	23	
	32.0%	30.0%	15.0%	23.0%	
	12.5%	6.9%	3.8%	7.4%	
Thrissur	13	47	18	22	
	13.0%	47.0%	18.0%	22.0%	
	5.1%	10.9%	4.5%	7.1%	
Palakkad	18	24	24	34	
	18.0%	24.0%	24.0%	34.0%	
	7.0%	5.5%	6.0%	10.9%	
Malappuram	10	29	25	36	
	10.0%	29.0%	25.0%	36.0%	
	3.9%	6.7%	6.3%	11.5%	
Wynad	22	32	24	22	
	22.0%	32.0%	24.0%	22.0%	
	8.6%	7.4%	6.0%	7.1%	
Kozhikode	21	33	32	14	
	21.0%	33.0%	32.0%	14.0%	
	8.2%	7.6%	8.0%	4.5%	
Kannur	17	40	19	24	
	17.0%	40.0%	19.0%	24.0%	
	6.6%	9.2%	4.8%	7.7%	
Kasargode	30	35	16	19	
	30.0%	35.0%	16.0%	19.0%	
	11.7%	8.1%	4.0%	6.1%	
Total	256	433	399	312	
	18.3%	30.9%	28.5%	22.3%	
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

Among the various vices that contributed to the magnitude of domestic violence, Alcoholism and drug addiction had a major role. The figures from the data showed that among the respondents, majority (75.4%) of the victims' husbands were alcoholic. Of this, a greater number was from Kollam (9.5%) followed by Kottayam, Wynad and Kozhikkode with an equal distribution of 7.8% each. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the other districts are exempted from this menace rather its prevalence was rampant in all the districts. (Refer table No. 16)

Use of drug, however was comparatively low with only 15.2%. This was found higher in the districts of Iddukki, Malappuram, and Thrissur with 17.8%, 15.5%, and 12.3% each. Low figures should not undermine the need to check the menace of drug addiction, as that would have a greater repercussion in future by its growth far and wide. (Refer table No. 16)

Involvement in Gambling/Gangsterism and Extra Marital Affairs.

Time and money erodes when one involves in gambling, extra marital affairs and gangsterism. This ultimately leads to dissipation of life as addiction to these de-links one from his ties with the family members and members in the society. On such occasions, one by mere inclination resorts to violence, as he/she feels angry with every one. This could contribute to domestic violence, as his demands would be much greater in all respects.

The study revealed that 31.3%, 14.9% and 24.1% of the husbands of the victims were involved in gambling, gangsterism, and extra marital affairs respectively. (Refer table No. 17)

Table No. 16 Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

	District	Alcoholism	Drug Addiction
1.	Trivandrum	54 54.0% (5.1%)	3 (3.0%, 1.4%)
2.	Kollam	100 100.0% (9.5%)	11 11.0% (5.2%)

3.	Pathanamthitta	72 72.0%(6.8%)	11 11.0% (5.2%)
4.	Iddukki	74 74.0% (7.0%)	38 38.0%(17.8%)
5.	Alappuzha	80 80.0% (7.6%)	2 2.0% (.9%)
6.	Kottayam	82 82.0% (7.8%)	12 12.0% (5.6%)
7.	Ernakulam	70 70.0% (6.6%)	13 13.0% (6.1%)
8.	Thrissur	80 80.0% (7.6%)	27 27.0% (12.7%)
9.	Palakkad	61 61.0% (5.8%)	8 8.0% (3.8%)
10	Malappuram	70 70.0% (6.6%)	33 33.0% (15.5%)
11	Wynad	82 82.0% (7.8%)	15 15.0% (7.0%)
12	Kozhikode	82 82.0% (7.8%)	18 18.0% (8.5%)
13	Kannur	68 68.0% (6.4%)	15 15.0% (7.0%)
14	Kasargode	80 80.0% (7.6%)	7 7.0% (3.3%)
	Total	1055 75.4% (100.0%)	213 15.2% (100.0%)

Table No. 17 Involvement in Gambling/Gangsterism/
Extramarital Affairs

		Gambling	Gangsterism	Extra Marital Affairs
1.	Trivandrum	2 2.0%(.5%)	1 1.0% (.5%)	29 29.0% (8.6%)
2.	Kollam	87 87.0% (19.9%)	40 40.0% (19.2%)	17 17.0% (5.0%)
3.	Pathanamthitta	28 28.0% (6.4%)	13 13.0% (6.3%)	33 33.0% (9.8%)
4.	Iddukki	24 24.0% (5.5%)	31 31.0%(14.9%)	28 28.0%(8.3%)
5.	Alappuzha	26 26.0% (5.9%)	14 14.0% (6.7%)	13 13.0% (3.9%)
6.	Kottayam	32 32.0%(7.3%)	15 15.0%(7.2%)	13 13.0%(3.9%)
7.	Ernakulam	13 13.0%(3.0%)	11 11.0%(5.3%)	35 35.0%(10.4%)
8.	Thrissur	39 39.0%(8.9%)	16 16.0%(7.7%)	19 19.0%(5.6%)
9.	Palakkad	38 38.0%(8.7%)	4 4.0%(1.9%)	12 12.0%(3.6%)
10.	Malappuram		1 1.0%(.5%)	19 19.0%(5.6%)
11.	Wynad	35 35.0%(8.0%)	15 15.0%(7.2%)	21 21.0%(6.2%)
12.	Kozhikode	42 42.0%(9.6%)	24 24.0%(11.5%)	39 39.0%(11.6%)
13.	Kannur	27 27.0%(6.2%)	10 10.0%(4.8%)	39 39.0%(11.6%)
14.	Kasargode	45 45.0%(10.3%)	13 13.0%(6.3%)	20 20.0%(5.9%)
	Total	438 31.3%(100.0%)	208 14.9%(100.%)	337 24.1%(100.0)%

In-depth analysis showed that the district of Kollam topped in the number of those who were engaged in gambling and gangsterism with 19.9% and 19.2 each. Extra marital affairs were found to be higher at Kozhikkode and Kannur districts with 11% each. The employment nature and geographical peculiarities could have contributed to this rise in number.

Evidently one cannot close his/her eyes to these vices saying that these do not result in domestic violence. In line with the proverb that every action has a reaction, the immoral and indisciplined way of life would have its impact on the life of the person, family and society. Hence, these vices undoubtedly claimed to factors that contributed to domestic violence.

Spending time Together

Moments of privacy and togetherness very often sweep away the little bickerings that crop up in life. Absence or lack of such moments makes even small problems a big one. The smoke thus turns out to be huge flames. The study depicted that almost half of the victims (48.7%) did not spend time with their husbands at home. This indeed is a lacunae that could have led to the fireworks at home. Probably an absence in this regard could be due to the employment nature. Yet, the need for such moments cannot be ignored as that could make the family bonds stronger.

In short, the characteristics of the husband such as alcoholism, extramarital affairs, gambling, and drug addiction do contribute to the onset and perpetuation of domestic violence at home. Moreover, the data invariably showed that families should take efforts to find sometimes everyday to sit together and share their anxieties and problems. This would perhaps contribute greatly in turning the houses into homes.

Characteristics of the in-laws

Among the victims 44.4% were residing with their in-laws, the remaining however, was living independently on their own. Of this, majority i.e., 56% stated that they did not join together for meals and prayers. Lack of these get together occasions should be considered as a serious matter especially in a world, which has become very competitive and consumeristic due to globalization and liberalization. History proves that unity within families was much stronger during the earlier system of joint family in spite of the drawbacks it had. It is therefore warranted that adherence to the values/customs of the old will undoubtedly strengthen the bond of relationship that exists within the family and thereby contribute greatly in decreasing/reducing domestic violence.

Inflicting of Physical/Psychological violence by in-laws

Concerning physical violence (*violence on the body*) inflicted by the in-laws, majority (69.2%) stated that they were not physically hurt by the in-laws. However, it was vice versa regarding the psychological violence (*violence on the mind*) inflicted, as 67% of them mentioned on the affirmative. It is obvious from the above that in-laws inflict more psychological violence than physical violence.

Instigating for harassment

In-laws instigating the husbands for harassing their wives are a common complaint by the women. The data too are in conformity with the same belief as more than sixty percent (61.3%) of the respondents opined that the in-laws are behind the attacks by the husbands. (Refer Table No. 18)

The features of the in-laws thus pointed out that they mostly cause psychological violence and instigate the husbands to harass their wives.

Table No. 18 Instigation of Husband for Harassment by In-laws

District	Instigation for Harrassment			Total
	N.A	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	58	20	22	100
	58.0%	20.0%	22.0%	100.0
	7.4%	5.2%	9.2%	7.1
Kollam	76	14	10	100
	76.0%	14.0%	10.0%	100.0
	9.8%	3.7%	4.2%	7.1
Pathanamthitta	57	29	14	100
	57.0%	29.0%	14.0%	100.0
	7.3%	7.6%	5.8%	7.1
Iddukki	83	11	6	100
	83.0%	11.0%	6.0%	100.0
	10.7%	2.9%	2.5%	7.1
Alappuzha	56	34	10	100
	56.0%	34.0%	10.0%	100.0
	7.2%	8.9%	4.2%	7.1
Kottayam	68	15	17	100
	68.0%	15.0%	17.0%	100.0
	8.7%	3.9%	7.1%	7.1
Ernakulam	25	49	26	100
	25.0%	49.0%	26.0%	100.0
	3.2%	12.9%	10.8%	7.1
Thrissur	66	17	17	100
	66.0%	17.0%	17.0%	100.0
	8.5%	4.5%	7.1%	7.1
Palakkad	44	36	20	100
	44.0%	36.0%	20.0%	100.0
	5.6%	9.4%	8.3%	7.1
Malappuram	55	37	8	100
	55.0%	37.0%	8.0%	100.0
	7.1%	9.7%	3.3%	7.1
Wynad	36	37	27	100
	36.0%	37.0%	27.0%	100.0
	4.6%	9.7%	11.3%	7.1
Kozhikode	71	15	14	100
	71.0%	15.0%	14.0%	100.0
	9.1%	3.9%	5.8%	7.1
Kannur	25	45	30	100
	25.0%	45.0%	30.0%	100.0
	3.2%	11.8%	12.5%	7.1
Kasargode	59	22	19	100
	59.0%	22.0%	19.0%	100.0
	7.6%	5.8%	7.9%	7.1
Total	779	381	240	1400
	55.6%	27.2%	17.1%	100.0
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0

2.3 Causes of Domestic Violence

At least one in 10 married women in Kerala has experienced domestic violence at some time or the other since the age of 15. This has evoked a number of questions within the minds of several. What could be the leading factors that result in domestic violence was a major aim of the study. Subsequently, a detailed probe had been undertaken to unearth the major causes/ reasons that lead to domestic violence. Each respondent was asked to rank four major reasons/causes – (first cause, second cause, third cause and fourth cause) according to the intensity and frequency with which they experienced the brutality of domestic violence in the form of physical as well as psychological. Accordingly, the causes have been analysed separately.

First Cause

It is obvious from the data gathered that the prime or most common cause for the occurrence of violence was the Alcoholic nature of the husbands. 48.7% of the victims cited this as the main reason. Extra marital affairs and dowry were the other major factors that often lead to domestic violence. 12.1% and 10.2% of the victims mentioned the above in this regard. Among the rest, 8.1% and 5.5% of the victims stated suspicion and financial constraints as the leading factors for domestic violence. Difference in the social status of the partners and sexual maladjustment as the prime reason for domestic violence was recorded by 2.1% and 2.2% of the victims respectively. A minor group each opined property dispute, not attending to household chores, sterility of either of the spouse, employment of wife, mental disorders, job dissatisfaction of the husbands etc as the causes that lead to domestic violence.

District-wise analysis revealed that the district of Kollam had an overwhelming number of victims (86%) who mentioned alcoholism as the major reason. Wayanad and Kottayam districts followed it with 69% and 68%. The nature of work as well as the economic status of the households could be the contributory factors for this high percentage. (Refer Table No. 19)

Among the extra-marital affair cases the districts of Ernakulam and Kannur had higher number with 24% and 22% each. Iddukki, Pathanamthitta and Kozhikkode districts seconded the above with 17%each. The geographical peculiarities, migration, and educational level of the population would have contributed to this high number. Dowry as a major cause was figured in Alappuzha and Malappuram districts with 21% and 20% each.. (*Refer Table No. 19*)

Second Cause

Among the various causes mentioned financial constraints emerged as the second major cause that lead to domestic violence. 27% of the victims favoured this. Alcoholism was ranked as the second by 17% of the victims, Suspicion and dowry were cited by 11.2% and 8.6% of the victims. The other prominent groups were those who mentioned ‘not attending to household chores’, ‘extra marital affairs’ and ‘difference in social status’ as the second major reason with a distribution of 7.4%, 6.1% and 6% each of the victims. Among the others, a minor group each stated ‘property dispute’, ‘sexual maladjustment’, ‘not looking after children’, ‘lack of property’ etc. as the reason that lead to domestic violence..(*Refer Table No. 20*)

Table No. 19 District Vs Prime Cause of Domestic Violence

The district-wise profile showed that a greater number (48% & 37%) of the victims in Kottayam and Kozhikkode districts mentioned financial constraints as the second major reason for domestic violence. Among the Alcoholic cases, it was the districts of Malappuram and Ernakulam that figured prominently with 29% and 28% of the victims. Alappuzha and Kannur districts followed the above with 23% each. *.(Refer Table No. 20)*

Dowry leading to domestic violence was reported comparatively higher in the districts of Alappuzha, Palakkad and Malappuram districts with 13% each. Suspicion as the second leading cause was reported comparatively higher in the districts of Kannur and Kollam with 23% and 22% each. The districts of Idukki and Wynad also recorded a notable number of cases with suspicion as the leading cause for domestic violence. *.(Refer Table No. 20)*

Third Cause

‘Financial constraints’ and ‘not attending to household chores’ were the third major reason cited by 14.4% each of the victims (14.4% each). Suspicion followed the above with 13.1%. Among the rest, 9% and 6.8% of the victims each mentioned property dispute and dowry as the reasons that contributed for domestic violence. Dowry and alcoholism as the third major cause was mentioned by 5.9% and 5.8% of those who had suffered the cruelties at home. The other reasons stated by the victims with corresponding percentages were: property dispute (5.3%) difference in social status (4.9%), extra marital affairs (3.7%) and sexual maladjustment (2.9%). A small percentage each opined not looking after children, sterility of either of the spouse, employment of wife, mental disorder, illness, job dissatisfaction of the husband as the reasons that result in domestic violence *(Refer Table No20.1).*

Table No 20 District Vs Second Cause of Domestic Violence

A probe into the district-wise variation showed that the district of Kasargode had comparatively higher number of victims (29%) with financial constraints. Districts of Thrissur and Palakkad with a distribution of 24% each succeeded the above. Similarly, among those (14.4%) who mentioned ‘not attending to household chores’ as the leading cause for domestic violence, the districts of Trivandrum and Pathanamthitta figured prominently with 35% and 28%.

Among the ones who mentioned ‘suspicion’ i.e., 13.1%, as the cause for domestic violence, the districts of Kasargode and Kannur had a higher number of victims with 26% and 21% respectively. ‘Lack of property’ as the reason for domestic violence was reported greatly in Palakkad and Malappuram districts with 15% and 11% each. Similarly, 19%, 18% and 17% of the victims from Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta and Wynad stated ‘not looking after the children’ as the cause that lead to domestic violence.

Fourth Cause

The fourth leading reason for domestic violence was stated as ‘not attending to household chores’ by 13.6% of the victims. Other major reasons reported in this regard included; ‘lack of property’ and ‘not looking after the children’ with a distribution of 13.1% and 12.4% each. ‘Financial constraint’ was yet another reason which was highlighted by 10.9% of the victims of domestic violence. ‘Extra marital affairs’, ‘sexual maladjustment’ and ‘property disputes’ too were worth mentioning as 9.5%, 7.9% and 6.9% cited these as the reasons that resulted in domestic violence.

A minimal percentage each mentioned ‘dowry’, ‘alcoholism’, ‘extramarital affairs’, ‘sterility of either of the spouses’, and ‘job dissatisfaction of the husband’ as the reasons that contributed to the onset of domestic violence.

District-wise distribution highlighted that a good number of victims from Pathanamthitta (27%), Palakkad (19%) and Kannur (18%) mentioned ‘not attending to household chores’ as the fourth reason for domestic violence. Regarding ‘Lack of property’, as the cause was comparatively higher in Kottayam and Wynad districts with 22% and 19% each. Similarly, among the

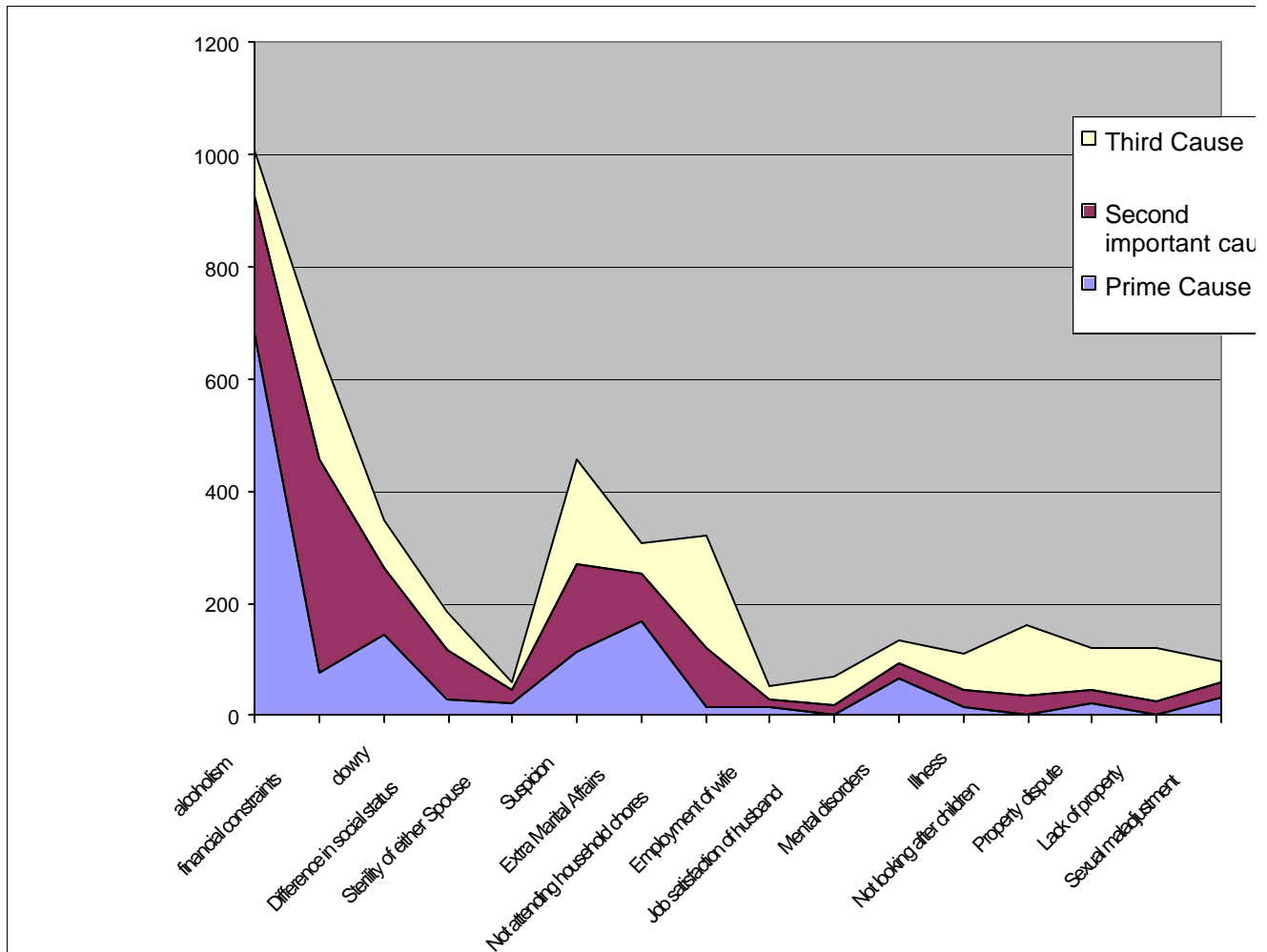
cases of ‘not looking after the children’ the districts of Trivandrum, Kollam and Wynad topped the list with 37%, 22% and 19% each.

Malappuram and Palakkad districts however, had a higher number of victims who opined ‘financial constraints’ as the reasons for domestic violence. 19% each had reported this as the cause. Cases of ‘suspicion’ were registered comparatively higher at Kasargode and Pathanamthitta districts with 23% and 16% respectively.

Among those who mentioned Sexual maladjustment as the cause that lead to domestic violence was reported by 29% and 21% each of the victims from the districts of Kollam and Kottayam.

To sum up, the preceding pages depicting the causes clearly stated that alcoholism, financial constraints, dowry, suspicion and not attending to household chores as the major reasons. Nonetheless, it does not undermine other significant causes such as extra-marital affairs, lack of property/ economic reasons etc. that lead to domestic violence. Withstanding all these, it could be mentioned that women in general do suffer a great deal at home – a place where they are supposed to be happy and secure.(Figure No.3)

Figure No. 3 Causes for Domestic Violence



As seen, there are a multitude of reasons that lead to domestic violence. All sprout from ones basic attitude and can be revoked or reversed if only all learn to recognize and accept each other. This should open the eyes of the society to rise upto the situation and take stringent measures with utmost care to deal with domestic violence. Moreover, a wider campaign against domestic violence needs to be undertaken by agencies on various issues that could result in domestic violence.

2.4 Nature/Manifestations and Frequency of Domestic Violence

Violence against wives has become a common problem in Kerala, as it is in many societies. The figures that come to light in this regard are startling. As

years pass by the manifestation of violence on women is taking different forms like hitting, beating, kicking, threatening using weapon, forced sex, demeaning, threatening, abandoning, infidelity etc. This section therefore, attempts to look into the nature/manifestation and frequency of the violence inflicted on women. Violence at home are manifested either in the form of physical or psychological. Each of these is inflicted in different ways. In order to have an in-depth understanding each has been dealt separately.

Physical Violence

Physical violence was assessed in terms of behaviours like hit, kick, beat, slap, threatening by using weapon, and forced sex. Domestic violence in the form of physical attack was a common feature for an overwhelming majority of the victims under study. The rest however, did not undergo any kind of physical violence. Physical violence was again probed at three levels i.e., the first (most common), second and third modes. The frequencies at which these modes occurred were also analysed.

First Mode (Most Common)- Nature / Manifestation

Beating was rated as the first mode (most common) of physical violence suffered by 27% of the victims. The wrath of husbands had to be suffered by 21% each of the wives in the form of *hitting* and *kicking* respectively. Among the rest, 11%, 1.6% and .6% of the victims had to succumb to *slapping*, *forced sex* and *threatening by using weapon* respectively. Informal discussions with the victims further revealed that a good number of these women had to face the attacks not only of one form but rather of different forms simultaneously. (Refer Table No. 21 & Figure No.4)

District level analysis of Nature/Manifestation

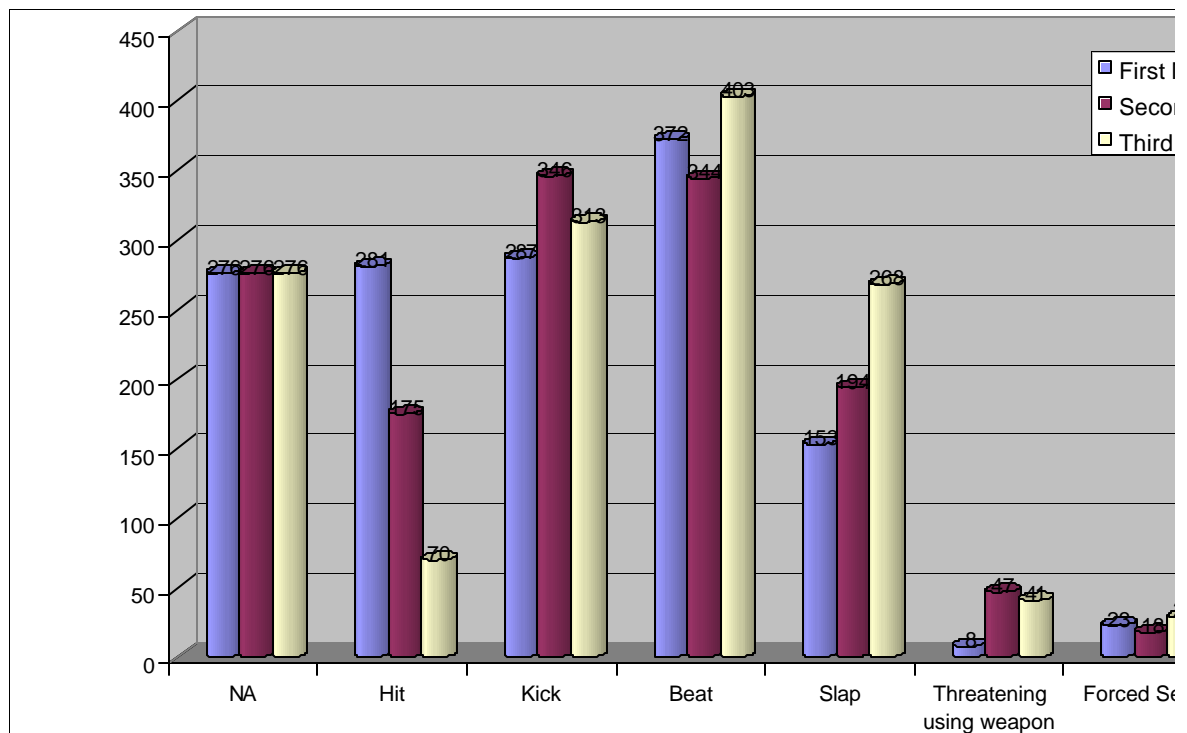
A district-wise profile of the nature/manifestation of domestic violence revealed that of all the cases of *beating* the district of Kollam occupied the prime place with 58% followed by Iddukki with 41%. Next to these, came Thrissur and Wynad districts with 37% each.

Regarding the figures on *hitting and kicking*, it could be noted that the districts of Wynad, Palakkad and Alappuzha figured prominently with 48%, 37% and 34% respectively. As against this, Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts had 46% and 31% each in hitting. Slapping figured prominently in Kasargode and Kannur districts with 30% and 25% each compared to other districts. (Refer Table No. 21 & Figure No.4)

Table No. 21 Nature/Manifestation of First mode of Physical Violence

District	Most Common Mode of Physical Violence						
	NA	Hit	Kick	Beat	Slap	Threatening using weapon	Forced Sex
Trivandrum	55 55.0% 19.9%	21 21.0% 7.5%	6 6.0% 2.1%	7 7.0% 1.9%	8 8.0% 5.2%		3 3.0% 13.0%
Kollam	2 2.0% .7%		31 31.0% 10.8%	58 58.0% 15.6%	9 9.0% 5.9%		
Pathanamthitta	12 12.0% 4.3%	17 17.0% 6.0%	45 45.0% 15.7%	25 25.0% 6.7%	1 1.0% .7%		
Iddukki	11 11.0% 4.0%	12 12.0% 4.3%	22 22.0% 7.7%	41 41.0% 11.0%	5 5.0% 3.3%	3 3.0% 37.5%	6 6.0% 26.1%
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.5%	33 33.0% 11.7%	30 30.0% 10.5%	15 15.0% 4.0%	4 4.0% 2.6%		
Kottayam		7 7.0% 2.5%	30 30.0% 10.5%	26 26.0% 7.0%	35 35.0% 22.9%		2 2.0% 8.7%
Ernakulam	27 27.0% 9.8%	29 29.0% 10.3%	4 4.0% 1.4%	33 33.0% 8.9%	4 4.0% 2.6%		3 3.0% 13.0%
Thrissur	8 8.0% 2.9%	26 26.0% 9.3%	17 17.0% 5.9%	37 37.0% 9.9%	12 12.0% 7.8%		
Palakkad	18 18.0% 6.5%	36 36.0% 12.8%	24 24.0% 8.4%	21 21.0% 5.6%	1 1.0% .7%		
Malappuram	66 66.0% 23.9%	10 10.0% 3.6%	13 13.0% 4.5%	10 10.0% 2.7%	1 1.0% .7%		
Wynad	10 10.0% 3.6%	47 47.0% 16.7%	2 2.0% .7%	38 38.0% 10.2%	1 1.0% .7%	1 1.0% 12.5%	1 1.0% 4.3%
Kozhikode	15 15.0% 5.4%	19 19.0% 6.8%	28 28.0% 9.8%	21 21.0% 5.6%	17 17.0% 11.1%		
Kannur	20 20.0% 7.2%	19 19.0% 6.8%	16 16.0% 5.6%	18 18.0% 4.8%	25 25.0% 16.3%	1 1.0% 12.5%	1 1.0% 4.3%
Kasargode	14 14.0% 5.1%	5 5.0% 1.8%	19 19.0% 6.6%	22 22.0% 5.9%	30 30.0% 19.6%	3 3.0% 37.5%	7 7.0% 30.4%
Total	276 19.7% 100.0%	281 20.1% 100%	287 20.5% 100.0%	372 26.6% 100%	153 10.9% 100.0%	8 .6% 100.0%	23 1.6% 100%

Figure No.4 Manifestation of Physical Violence



First Mode -Frequency

The victims also reported that in addition to the multiple forms, they experienced violence not once but several times in their life. The frequency with which they experienced the torture varied from daily to rarely. In general, the study proved that a good number of the victims i.e., 27% had to bear the physical violence *frequently*. 26.4% however, were physically ill-treated *occasionally*. Moreover, 17.1% had to bear the attacks *daily*.

(Refer Table No. 22)

A *District-wise analysis* of the data on the frequency of violence revealed that the percentage of women who had to bear attack daily was

slightly higher in Wyanad (20%) compared to other districts. Those who suffered physical violence 'Frequently' was comparatively higher in Kottayam district with 12.1%. The districts of Trivandrum and Wyand followed it with 9.9% and 9.7% respectively. *The reasons cited for the above were Alcoholism and Financial Constraints of the perpetrator.. (Refer Table No. 22)*

Co-relation between Nature/Manifestation and Frequency of violence

(First mode)

With regard to the frequency of various manifestations of the first mode by the victims, the data showed that *beating* as the first mode was experienced *daily*, *frequently* and *occasionally* by 14.2%, 42.7% and 31.7% of the victims respectively.

Whereas *hitting, kicking, slapping, Threatening using weapon and forced sex* was experienced on a *daily* basis by 40.9%, 25.1%, 7.7%, 1.3% and 2.6% respectively. Similarly, 25.2%, 14.5%, 13.1%, 3.5% and 1.1% of them suffered the violence *frequently* in the form of hitting, kicking, slapping, forced sex and threatening using weapon respectively. Those who went through violence *occasionally* were comparatively higher in *kicking* with 35.5%. (Refer Table No. 23)

The figures above indicated the magnitude and intensity of the violence that women suffer in silence at home. These are not mere statistics for a data bank but should turn to be an eye opener to the society on domestic violence and prompt steps to be taken minimize this phenomenon.

Table No. 22 Frequency of First Mode (Most common) of Physical Violence

District	Frequency					Tot
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	55 55.0% 19.9%	4 4.0% 1.7%	37 37.0% 9.9%	2 2.0% .6%	2 2.0% 1.3%	100. 7.
Kollam	2 2.0% .7%		27 27.0% 7.2%	68 68.0% 18.8%	3 3.0% 1.9%	100. 7.
Pathanamthitta	12 12.0% 4.3%	21 21.0% 8.9%	26 26.0% 7.0%	32 32.0% 8.9%	9 9.0% 5.8%	100. 7.
Iddukki	11 11.0% 4.0%	22 22.0% 9.4%	31 31.0% 8.3%	30 30.0% 8.3%	6 6.0% 3.9%	100. 7.
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.5%	38 38.0% 16.2%	18 18.0% 4.8%	15 15.0% 4.2%	11 11.0% 7.1%	100. 7.
Kottayam		18 18.0% 7.7%	45 45.0% 12.1%	22 22.0% 6.1%	15 15.0% 9.7%	100. 7.
Ernakulam	27 27.0% 9.8%	36 36.0% 15.3%	31 31.0% 8.3%	6 6.0% 1.7%		100. 7.
Thrissur	8 8.0% 2.9%	3 3.0% 1.3%	14 14.0% 3.8%	49 49.0% 13.6%	26 26.0% 16.8%	100. 7.
Palakkad	18 18.0% 6.5%	6 6.0% 2.6%	23 23.0% 6.2%	31 31.0% 8.6%	22 22.0% 14.2%	100. 7.
Malappuram	66 66.0% 23.9%	13 13.0% 5.5%	12 12.0% 3.2%	6 6.0% 1.7%	3 3.0% 1.9%	100. 7.
Wynad	10 10.0% 3.6%	47 47.0% 20.0%	36 36.0% 9.7%	4 4.0% 1.1%	3 3.0% 1.9%	100. 7.
Kozhikode	15 15.0% 5.4%	13 13.0% 5.5%	24 24.0% 6.4%	29 29.0% 8.0%	19 19.0% 12.3%	100. 7.
Kannur	20 20.0% 7.2%	12 12.0% 5.1%	25 25.0% 6.7%	28 28.0% 7.8%	15 15.0% 9.7%	100. 7.
Kasargode	14 14.0% 5.1%	2 2.0% .9%	24 24.0% 6.4%	39 39.0% 10.8%	21 21.0% 13.5%	100. 7.
Total	276 19.7% 100%	235 16.8% 100%	373 26.6% 100.0%	361 25.8% 100.0%	155 11.1% 100%	1000 100. 100.

* Upper & lower percentages depict row & column percentages

**Table No. 23 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of
First mode of Physical Violence**

First Mode	Frequency					Total
	.00	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
NA	276 100% 100%					100. 19.
Hit		96 34.2% 40.9%	94 33.5% 25.2%	54 19.2% 15.0%	37 13.2% 23.9%	100. 20.
Kick		59 20.6% 25.1%	54 18.8% 14.5%	128 44.6% 35.5%	46 16.0% 29.7%	100. 20.
Beat		53 14.2% 22.6%	159 42.7% 42.6%	118 31.7% 32.7%	42 11.3% 27.1%	100. 26.
Slap		18 11.8% 7.7%	49 32.0% 13.1%	56 36.6% 15.5%	30 19.6% 19.4%	100. 10.
Threatening using weapon		3 37.5% 1.3%	4 50.0% 1.1%	1 12.5% .3%		100. .
Forced Sex		6 26.1% 2.6%	13 56.5% 3.5%	4 17.4% 1.1%		100. 1.
Total	276 19.7% 100%	235 16.8% 100.0%	373 26.6% 100.0%	361 25.8% 100.0%	155 11.1% 100.0%	1. 100. 100.

Second Mode- Nature/Manifestation

Regarding the second mode of physical violence *kicking* topped the list with 25.4% of the victims reporting the same. *Beating* followed the above with 24.7%. *Hitting and slapping* were experienced by 13.8% and 12.8% of the victims respectively. *Threatening and forced sex* were stated by 1.5% and 1.3% of the victims each. (Refer Table No. 24 & Figure No.4)

District level Analysis of Nature/Manifestation

District-wise profile of the Manifestation of physical violence revealed Wyand as the district with 45% women suffering from *kicking* followed by Pathanamthitta and Palakkad districts with 38% and 36% respectively. Similarly, *beating* was comparatively higher in the districts of Kollam and Kottayam with a distribution of 47% and 41% each. This however, does not exempt or undermine the manifestation of the same in other districts where too the percentages were quite higher.

Concerning *slapping and hitting*, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts topped the others with 37% and 38% respectively. Absence of physical violence was recorded by a greater number of women (55%) in Malappuram district. Forced sex and threatening were stated by 3.5% and 1.3% of the victims respectively. (Refer Table No. 24)

Second Mode- Frequency

A look into the overall frequency of ill-treatment at the second mode showed that 28.8% and 24.3% of the women had to suffer '*occasional*' and '*frequent*' attacks by either the husbands or the in-laws. A small group of 4.9% had to face the tortures regularly on a *daily* basis just like the food intake. (Refer Table No. 25)

A *district-wise* probe revealed that infliction of physical violence on a *daily basis* was comparatively higher in the districts of Idukki, and Alappuzha with 23.1%, each. Concerning the *frequent* sufferers of the physical tortures, it was the districts of Pathanamthitta and Kollam that figured prominently with 12.3% and 11.4% each. Those who experienced *occasionally* were greater in Kottayam and Wyand with 15.2% and 12.7% respectively. (Refer Table No. 25)

Co-relation between Nature/Manifestation and Frequency of violence

(Second mode)

With regard to the frequency of various manifestations of the second mode, the data showed that *kicking* as the second mode was experienced *daily, frequently and occasionally* by 4.1%, 32% and 31.4% of the victims respectively. *Beating* was

suffered *daily* by 4.1% and *frequently* by 32% respectively. Among those who experienced *slapping and threatening* by weapon a good number (36.6% & 42.6%) had to suffer these atrocities *occasionally*. (Refer Table No. 26)

Third Mode- Nature/Manifestation

An overall picture of the third mode revealed that *beating* was experienced by 29.9% of the respondents. *Kicking and slapping* were the manifestations that followed the above with 22.8% and 19.7% respectively. Among the rest, 4.8% 2.9% and 1.8% each had to suffer *hitting, threatening and forced sex* respectively. (Refer Table No.27)

District level Analysis of Nature/Manifestation

A district-wise probe showed that *beating*, as manifestation was greater in the districts of Kottayam, Kollam and Kozhikkode with 48%, 46% and 43% each. This was followed by *Kicking and slapping* figuring prominently in Pathatnamthitta and Kasargode districts with 40% and 44% respectively. (Refer Table No.27)

A common scene was that in all the three modes of manifestations beating, kicking, and hitting was quite rampant in all the districts. However, slight variations could be noticed.

Table No. 24 Nature/Manifestation of Second mode of Physical Violence

District	Second mode of Physical attack					
	NA	Kick	Beat	Slap	Threatening	Forced sex
Trivandrum	55 55.0% 19.9%	17 17.0% 4.9%	10 10.0% 2.9%	3 3.0% 1.5%	5 5.0% 10.6%	
Kollam	2 2.0% .7%	35 35.0% 10.1%	47 47.0% 13.7%	12 12.0% 6.2%		
Pathanamthitta	12 12.0% 4.3%	38 38.0% 11.0%	35 35.0% 10.2%	11 11.0% 5.7%	1 1.0% 2.1%	
Iddukki	11 11.0% 4.0%	20 20.0% 5.8%	30 30.0% 8.7%	13 13.0% 6.7%	5 5.0% 10.6%	2 2.0% 11.1%
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.5%	28 28.0% 8.1%	28 28.0% 8.1%	16 16.0% 8.2%		
Kottayam		23 23.0% 6.6%	41 41.0% 11.9%	12 12.0% 6.2%	11 11.0% 23.4%	8 8.0% 44.4%
Ernakulam	27 27.0% 9.8%	18 18.0% 5.2%	8 8.0% 2.3%	4 4.0% 2.1%	10 10.0% 21.3%	1 1.0% 5.6%
Thrissur	8 8.0% 2.9%	17 17.0% 4.9%	29 29.0% 8.4%	37 37.0% 19.1%		
Palakkad	18 18.0% 6.5%	36 36.0% 10.4%	32 32.0% 9.3%	7 7.0% 3.6%		
Malappuram	66 66.0% 23.9%	6 6.0% 1.7%	16 16.0% 4.7%	2 2.0% 1.0%		
Wynad	10 10.0% 3.6%	45 45.0% 13.0%	13 13.0% 3.8%	1 1.0% .5%	3 3.0% 6.4%	
Kozhikode	15 15.0% 5.4%	25 25.0% 7.2%	30 30.0% 8.7%	14 14.0% 7.2%	2 2.0% 4.3%	1 1.0% 5.6%
Kannur	20 20.0% 7.2%	19 19.0% 5.5%	13 13.0% 3.8%	31 31.0% 16.0%	4 4.0% 8.5%	5 5.0% 27.8%
Kasargode	14 14.0% 5.1%	19 19.0% 5.5%	12 12.0% 3.5%	31 31.0% 16.0%	6 6.0% 12.8%	1 1.0% 5.6%
Total	276 19.7% 100%	346 24.7% 100%	344 24.6% 100%	194 13.9% 100%	47 3.4% 100.0%	18 1.3% 100%

** Upper & lower percentages depict row & column percentages*

Table No. 25 Frequency of Second Mode of Physical Violence

District	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	56 56.0% 20.1%		8 8.0% 2.4%	30 30.0% 7.5%	6 6.0% 1.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	2 2.0% .7%		38 38.0% 11.4%	25 25.0% 6.2%	35 35.0% 10.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	12 12.0% 4.3%	6 6.0% 9.2%	41 41.0% 12.3%	20 20.0% 5.0%	21 21.0% 6.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	11 11.0% 3.9%	15 15.0% 23.1%	20 20.0% 6.0%	26 26.0% 6.5%	28 28.0% 8.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.5%	15 15.0% 23.1%	33 33.0% 9.9%	21 21.0% 5.2%	13 13.0% 4.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam		4 4.0% 6.2%	20 20.0% 6.0%	61 61.0% 15.2%	15 15.0% 4.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	27 27.0% 9.7%	3 3.0% 4.6%	26 26.0% 7.8%	40 40.0% 10.0%	4 4.0% 1.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	8 8.0% 2.9%	4 4.0% 6.2%	23 23.0% 6.9%	27 27.0% 6.7%	38 38.0% 11.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	18 18.0% 6.5%	5 5.0% 7.7%	18 18.0% 5.4%	25 25.0% 6.2%	34 34.0% 10.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	66 66.0% 23.7%	3 3.0% 4.6%	12 12.0% 3.6%	8 8.0% 2.0%	11 11.0% 3.4%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	11 11.0% 3.9%	1 1.0% 1.5%	29 29.0% 8.7%	51 51.0% 12.7%	8 8.0% 2.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	16 16.0% 5.7%	4 4.0% 6.2%	28 28.0% 8.4%	26 26.0% 6.5%	26 26.0% 8.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	20 20.0% 7.2%	5 5.0% 7.7%	23 23.0% 6.9%	19 19.0% 4.7%	33 33.0% 10.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	14 14.0% 5.0%		13 13.0% 3.9%	22 22.0% 5.5%	51 51.0% 15.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	279 19.9% 100.0%	65 4.6% 100.0%	332 23.7% 100.0%	401 28.6% 100.0%	323 23.1% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

**Table No. 26 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of
Second mode of Physical Violence**

Second Mode	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Na	279 100.0% 100.0%					279 100.0% 100.0%
Hit		12 6.9% 18.5%	42 24.1% 12.7%	73 42.0% 18.2%	47 27.0% 14.6%	174 100.0% 12.4%
Kick		25 7.2% 38.5%	98 28.3% 29.5%	120 34.7% 29.9%	103 29.8% 31.9%	346 100.0% 24.7%
Beat		14 4.1% 21.5%	110 32.0% 33.1%	108 31.4% 26.9%	112 32.6% 34.7%	344 100.0% 24.6%
Slap		10 5.2% 15.4%	60 31.3% 18.1%	71 37.0% 17.7%	51 26.6% 15.8%	192 100.0% 13.7%
Threatening		2 4.3% 3.1%	18 38.3% 5.4%	20 42.6% 5.0%	7 14.9% 2.2%	47 100.0% 3.4%
Forced sex		2 11.1% 3.1%	4 22.2% 1.2%	9 50.0% 2.2%	3 16.7% .9%	18 100.0% 1.3%
Total	279 19.9% 100.0%	65 4.6% 100.0%	332 23.7% 100.0%	401 28.6% 100.0%	323 23.1% 100.0%	1475 100.0% 100.0%

Table No. 27 Nature/Manifestation of Third mode of Physical Violence

District	Third Mode of Physical Attack						
	NA	Kick	Beat	slap	Threat ening	Forced sex	Others
Trivandrum	55 55.0% 19.9%	10 10.0% 3.2%	20 20.0% 5.0%	8 8.0% 3.0%	4 4.0% 9.8%		
Kollam	2 2.0% .7%	29 29.0% 9.3%	39 39.0% 9.7%	21 21.0% 7.8%	2 2.0% 4.9%	2 2.0% 7.4%	2 2.0% 100%
Pathanamthitta	12 12.0% 4.3%	40 40.0% 12.8%	36 36.0% 8.9%	12 12.0% 4.5%			
Iddukki	11 11.0% 4.0%	29 29.0% 9.3%	21 21.0% 5.2%	23 23.0% 8.6%		1 1.0% 3.7%	
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.5%	13 13.0% 4.2%	37 37.0% 9.2%	22 22.0% 8.2%	2 2.0% 4.9%	2 2.0% 7.4%	
Kottayam		11 11.0% 3.5%	48 48.0% 11.9%	11 11.0% 4.1%	9 9.0% 22.0%	18 18.0% 66.7%	
Ernakulam	27 27.0% 9.8%	36 36.0% 11.5%	18 18.0% 4.5%	6 6.0% 2.2%	6 6.0% 14.6%		
Thrissur	8 8.0% 2.9%	18 18.0% 5.8%	27 27.0% 6.7%	41 41.0% 15.3%	1 1.0% 2.4%		
Palakkad	18 18.0% 6.5%	31 31.0% 9.9%	35 35.0% 8.7%	14 14.0% 5.2%			
Malappuram	66 66.0% 23.9%	8 8.0% 2.6%	14 14.0% 3.5%	6 6.0% 2.2%	3 3.0% 7.3%	1 1.0% 3.7%	
Wynad	10 10.0% 3.6%	33 33.0% 10.5%	37 37.0% 9.2%	12 12.0% 4.5%			
Kozhikode	15 15.0% 5.4%	22 22.0% 7.0%	43 43.0% 10.7%	15 15.0% 5.6%			
Kannur	20 20.0% 7.2%	17 17.0% 5.4%	13 13.0% 3.2%	33 33.0% 12.3%	9 9.0% 22.0%	2 2.0% 7.4%	
Kasargode	14 14.0% 5.1%	16 16.0% 5.1%	15 15.0% 3.7%	44 44.0% 16.4%	5 5.0% 12.2%	1 1.0% 3.7%	
Total	276 19.7% 100.0%	313 22.4% 100%	403 28.8% 100%	268 19.1% 100%	41 2.9% 100.0%	27 1.9% 100%	2 .1% 100%

Third Mode- Frequency

An overall level of the frequency of the third mode of attack revealed that the ‘rare’ and ‘occasional’ attacks were experienced by 32.1% and 29.4% of the victims. 16.5% and 3.4% had to suffer the attacks *frequently* and *daily* too. (Refer Table No.28)

District level figure showed that physical violence as the third mode was experienced on a *daily* basis by 17.8% of the victims each in Palakkad and Kottayam districts followed by Alappuzha district with 13.3%. Those who suffered the violence *frequently* were comparatively higher in the districts of Thrissur, Palakkad and Iddukki districts with 14.8%, 11.8% and 10.% each. The *occasional* sufferers of physical violence were comparatively more in Wynad and Kottayam districts with 14.1% and 13.9% each (Refer Table No.28)

Co-relation between Nature/Manifestation and Frequency

(Third mode)

It was surprising to note that **beating** was reported as the third mode of physical attack experienced *daily* by 37.8% of the victims. Those who suffered violence *frequently* and *occasionally* were 41.9%, & 31.6% each.

After beating, *kicking* was the mode, which was seen to be prevalent on a *daily frequently* and *occasional* basis in the case of 33.3%, 24.9% and 29.4% respectively. The magnitude of slapping was seen to be *frequent* and *occasional* in the case of 27.1% and 22.6% respectively. (Refer Table No.29)

Table No. 28 Frequency of Third mode of Physical Violence

District	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	55		9	29	7	100
	55.0%		9.0%	29.0%	7.0%	100.0%
	19.9%		3.9%	7.1%	1.6%	7.1%
Kollam	2	4	23	26	45	100
	2.0%	4.0%	23.0%	26.0%	45.0%	100.0%
	.7%	8.9%	10.0%	6.3%	10.3%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	12	8	5	17	58	100
	12.0%	8.0%	5.0%	17.0%	58.0%	100.0%
	4.3%	17.8%	2.2%	4.1%	13.2%	7.1%
Iddukki	11	2	24	40	23	100
	11.0%	2.0%	24.0%	40.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	4.0%	4.4%	10.5%	9.7%	5.2%	7.1%
Alappuzha	18	6	19	13	44	100
	18.0%	6.0%	19.0%	13.0%	44.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	13.3%	8.3%	3.2%	10.0%	7.1%
Kottayam		8	7	57	28	100
		8.0%	7.0%	57.0%	28.0%	100.0%
		17.8%	3.1%	13.9%	6.4%	7.1%
Ernakulam	27	2	19	40	12	100
	27.0%	2.0%	19.0%	40.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	9.8%	4.4%	8.3%	9.7%	2.7%	7.1%
Thrissur	8	3	34	23	32	100
	8.0%	3.0%	34.0%	23.0%	32.0%	100.0%
	2.9%	6.7%	14.8%	5.6%	7.3%	7.1%
Palakkad	18	2	27	19	34	100
	18.0%	2.0%	27.0%	19.0%	34.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	4.4%	11.8%	4.6%	7.7%	7.1%
Malappuram	66	4	2	13	15	100
	66.0%	4.0%	2.0%	13.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	23.9%	8.9%	.9%	3.2%	3.4%	7.1%
Wynad	10	1	18	58	13	100
	10.0%	1.0%	18.0%	58.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	3.6%	2.2%	7.9%	14.1%	3.0%	7.1%
Kozhikode	15	4	22	30	29	100
	15.0%	4.0%	22.0%	30.0%	29.0%	100.0%
	5.4%	8.9%	9.6%	7.3%	6.6%	7.1%
Kannur	20	1	8	18	53	100
	20.0%	1.0%	8.0%	18.0%	53.0%	100.0%
	7.2%	2.2%	3.5%	4.4%	12.1%	7.1%
Kasargode	14		12	28	46	100
	14.0%		12.0%	28.0%	46.0%	100.0%
	5.1%		5.2%	6.8%	10.5%	7.1%
Total	276	45	229	411	439	1400
	19.7%	3.2%	16.4%	29.4%	31.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table No. 29 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of
Third mode of Physical Violence**

3rd mode	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
NA	276 99.6% 100.0%		1 .4% .4%			277 100.0% 19.8%
Hit		6 8.6% 13.3%	6 8.6% 2.6%	29 41.4% 7.1%	29 41.4% 6.6%	70 100.0% 5.0%
Kick		15 4.8% 33.3%	57 18.2% 24.9%	121 38.7% 29.4%	120 38.3% 27.3%	313 100.0% 22.4%
Beat		17 4.2% 37.8%	96 23.8% 41.9%	130 32.3% 31.6%	160 39.7% 36.4%	403 100.0% 28.8%
slap		5 1.9% 11.1%	62 23.2% 27.1%	93 34.8% 22.6%	107 40.1% 24.4%	267 100.0% 19.1%
Threatening		1 2.4% 2.2%	3 7.3% 1.3%	17 41.5% 4.1%	20 48.8% 4.6%	41 100.0% 2.9%
Forced sed		1 3.7% 2.2%	3 11.1% 1.3%	20 74.1% 4.9%	3 11.1% .7%	27 100.0% 1.9%
Others			1 50.0% .4%	1 50.0% .2%		2 100.0% .1%
Total	276 19.7% 100.0%	45 3.2% 100.0%	229 16.4% 100.0%	411 29.4% 100.0%	439 31.4% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

In gist, the physical tortures inflicted by either the husbands or in-laws take different forms. Furthermore, in several cases the women had to suffer the different manifestations of physical violence viz. beating, hitting, slapping and kicking simultaneously, which adversely affect their health status.

The figures at the frequency level of each mode of manifestation pointed to the fact that a good number of women had to suffer the tortures on a regular basis. Both the manifestations and frequency level of physical attacks indeed, highlighted the deplorable conditions of women especially at the lower strata. This should prompt the society at large to form community watch groups to defuse the phenomenon of physical violence to a minimal level.

Psychological Violence

Psychological torture was rampant in domestic violence.

The data revealed that excluding a minor group of 2.9% all others had experienced mental strain in one form or the other due to domestic violence. The psychological violence faced by women commonly included: Demeaning, Threatening, Abandoning and infidelity. Psychological violence was again probed at three levels i.e., the first (most common), second and third modes. The frequencies at which these modes occurred were also analyzed.

First mode (Most common mode)- Nature/Manifestation

In general, according to 38.6% of the respondents, *demeaning* was the most common mode of psychological violence followed by 28% and 15.9% stating *threatening* and *abandoning* as the first mode. *Infidelity* was next to the above with 14.6%. (Refer Table No. 30 & Figure No.5)

District level Analysis of Nature/Manifestation

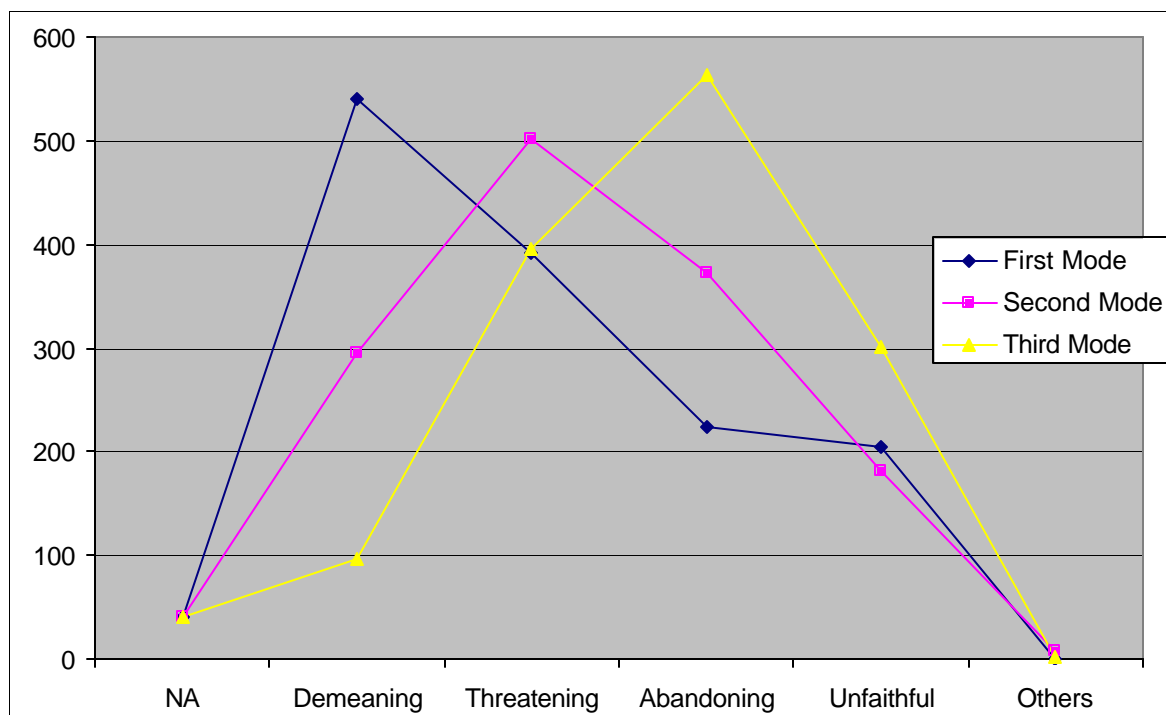
District-wise analysis portrayed that *demeaning* as a manifestation of Psychological violence was occurring greatly in the districts of Kannur Palakkad, Wynad, Alappuzha, and Trivandrum. In all these districts more than 50% of them had mentioned this as top most common mode.

Psychological violence in the form of *threatening* was comparatively higher in the districts of Kozhikkode and Pathanamthitta with 48% and 47% respectively. Whereas *abandoning* was common in Kollam and Thrissur districts with 46% and 38% respectively. *Infidelity* was found to be 35% and 34% in Kasargodu and Ernakulam districts respectively.

Table No. 30 Nature/Manifestation of First mode of Psychological Violence

District	Most Common Mode of Psychological Violence				
	NA	Demeaning	Threatening	Abandoning	Unfaithful
Trivandrum	5 5.0% 12.5%	51 51.0% 9.4%	13 13.0% 3.3%	10 10.0% 4.5%	21 21.0% 10.2%
Kollam	11 11.0% 27.5%	4 4.0% .7%	38 38.0% 9.7%	46 46.0% 20.6%	1 1.0% .5%
Pathanamthitta		35 35.0% 6.5%	47 47.0% 12.0%	16 16.0% 7.2%	2 2.0% 1.0%
Iddukki		35 35.0% 6.5%	25 25.0% 6.4%	13 13.0% 5.8%	27 27.0% 13.2%
Alappuzha	1 1.0% 2.5%	54 54.0% 10.0%	31 31.0% 7.9%	11 11.0% 4.9%	3 3.0% 1.5%
Kottayam	1 1.0% 2.5%	43 43.0% 8.0%	39 39.0% 9.9%	13 13.0% 5.8%	4 4.0% 2.0%
Ernakulam	2 2.0% 5.0%	37 37.0% 6.9%	16 16.0% 4.1%	11 11.0% 4.9%	34 34.0% 16.6%
Thrissur	1 1.0% 2.5%	26 26.0% 4.8%	22 22.0% 5.6%	38 38.0% 17.0%	13 13.0% 6.3%
Palakkad	3 3.0% 7.5%	68 68.0% 12.6%	19 19.0% 4.8%	6 6.0% 2.7%	4 4.0% 2.0%
Malappuram	16 16.0% 40.0%	26 26.0% 4.8%	32 32.0% 8.2%	12 12.0% 5.4%	14 14.0% 6.8%
Wynad		56 56.0% 10.4%	21 21.0% 5.4%	9 9.0% 4.0%	14 14.0% 6.8%
Kozhikode		33 33.0% 6.1%	48 48.0% 12.2%	9 9.0% 4.0%	10 10.0% 4.9%
Kannur		50 50.0% 9.3%	17 17.0% 4.3%	10 10.0% 4.5%	23 23.0% 11.2%
Kasargode		22 22.0% 4.1%	24 24.0% 6.1%	19 19.0% 8.5%	35 35.0% 17.1%
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	540 38.6% 100.0%	392 28.0% 100.0%	223 15.9% 100.0%	205 14.6% 100.0%

Figure No. 5 Nature/Manifestation of Psychological Violence



First Mode- Frequency

The overall frequency at which the first mode of Psychological violence was manifested showed that 25.7% of women had to suffer it on a *daily* basis. Among the rest, 40.4%, 20.1% and 10.9% each stated experiencing psychological violence on a *frequent*, and *occasional* basis.

As seen from the table, the victims who experienced psychological violence either daily, frequently or occasionally were great in number compared to physical violence. This points to the extent of psychological strain that women bear in silence. (*Refer Table No. 31*)

The *district-wise* analysis of the data on the frequency of the manifestation of psychological violence was in consistent with the data on Physical Violence. While comparing both the incidences of physical and psychological violence on a ***daily*** (routine) basis it was found that Wynad district outnumbered the other districts. This could be due to

alcoholism emerging as the major cause for domestic violence as reported from this district.

17.5% of the respondents of the Wyanad district cited the existence of psychological violence on a **daily** basis. Districts of Ernakulam and Idukki followed with 15.3% and 11.1% respectively. Among those who experienced the violence **frequently** it was the district of Kottaym that figured prominently with 11.7% seconded by Trivandrum with 11.5%. Pathanamthitta district had the highest number of **Occasional** sufferers (16.9%) followed by Thrissur and Kollam with 13.9% and 13.5% each. (Refer Table No. 31)

Co-relation between Frequency and Nature/Manifestation

(First mode)

Women reported that they experienced psychological violence in a combination of different forms. **Demeaning**, which was the first mode of psychological violence was experienced **daily** and **frequently** by 26.5% and 47% of the victims respectively.

Threatening, abandoning, and faithlessness on a **daily** basis was experienced by 16.3%, 20.2% and 52.% respectively. The victims who bore threatening, abandoning, and faithlessness **frequently** were 42.3%, 41.7% and 25.9% each. (Refer Table No.32)

Table No. 31 Frequency of First mode of Psychological Violence

District	Frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	5 5.0% 12.5%	30 30.0% 8.3%	65 65.0% 11.5%			100. 7.
Kollam	11 11.0% 27.5%		37 37.0% 6.5%	38 38.0% 13.5%	14 14.0% 9.2%	100. 7.
Pathanamthitta		20 20.0% 5.6%	32 32.0% 5.7%	46 46.0% 16.4%	2 2.0% 1.3%	100. 7.
Iddukki		40 40.0% 11.1%	31 31.0% 5.5%	20 20.0% 7.1%	9 9.0% 5.9%	100. 7.
Alappuzha	1 1.0% 2.5%	22 22.0% 6.1%	48 48.0% 8.5%	14 14.0% 5.0%	15 15.0% 9.8%	100. 7.
Kottayam	1 1.0% 2.5%	13 13.0% 3.6%	66 66.0% 11.7%	10 10.0% 3.6%	10 10.0% 6.5%	100. 7.
Ernakulam	2 2.0% 5.0%	55 55.0% 15.3%	38 38.0% 6.7%	4 4.0% 1.4%	1 1.0% .7%	100. 7.
Thrissur	1 1.0% 2.5%	7 7.0% 1.9%	19 19.0% 3.4%	39 39.0% 13.9%	34 34.0% 22.2%	100. 7.
Palakkad	3 3.0% 7.5%	4 4.0% 1.1%	50 50.0% 8.8%	29 29.0% 10.3%	14 14.0% 9.2%	100. 7.
Malappuram	16 16.0% 40.0%	18 18.0% 5.0%	35 35.0% 6.2%	12 12.0% 4.3%	19 19.0% 12.4%	100. 7.
Wynad		63 63.0% 17.5%	31 31.0% 5.5%	6 6.0% 2.1%		100. 7.
Kozhikode		24 24.0% 6.7%	46 46.0% 8.1%	14 14.0% 5.0%	16 16.0% 10.5%	100. 7.
Kannur		35 35.0% 9.7%	28 28.0% 4.9%	25 25.0% 8.9%	12 12.0% 7.8%	100. 7.
Kasargode		29 29.0% 8.1%	40 40.0% 7.1%	24 24.0% 8.5%	7 7.0% 4.6%	100. 7.
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	360 25.7% 100.0%	566 40.4% 100.0%	281 20.1% 100.0%	153 10.9% 100.0%	14 100. 100.

Table No. 32 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of First mode of Psychological Violence

First Mode	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
NA	40 100.0% 100.0%					40 100.0% 2.9%
Demeaning		143 26.5% 39.7%	254 47.0% 44.9%	90 16.7% 32.0%	53 9.8% 34.6%	540 100.0% 38.6%
Threatening		64 16.3% 17.8%	166 42.3% 29.3%	107 27.3% 38.1%	55 14.0% 35.9%	392 100.0% 28.0%
Abandoning		45 20.2% 12.5%	93 41.7% 16.4%	56 25.1% 19.9%	29 13.0% 19.0%	223 100.0% 15.9%
Unfaithful		108 52.7% 30.0%	53 25.9% 9.4%	28 13.7% 10.0%	16 7.8% 10.5%	205 100.0% 14.6%
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	360 25.7% 100.0%	566 40.4% 100.0%	281 20.1% 100.0%	153 10.9% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Second Mode- Nature/Manifestation

Threatening as manifestation of psychological Violence was highlighted as the second mode by 35.8% of the women who bore domestic violence. *Abandoning* and *demeaning* followed the above with 26.6% and 21.1% respectively. *Infidelity* was reported by 13%. (Refer Table No. 33)

District level Analysis of Nature/Manifestation

A look into the district-wise analysis showed that 50% of those who mentioned *threatening* as psychological violence were from the district of Kottayam Kannur district followed the above with 49%. 44% each was reported from Pathanamthitta and Wynad districts. Concerning *abandoning* the district of Alappuzha and Palakkad figured prominently with 41% each..

(Refer Table No. 33)

Table No. 33 Nature/Manifestation of Second mode of Psychological Violence

District	Second Mode of Psychological Violence					
	NA	Demeaning	Threatening	Abandoning	Unfaithful	Others
Trivandrum	5	26	36	29	4	
	5.0%	26.0%	36.0%	29.0%	4.0%	
	12.5%	8.8%	7.2%	7.8%	2.2%	
Kollam	11	8	26	32	23	
	11.0%	8.0%	26.0%	32.0%	23.0%	
	27.5%	2.7%	5.2%	8.6%	12.6%	
Pathanamthitta		8	44	38	10	
		8.0%	44.0%	38.0%	10.0%	
		2.7%	8.8%	10.2%	5.5%	
Iddukki		20	38	20	22	
		20.0%	38.0%	20.0%	22.0%	
		6.8%	7.6%	5.4%	12.1%	
Alappuzha	1	11	27	41	20	
	1.0%	11.0%	27.0%	41.0%	20.0%	
	2.5%	3.7%	5.4%	11.0%	11.0%	
Kottayam	1	14	50	30	5	
	1.0%	14.0%	50.0%	30.0%	5.0%	
	2.5%	4.7%	10.0%	8.0%	2.7%	
Ernakulam	2	45	35	14	4	
	2.0%	45.0%	35.0%	14.0%	4.0%	
	5.0%	15.2%	7.0%	3.8%	2.2%	
Thrissur	1	11	19	31	38	
	1.0%	11.0%	19.0%	31.0%	38.0%	
	2.5%	3.7%	3.8%	8.3%	20.9%	
Palakkad	3	8	35	41	13	
	3.0%	8.0%	35.0%	41.0%	13.0%	
	7.5%	2.7%	7.0%	11.0%	7.1%	
Malappuram	16	37	25	15		7
	16.0%	37.0%	25.0%	15.0%		7.0%
	40.0%	12.5%	5.0%	4.0%		87.5%
Wynad		35	44	18	3	
		35.0%	44.0%	18.0%	3.0%	
		11.8%	8.8%	4.8%	1.6%	
Kozhikode		20	35	35	9	
		20.0%	35.0%	35.0%	9.0%	1.0%
		6.8%	7.0%	9.4%	4.9%	12.5%
Kannur		22	49	17	12	
		22.0%	49.0%	17.0%	12.0%	
		7.4%	9.8%	4.6%	6.6%	
Kasargode		31	38	12	19	
		31.0%	38.0%	12.0%	19.0%	
		10.5%	7.6%	3.2%	10.4%	
Total	40	296	501	373	182	8
	2.9%	21.1%	35.8%	26.6%	13.0%	.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Second Mode - Frequency

Psychological violence in the form of ***Demeaning, Threatening, Abandoning & Infidelity*** was experienced on a ***daily*** basis by 7.6% of the victims as the second mode. 40.6% and 30.1% of the victims had suffered the psychological tortures of the husbands/in-laws ***occasionally*** and ***frequently***.

District level figure on the frequency of the second mode revealed that Malappuram and Iddukki districts had a higher number of perpetrators of psychological violence on a ***daily*** basis with 22% each. With regard to the ***frequent*** sufferers it was the districts of Kasargode and Kannur that topped other districts with 47% and 46% each. ***Occasional*** experiences were reported comparatively higher from Kottayam and Trivandrum with 65% and 54% respectively. (Refer Table No. 34)

Co-relation between Nature/Manifestation and Frequency

(Second mode)

Regarding the second mode of psychological violence, the rate of threatening was higher across all the three strata viz., daily (40.2%), frequently (33%) and occasionally (39.9%) .

Demeaning and abandoning were experienced on a *daily* basis by 24.3% and 23.4% respectively and *frequently* by 29.5% and 25.9% respectively. Those who experienced the same torture *occasionally* were 24.8% and 20.6% each. .(Refer Table No. 35)

Table No. 34 Frequency of Second mode of Psychological Violence

District	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	5 5.0% 12.5%		36 36.0% 8.6%	54 54.0% 9.5%	5 5.0% 1.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	11 11.0% 27.5%	1 1.0% .9%	23 23.0% 5.5%	28 28.0% 4.9%	37 37.0% 14.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta		8 8.0% 7.5%	32 32.0% 7.6%	36 36.0% 6.3%	24 24.0% 9.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki		22 22.0% 20.6%	22 22.0% 5.2%	32 32.0% 5.6%	24 24.0% 9.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	1 1.0% 2.5%	9 9.0% 8.4%	30 30.0% 7.1%	50 50.0% 8.8%	10 10.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	1 1.0% 2.5%	2 2.0% 1.9%	17 17.0% 4.0%	65 65.0% 11.4%	15 15.0% 5.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	2 2.0% 5.0%	6 6.0% 5.6%	36 36.0% 8.6%	49 49.0% 8.6%	7 7.0% 2.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	1 1.0% 2.5%	4 4.0% 3.7%	22 22.0% 5.2%	39 39.0% 6.9%	34 34.0% 12.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	3 3.0% 7.5%	3 3.0% 2.8%	19 19.0% 4.5%	45 45.0% 7.9%	30 30.0% 11.4%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	16 16.0% 40.0%	22 22.0% 20.6%	33 33.0% 7.8%	23 23.0% 4.0%	6 6.0% 2.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad		2 2.0% 1.9%	36 36.0% 8.6%	48 48.0% 8.4%	14 14.0% 5.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode		12 12.0% 11.2%	22 22.0% 5.2%	38 38.0% 6.7%	28 28.0% 10.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur		12 12.0% 11.2%	46 46.0% 10.9%	32 32.0% 5.6%	10 10.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode		4 4.0% 3.7%	47 47.0% 11.2%	30 30.0% 5.3%	19 19.0% 7.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	107 7.6% 100.0%	421 30.1% 100%	569 40.6% 100.0%	263 18.8% 100%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

**Table No. 35 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of
Second mode of Psychological Violence**

2nd mode	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	
NA	40 100.0% 100.0%					40 100.0% 2.9%
Demeaning		26 8.8% 24.3%	124 41.9% 29.5%	117 39.5% 20.6%	29 9.8% 11.0%	296 100.0% 21.1%
Threatening		43 8.6% 40.2%	139 27.7% 33.0%	227 45.3% 39.9%	92 18.4% 35.0%	501 100.0% 35.8%
Abandoning		25 6.7% 23.4%	109 29.2% 25.9%	141 37.8% 24.8%	98 26.3% 37.3%	373 100.0% 26.6%
Unfaithful		5 2.7% 4.7%	49 26.9% 11.6%	84 46.2% 14.8%	44 24.2% 16.7%	182 100.0% 13.0%
Others		8 100.0% 7.5%				8 100.0% .6%
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	107 7.6% 100.0%	421 30.1% 100.0%	569 40.6% 100.0%	263 18.8% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Third Mode- Nature/Manifestation

Overall, Abandoning topped the list of third mode of psychological violence with 40.3%. Threatening and infidelity to wives was mentioned by 28.3% and 21.5% of the women (Refer Table No. 36)

District level Analysis of Nature/Manifestation

District-wise analysis showed that of those who mentioned abandoning, a prominent number was from the district of Kottayam (11.7%) followed by Wynad and Kozhikkode with 10.6% and 10.1% respectively. Unfaithfulness was reported considerably in the districts of Thrissur, Alappuzha and Kannur with 15.6%, 14.6% and 11% each (Refer Table No. 36)

Table No. 36 Nature/Manifestation of Third mode of Psychological Violence

District	Third Mode of Psychological Violence					Tot
	NA	Demeaning	Threatening	Unfaithful	Others	
Trivandrum	5	9	41	2	2	
	5.0%	9.0%	41.0%	2.0%	2.0%	100
	12.5%	9.3%	10.4%	.7%	100.0%	7
Kollam	11	3	24	34		
	11.0%	3.0%	24.0%	34.0%		100
	27.5%	3.1%	6.1%	11.3%		7
Pathanamthitta		1	44	14		
		1.0%	44.0%	14.0%		100
		1.0%	11.1%	4.7%		7
Iddukki		15	27	26		
		15.0%	27.0%	26.0%		100
		15.5%	6.8%	8.6%		7
Alappuzha	1	1	13	44		
	1.0%	1.0%	13.0%	44.0%		100
	2.5%	1.0%	3.3%	14.6%		7
Kottayam	1	4	9	20		
	1.0%	4.0%	9.0%	20.0%		100
	2.5%	4.1%	2.3%	6.6%		7
Ernakulam	2	9	39	5		
	2.0%	9.0%	39.0%	5.0%		100
	5.0%	9.3%	9.8%	1.7%		7
Thrissur	1	4	20	47		
	1.0%	4.0%	20.0%	47.0%		100
	2.5%	4.1%	5.1%	15.6%		7
Palakkad	3	2	20	23		
	3.0%	2.0%	20.0%	23.0%		100
	7.5%	2.1%	5.1%	7.6%		7
Malappuram	16	16	36	4		
	16.0%	16.0%	36.0%	4.0%		100
	40.0%	16.5%	9.1%	1.3%		7
Wynad		7	27	6		
		7.0%	27.0%	6.0%		100
		7.2%	6.8%	2.0%		7
Kozhikode		5	20	18		
		5.0%	20.0%	18.0%		100
		5.2%	5.1%	6.0%		7
Kannur		12	34	33		
		12.0%	34.0%	33.0%		100
		12.4%	8.6%	11.0%		7
Kasargode		9	42	25		
		9.0%	42.0%	25.0%		100
		9.3%	10.6%	8.3%		7
Total	40	97	396	301	2	1
	2.9%	6.9%	28.3%	21.5%	.1%	100
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100

Third Mode - Frequency

Analysis of the third mode of psychological violence showed that an alarming 24.5 % of the respondents experienced the psychological violence ***frequently***. 5.1% of the victims suffered from it ***daily***. (Refer table No.37)

District-wise analysis showed that 20% and 14% of the victims in Malappuram district had to bear the Psychological violence on a ***daily and frequent basis*** respectively. Comparatively Kannur and Pathanamthitta districts had 13% & 12% of the women who experienced the violence on a *daily* basis. 24% & 21% of the victims in the afore-mentioned districts experienced the mental agony on a ***frequent*** basis. (Refer table No.37)

Co-relation between Nature/Manifestation and Frequency

(Third Mode)

Threatening as the third mode of psychological violence was experienced by majority of the respondents on a ***daily*** basis (38%). Those who had to undergo the same on a ***frequent*** and ***occasional*** basis were 35.3% and 27.8% each.

Abandoning, demeaning and faithlessness was experienced ***daily*** by 29.6%, 16.9% and 14.1% respectively. In case of those who experienced the above ***frequently*** were 35% and 22.2% each. Occasional bearers of abandoning were 46.1%, when compared with those who experiencing demeaning and infidelity(Refer Table No. 38)

Table No. 37 Frequency of Third mode of Psychological Violence

District	frequency					Total
	Na	Daily	Frequency	Occasionally	Rarely	
Trivandrum	5	2	35	51	7	100
	5.0%	2.0%	35.0%	51.0%	7.0%	100.0%
	12.5%	2.8%	10.2%	11.6%	1.4%	7.1%
Kollam	11		28	23	38	100
	11.0%		28.0%	23.0%	38.0%	100.0%
	27.5%		8.2%	5.2%	7.5%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta		12	21	16	51	100
		12.0%	21.0%	16.0%	51.0%	100.0%
		16.9%	6.1%	3.6%	10.1%	7.1%
Iddukki		6	30	31	33	100
		6.0%	30.0%	31.0%	33.0%	100.0%
		8.5%	8.7%	7.1%	6.5%	7.1%
Alappuzha	1	8	11	19	61	100
	1.0%	8.0%	11.0%	19.0%	61.0%	100.0%
	2.5%	11.3%	3.2%	4.3%	12.0%	7.1%
Kottayam	1	1	7	51	40	100
	1.0%	1.0%	7.0%	51.0%	40.0%	100.0%
	2.5%	1.4%	2.0%	11.6%	7.9%	7.1%
Ernakulam	2	3	28	49	18	100
	2.0%	3.0%	28.0%	49.0%	18.0%	100.0%
	5.0%	4.2%	8.2%	11.2%	3.6%	7.1%
Thrissur	1	2	51	19	27	100
	1.0%	2.0%	51.0%	19.0%	27.0%	100.0%
	2.5%	2.8%	14.9%	4.3%	5.3%	7.1%
Palakkad	3	1	24	19	53	100
	3.0%	1.0%	24.0%	19.0%	53.0%	100.0%
	7.5%	1.4%	7.0%	4.3%	10.5%	7.1%
Malappuram	16	20	14	19	31	100
	16.0%	20.0%	14.0%	19.0%	31.0%	100.0%
	40.0%	28.2%	4.1%	4.3%	6.1%	7.1%
Wynad			23	58	19	100
			23.0%	58.0%	19.0%	100.0%
			6.7%	13.2%	3.7%	7.1%
Kozhikode		2	25	41	32	100
		2.0%	25.0%	41.0%	32.0%	100.0%
		2.8%	7.3%	9.3%	6.3%	7.1%
Kannur		13	24	20	43	100
		13.0%	24.0%	20.0%	43.0%	100.0%
		18.3%	7.0%	4.6%	8.5%	7.1%
Kasargode		1	22	23	54	100
		1.0%	22.0%	23.0%	54.0%	100.0%
		1.4%	6.4%	5.2%	10.7%	7.1%
Total	40	71	343	439	507	1400
	2.9%	5.1%	24.5%	31.4%	36.2%	100.0%
	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table No. 38 Co-relation Between Nature/manifestation and Frequency of Third mode of Psychological Violence

third mode	frequency					Total
	NA	Daily	Frequency	Occasionally	Rarely	
NA	40 100.0% 100.0%					40 100.0% 2.9%
Demeaning		12 12.4% 16.9%	26 26.8% 7.6%	41 42.3% 9.3%	18 18.6% 3.6%	97 100.0% 6.9%
Threatening		27 6.8% 38.0%	121 30.6% 35.3%	122 30.8% 27.8%	126 31.8% 24.9%	396 100.0% 28.3%
Abandoning		21 3.7% 29.6%	120 21.3% 35.0%	206 36.5% 46.9%	217 38.5% 42.8%	564 100.0% 40.3%
Unfaithful		10 3.3% 14.1%	76 25.2% 22.2%	69 22.9% 15.7%	146 48.5% 28.8%	301 100.0% 21.5%
Others		1 50.0% 1.4%		1 50.0% .2%		2 100.0% .1%
Total	40 2.9% 100.0%	71 5.1% 100.0%	343 24.5% 100.0%	439 31.4% 100.0%	507 36.2% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

A look into all the three modes discussed above proved that psychological violence either in the form of demeaning or threatening or abandoning was experienced by almost cent percent (excluding 2.9%) of the women under study. The violence thus inflicted seemed to have negative repercussions on the personal, familial and societal lives of the victims. The frequency too showed that in all the three modes of manifestations of psychological violence, majority had to suffer these pains either frequently, or occasionally, or for some even daily. In several cases, women had to suffer the pain of multiple inflictions simultaneously. If this scenario continues on these line, we will be creating a generation of women with a negative attitude to life. Such a situation will be disastrous and hence no efforts should be spared to

build up harmonious and congenial family environment resulting in the minimization and subsequent elimination of domestic violence

2.5 Consequences of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence occurring within the private sphere of the woman's life is believed to be the most common form of gender based violence against woman and its aftermath is seen in almost all areas of her life. In this study, the consequences of violence have been studied at four levels namely – at the personal level, at the family level, at the cultural level and at the societal level respectively. As these four levels are interdependent a slight tilt in any one form can cause changes in the other forms too.

Consequences at the Personal level

At the personal level, the consequences of violence had been measured in terms of physical injuries, deprivation of basic needs, mental depression, emotional breakdown and the thought of suicide.

Physical Injuries

The most pervasive form of gender violence is abuse of women by intimate male partners. It was learnt that 74.6% of the respondents were injured by the violence inflicted on them.

District- wise analysis portrayed that, of the injured 74.6%, Kottayam had the highest with 8.8%. Pathanamthitta, Wyanad and Kannur districts followed the above by 8.7%, 8.3% and 8.3% respectively. (*Refer Table No.39*)

Table No. 39 Whether Physically Bruised

District	Whether Physically Bruised		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	48	52	100
	48.0%	52.0%	100.0%
	4.6%	14.6%	7.1%
Kollam	41	59	100
	41.0%	59.0%	100.0%
	3.9%	16.6%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	91	9	100
	91.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	8.7%	2.5%	7.1%
Iddukki	64	36	100
	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%
	6.1%	10.1%	7.1%
Alappuzha	72	28	100
	72.0%	28.0%	100.0%
	6.9%	7.9%	7.1%
Kottayam	92	8	100
	92.0%	8.0%	100.0%
	8.8%	2.3%	7.1%
Ernakulam	71	29	100
	71.0%	29.0%	100.0%
	6.8%	8.2%	7.1%
Thrissur	84	16	100
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	8.0%	4.5%	7.1%
Palakkad	67	33	100
	67.0%	33.0%	100.0%
	6.4%	9.3%	7.1%
Malappuram	85	15	100
	85.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	8.1%	4.2%	7.1%
Wynad	87	13	100
	87.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	8.3%	3.7%	7.1%
Kozhikode	85	15	100
	85.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	8.1%	4.2%	7.1%
Kannur	87	13	100
	87.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	8.3%	3.7%	7.1%
Kasargode	71	29	100
	71.0%	29.0%	100.0%
	6.8%	8.2%	7.1%
Total	1045	355	1400
	74.6%	25.4%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Severity of Attack

Among the ones who were physically injured, 26.7% of the victims were *very seriously injured* and 31.7 percent were *seriously injured*. 7.4% and 8.8% of the victims had suffered moderate and minor damages respectively

District-wise distribution of the *very seriously injured* victims, showed that the district of Pathanamthitta scored the maximum (13.9%) followed by Palakkad and Kannur with 12.9% and 12.3% each. Among those victims who were *seriously injured*, a good number (14.2%) were from Thrissur district followed by 11.9 percent in Malappuram district respectively. (*Refer Table No.40*)

Studies have shown that ‘*Wife Beating*’ is the most common form of domestic violence and the least reported atrocities against women in the state with only one out of ten cases being reported to the police stations. Physical injury forms the visible part of the outcome of domestic violence experienced by women. This can range from small beat to death in extreme cases. However, it is clear that physical violence, an inhumane form of domestic violence is a serious issue and we are far behind in taking appropriate measures to minimize it.

Deprivation of Basic needs

Domestic violence has its direct impact on women’s health. The study showed that 76.6 percent of the victims were denied of basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. Among them, 46.8% of the victims were denied of one meal, 16.1% were denied of two meals. The most surprising factor was that 2.8 % were denied of food for more than two days, 3.2% for two days, and 7.6% for a day. The maximum number (9.1%) of such cases was reported from Thrissur district followed by Pathanamthitta and Malappuram districts with 8.8% and 8.2% respectively. (*Refer Table No.41*)

Table No. 40 Severity of Attack

District	Extend of Attack					Total
	NA	Very serious	serious	Moderate	Minor	
Trivandrum	52	8	26	8	6	100
	52.0%	8.0%	26.0%	8.0%	6.0%	100.0%
	14.6%	2.1%	5.9%	7.7%	4.9%	7.1%
Kollam	59	22	19			100
	59.0%	22.0%	19.0%			100.0%
	16.6%	5.9%	4.3%			7.1%
Pathanamthitta	9	52	38	1		100
	9.0%	52.0%	38.0%	1.0%		100.0%
	2.5%	13.9%	8.6%	1.0%		7.1%
Iddukki	36	14	26	7	17	100
	36.0%	14.0%	26.0%	7.0%	17.0%	100.0%
	10.1%	3.7%	5.9%	6.7%	13.8%	7.1%
Alappuzha	28	33	34	4	1	100
	28.0%	33.0%	34.0%	4.0%	1.0%	100.0%
	7.9%	8.8%	7.7%	3.8%	.8%	7.1%
Kottayam	8	19	33	9	31	100
	8.0%	19.0%	33.0%	9.0%	31.0%	100.0%
	2.3%	5.1%	7.4%	8.7%	25.2%	7.1%
Ernakulam	29	4	24	27	16	100
	29.0%	4.0%	24.0%	27.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	8.2%	1.1%	5.4%	26.0%	13.0%	7.1%
Thrissur	16	21	63			100
	16.0%	21.0%	63.0%			100.0%
	4.5%	5.6%	14.2%			7.1%
Palakkad	33	48	19			100
	33.0%	48.0%	19.0%			100.0%
	9.3%	12.8%	4.3%			7.1%
Malappuram	15	29	53	1	2	100
	15.0%	29.0%	53.0%	1.0%	2.0%	100.0%
	4.2%	7.8%	11.9%	1.0%	1.6%	7.1%
Wynad	13	5	33	32	17	100
	13.0%	5.0%	33.0%	32.0%	17.0%	100.0%
	3.7%	1.3%	7.4%	30.8%	13.8%	7.1%
Kozhikode	15	37	40	1	7	100
	15.0%	37.0%	40.0%	1.0%	7.0%	100.0%
	4.2%	9.9%	9.0%	1.0%	5.7%	7.1%
Kannur	13	46	21	7	13	100
	13.0%	46.0%	21.0%	7.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	3.7%	12.3%	4.7%	6.7%	10.6%	7.1%
Kasargode	29	36	15	7	13	100
	29.0%	36.0%	15.0%	7.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	8.2%	9.6%	3.4%	6.7%	10.6%	7.1%
Total	355	374	444	104	123	1400
	25.4%	26.7%	31.7%	7.4%	8.8%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table No. 41 Deprivation of Basic Needs

District	Whether denied of basic needs		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	22 22.0% 2.1%	78 78.0% 23.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	84 84.0% 7.8%	16 16.0% 4.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	94 94.0% 8.8%	6 6.0% 1.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	81 81.0% 7.6%	19 19.0% 5.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	85 85.0% 7.9%	15 15.0% 4.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	80 80.0% 7.5%	20 20.0% 6.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	55 55.0% 5.1%	45 45.0% 13.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	97 97.0% 9.1%	3 3.0% .9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	81 81.0% 7.6%	19 19.0% 5.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	88 88.0% 8.2%	12 12.0% 3.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	66 66.0% 6.2%	34 34.0% 10.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	85 85.0% 7.9%	15 15.0% 4.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	69 69.0% 6.4%	31 31.0% 9.4%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	84 84.0% 7.8%	16 16.0% 4.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	1071 76.5% 100.0%	329 23.5% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Mental Depression

Domestic violence affects women's mental health, it erodes women's self confidence and leads to problems such as depression, post traumatic stress disorders, suicides, drug abuse, sleeping as well as eating disorders, anxieties and phobias. The study showed that 98% of the victims had suffered mental depression. In many cases (17%), the depression caused was so severe that the victims had to undergo psychiatric treatment.

The manifestation of mental depression was exhibited in various forms. For 22% it made them loose faith in friends and relatives, 11% said that they had lost their ability to express feelings. 6.8% were always in a fear to do things, 7.9 % felt lonely. Among the respondents, 4.1% were always capsized whereas 3.1% suffered from insomnia and 2.3% had thought of committing suicide. A minute percent (1%) mentioned that they could not concentrate on their employment.

Reaction to Domestic Violence

As an interim relief to the domestic violence 40.9% of the victims under study went to their own houses, whereas 35.1% responded by using abusive languages against the persons who inflicted domestic violence on them. Among the others, 15.1% and 4.5% reacted to the domestic violence by neglecting the household chores and beating their children. Only 0.6 percent suffered domestic violence in silence. Though women are perceived as the weaker sex, depending on men, so he can bully her, the data showed that sporadically, individual women react, returning violence for violence in one form or the other. (*Refer Table No.42*)

Table No. 42 Reaction to Domestic Violence

District	Reaction to Domestic Violence					
	NA	Go to parents home	Use abusive words	Beat children	Neglect household chores	Any others
Trivandrum	1 1.0% 12.5%	25 25.0% 4.4%	9 9.0% 1.8%	3 3.0% 4.8%	55 55.0% 26.1%	7 7.0% 12.7%
Kollam		73 73.0% 12.8%	26 26.0% 5.3%		1 1.0% .5%	
Pathanamthitta		56 56.0% 9.8%	44 44.0% 9.0%			
Iddukki		15 15.0% 2.6%	37 37.0% 7.5%	18 18.0% 28.6%	20 20.0% 9.5%	10 10.0% 18.2%
Alappuzha		57 57.0% 10.0%	37 37.0% 7.5%			6 6.0% 10.9%
Kottayam		20 20.0% 3.5%	37 37.0% 7.5%	13 13.0% 20.6%	27 27.0% 12.8%	3 3.0% 5.5%
Ernakulam		43 43.0% 7.5%	6 6.0% 1.2%	1 1.0% 1.6%	45 45.0% 21.3%	5 5.0% 9.1%
Thrissur		26 26.0% 4.5%	73 73.0% 14.9%			1 1.0% 1.8%
Palakkad		70 70.0% 12.2%	30 30.0% 6.1%			
Malappuram	4 4.0% 50.0%	26 26.0% 4.5%	42 42.0% 8.6%	12 12.0% 19.0%	5 5.0% 2.4%	11 11.0% 20.0%
Wynad	1 1.0% 12.5%	24 24.0% 4.2%	36 36.0% 7.3%	13 13.0% 20.6%	17 17.0% 8.1%	9 9.0% 16.4%
Kozhikode		43 43.0% 7.5%	48 48.0% 9.8%		8 8.0% 3.8%	1 1.0% 1.8%
Kannur	2 2.0% 25.0%	47 47.0% 8.2%	39 39.0% 7.9%		11 11.0% 5.2%	1 1.0% 1.8%
Kasargode		47 47.0% 8.2%	27 27.0% 5.5%	3 3.0% 4.8%	22 22.0% 10.4%	1 1.0% 1.8%
Total	8 .6% 100.0%	572 40.9% 100.0%	491 35.1% 100.0%	63 4.5% 100.0%	211 15.1% 100.0%	55 3.9% 100.0%

Emotional

The psychological effect of domestic violence is so severe that the perspective towards life of these victims may change gradually leading to a non-caring attitude. It has been observed from the study that for 55.9 % of the victims, domestic violence had an adverse effect on their appearance in terms of grooming and dressing. However for 44.% there was no change in their attitude. 27.7% of the respondents opined that they were least bothered regarding their appearances. Perhaps this pointed towards their hopelessness in life. 16.3 %of the victims were too cautious regarding their appearances, this may be because of the fear of social stigma and to project a good image in front of their relatives and friends.

The Thought of Suicide

Suicide or attempted suicide or thoughts of it are referred to in a number of studies as an aftermath of domestic violence. It was learnt from this study that 84.2 % of the victims had thought of suicide at several moments of their life.

To be precise, 3 % of the victims had *always thought* of suicide, where as 27.4% had *occasionally thought* of committing suicide. Among the ones who had thought of suicide, 53.9% and 15.8% had *rarely thought* and had *never thought* of committing suicide. This showed, how desperate and dejected are the victims of domestic violence. (Refer Table No.43)

However, it had been found out that severe psychological stress and living under terror and the mental torture of violence can lead to self-destructive behavior and to fatal consequences such as family discord, suicides etc. The mental depression associated with domestic violence may go relatively unnoticed when compared to the physical violence. Nevertheless, it is as dangerous, if not more dangerous than that of physical violence.

Table No. 43 Whether Thought of Suicide

District	Whether thought of suicide					Total
	NA	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Always	
Trivandrum	1 1.0% 3.8%	10 10.0% 5.1%	47 47.0% 6.2%	40 40.0% 10.4%	2 2.0% 4.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam		1 1.0% .5%	80 80.0% 10.6%	19 19.0% 5.0%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta		6 6.0% 3.1%	54 54.0% 7.2%	40 40.0% 10.4%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	5 5.0% 19.2%	15 15.0% 7.7%	48 48.0% 6.4%	19 19.0% 5.0%	13 13.0% 31.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha		12 12.0% 6.2%	58 58.0% 7.7%	25 25.0% 6.5%	5 5.0% 11.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	2 2.0% 7.7%	15 15.0% 7.7%	55 55.0% 7.3%	28 28.0% 7.3%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam		58 58.0% 29.7%	24 24.0% 3.2%	16 16.0% 4.2%	2 2.0% 4.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur		1 1.0% .5%	73 73.0% 9.7%	26 26.0% 6.8%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad		15 15.0% 7.7%	47 47.0% 6.2%	38 38.0% 9.9%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	18 18.0% 69.2%	12 12.0% 6.2%	59 59.0% 7.8%	11 11.0% 2.9%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad		17 17.0% 8.7%	44 44.0% 5.8%	31 31.0% 8.1%	8 8.0% 19.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode		10 10.0% 5.1%	34 34.0% 4.5%	51 51.0% 13.3%	5 5.0% 11.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur		12 12.0% 6.2%	66 66.0% 8.8%	18 18.0% 4.7%	4 4.0% 9.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode		11 11.0% 5.6%	65 65.0% 8.6%	21 21.0% 5.5%	3 3.0% 7.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	26 1.9% 100.0%	195 13.9% 100.0%	754 53.9% 100.0%	383 27.4% 100.0%	42 3.0% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Consequences at the Family level

The strength and stability of the Indian society is unequivocally vested on the family. The family, which was once a heaven for individuals are now faced with many unique problems. Families today are experiencing unprecedented changes and, confronted with a multitude of problems, both old and new.

At the family level, the consequences of violence had been measured in terms of relationship with husband, relationship with children, procurement of basic needs, interaction between family members and taking decision.

Relationship with husbands

When studied about the consequences of domestic violence at the family level, it was found that for 43.6 % of the victims, their relationship had been *very badly affected* with their life partners. For the rest, 36.9% and 19.6%, their relationship had been *moderately affected* and had not *brought about any change in relationship* with their husbands. Of this, majority were from Thiruvananthapuram district (12.1%) followed by Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts with 11.6% and 10.8% respectively. (Refer Table No.44)

As a result of this, 27.3% were trying to get a ‘**Divorce**’ from their husbands. A good number (12.8%) of victims who were trying to get a divorce were from Palakkad district followed by Alappuzha with 12.3%, Pathanamthitta and Thrissur with 10.2% each respectively.

This data of high divorce rates should make us to think, “Divorce is a most serious issue confronting Indian families”.

24 per cent of the victims were not interested in leading a life with their husbands, whereas 10.1% of the victims said that they had lost trust in their husbands. Only 6.4% of the respondents were staying away from their husbands. ‘Not showing any concern’ was the method adopted by 4.5% of the victims. And for 2.5%, they had frequent quarrels with their life partners. A contradictory statement from the study

was that their husbands (5.6%) were no longer interested to lead a life with them.
(Refer Table No.44)

This underlines the commonly held perception of imposing all blames on women.

Table No. 44 Whether Relationship with Husband Affected

District	Extent to which the Victimisation affect the Relationship with Husband			Total
	Not affected	Moderately affected	Very badly affected	
Trivandrum	19 19.0% 6.9%	7 7.0% 1.4%	74 74.0% 12.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	15 15.0% 5.5%	56 56.0% 10.9%	29 29.0% 4.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	21 21.0% 7.7%	42 42.0% 8.1%	37 37.0% 6.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	11 11.0% 4.0%	51 51.0% 9.9%	38 38.0% 6.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	18 18.0% 6.6%	16 16.0% 3.1%	66 66.0% 10.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	16 16.0% 5.8%	48 48.0% 9.3%	36 36.0% 5.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	5 5.0% 1.8%	24 24.0% 4.7%	71 71.0% 11.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	30 30.0% 10.9%	40 40.0% 7.8%	30 30.0% 4.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	27 27.0% 9.9%	23 23.0% 4.5%	50 50.0% 8.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	31 31.0% 11.3%	46 46.0% 8.9%	23 23.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	5 5.0% 1.8%	51 51.0% 9.9%	44 44.0% 7.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	22 22.0% 8.0%	40 40.0% 7.8%	38 38.0% 6.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	36 36.0% 13.1%	32 32.0% 6.2%	32 32.0% 5.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	18 18.0% 6.6%	40 40.0% 7.8%	42 42.0% 6.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	274 19.6% 100.0%	516 36.9% 100.0%	610 43.6% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Relationship with Children

One of the most affected groups of domestic violence was children, who witnessed violence in the family. The presence of children in a violent relationship created additional stress for a woman, who may fear for her children's safety. For 29.8 % of the victims, the relationship towards their children had been '*moderately affected*' and for 4.1 % it had been *very badly affected*.

Due to this aberration, 16.6% were unable to give proper attention to their children. For 7.6% the break down was because the child suspected their behavior. As an outburst of the domestic violence, 5.2% of the victims were angry with their children whereas for 4.5 % their children were staying away from them. Studies have shown that such children have an increased risk of emotional and behavioral problems such as anxiety, depression, disobedience etc.

The dream of every woman is to give proper education to her child. Data from the field showed adverse effects on the education of children. For 38.1% of the victims, education of their children had been *moderately affected* and for 6 % *very badly affected*. The reasons they quoted were the disturbances at home (17.4%), financial constraints (13.2%), lack of proper attention (7.3%) and frequent change of schools (5.9%) respectively. (Refer Table No.45)

Table No. 45 Whether Relationship with Children Affected

District	Extend to which victimisation affect the relationship with Children			Total
	Not affected	Moderately affected	Very badly affected	
Trivandrum	77 77.0% 8.3%	17 17.0% 4.1%	6 6.0% 10.5%	100.0 7.3
Kollam	21 21.0% 2.3%	79 79.0% 18.9%		100.0 7.3
Pathanamthitta	56 56.0% 6.0%	41 41.0% 9.8%	3 3.0% 5.3%	100.0 7.3
Iddukki	34 34.0% 3.7%	48 48.0% 11.5%	18 18.0% 31.6%	100.0 7.3
Alappuzha	64 64.0% 6.9%	33 33.0% 7.9%	3 3.0% 5.3%	100.0 7.3
Kottayam	82 82.0% 8.9%	17 17.0% 4.1%	1 1.0% 1.8%	100.0 7.3
Ernakulam	85 85.0% 9.2%	12 12.0% 2.9%	3 3.0% 5.3%	100.0 7.3
Thrissur	62 62.0% 6.7%	37 37.0% 8.9%	1 1.0% 1.8%	100.0 7.3
Palakkad	76 76.0% 8.2%	24 24.0% 5.8%		100.0 7.3
Malappuram	51 51.0% 5.5%	49 49.0% 11.8%		100.0 7.3
Wynad	68 68.0% 7.3%	19 19.0% 4.6%	13 13.0% 22.8%	100.0 7.3
Kozhikode	75 75.0% 8.1%	23 23.0% 5.5%	2 2.0% 3.5%	100.0 7.3
Kannur	88 88.0% 9.5%	10 10.0% 2.4%	2 2.0% 3.5%	100.0 7.3
Kasargode	87 87.0% 9.4%	8 8.0% 1.9%	5 5.0% 8.8%	100.0 7.3
Total	926 66.1% 100.0%	417 29.8% 100.0%	57 4.1% 100.0%	14 100.0 100.0%

In contrast to the above-mentioned statements, for 66.1% of the victims, the relationship with their children had not been affected. Regarding education of children domestic violence did not have any impact for 55.9% of the respondents

Procurement of Basic needs

The findings of the present study were in tune with the earlier studies, which highlighted the adverse impact of domestic violence on the health of the women who experienced domestic violence. Procurement of basic needs was '*moderately affected*' for 47.6% of the victims. Of this, a greater proportion (11.1%) were from Malappuram district followed by Kottayam (10.2%) and Pathanamthitta (9.7) districts respectively. For 4.6 % it had been '*very badly affected*'.

The ways by which the procurement of basic needs affected seemed different depending on the gravity of victimization. Among the respondents, 27.5% said that they did not consume food when they were upset. District-wise analysis showed the highest percentage in Malappuram district with 14.5% followed by Kottayam and Idukki districts with 11.9% and 11.4%.each. The psychological impact of domestic violence resulting in high rates of anxiety and depression, lead to lack of consumption of food

Financial deprivation to procure basic was also an after effect of domestic violence. 20.2% of the respondents stated the above on the affirmative.. Perhaps this may be because of their husbands denial to provide financial support to them. About 4.6 % of the victims did not have a say in taking decisions related to the procurement of basic needs.

Interaction Between Family Members

Family is a network of relationships and violence in the family could affect the relationships in multiple ways. For 26.4% of the victims their interaction between family members had been *very badly affected* and it had been moderately affected for 29.6 %t. This may be because, they might be subjected to violence from other family members also. For 44%, the interaction between family members had not

been affected at all. This could be due to the fact that the husbands' family members had not inflicted domestic violence on them.

The net effect of the breakdown in their relationship with family members resulted in a state of fear even to talk to them for 25.4%. For 14.7% there existed no interaction and for 5.8 % they had no contact with the family members. 9.3 % opined that family members support their husbands hence their interaction had been adversely affected. This showed that domestic violence generally disturbed the normal life of many families.

(Refer Table No.46)

Decision Making

Domestic violence had an adverse effect on womens' decision-making capacity in the family. Majority (72.6%) of the victims for whom the ability to take *decisions had been moderately affected and for 10% it had been very badly* affected. In contrast, for 17.4 % domestic violence did not make any change in their decision making power within the family.

Almost 49.1% of women were not allowed to take decisions within their households. Of the victims 12% were either confused or unable to take decisions. This showed that constant subjection to violence and abuse, destroys their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Table No. 46 Whether Interaction with Other Family Members Affected

District	Extend to which Victimization on the Interaction with Other Members of the Family				Total
	NA	Not affected	Moderately affected	Very badly affected	
Trivandrum	8 8.0% 2.3%	72 72.0% 26.5%	11 11.0% 2.7%	9 9.0% 2.4%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	8 8.0% 2.3%		45 45.0% 10.9%	47 47.0% 12.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	45 45.0% 13.1%	2 2.0% .7%	29 29.0% 7.0%	24 24.0% 6.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	19 19.0% 5.5%	27 27.0% 9.9%	40 40.0% 9.7%	14 14.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	28 28.0% 8.1%	9 9.0% 3.3%	33 33.0% 8.0%	30 30.0% 8.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	20 20.0% 5.8%	29 29.0% 10.7%	38 38.0% 9.2%	13 13.0% 3.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	2 2.0% .6%	20 20.0% 7.4%	23 23.0% 5.6%	55 55.0% 14.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	60 60.0% 17.4%	1 1.0% .4%	20 20.0% 4.8%	19 19.0% 5.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	13 13.0% 3.8%	1 1.0% .4%	32 32.0% 7.7%	54 54.0% 14.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	39 39.0% 11.3%	5 5.0% 1.8%	41 41.0% 9.9%	15 15.0% 4.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	1 1.0% .3%	66 66.0% 24.3%	26 26.0% 6.3%	7 7.0% 1.9%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	37 37.0% 10.8%	8 8.0% 2.9%	34 34.0% 8.2%	21 21.0% 5.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	36 36.0% 10.5%	18 18.0% 6.6%	20 20.0% 4.8%	26 26.0% 7.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	28 28.0% 8.1%	14 14.0% 5.1%	22 22.0% 5.3%	36 36.0% 9.7%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	344 24.6% 100.0%	272 19.4% 100.0%	414 29.6% 100.0%	370 26.4% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

In short, the consequences of domestic violence at the family level showed that majority of the respondents' relationship with their husbands had profoundly

collapsed affecting the family relationships. Though the perpetrators of domestic violence were individuals it had also an adverse effect on family members creating a state of dis-equilibrium within the family. However, 44% of the victims said that their relationship had not been affected at all. Perhaps in these cases, the family members of their husbands were not involved in inflicting domestic violence on the victim.

Consequences at the Cultural level

Besides its direct impact on women's health, domestic violence against women had other human costs. The studies on the consequences of domestic violence at the cultural level showed that for majority of the victims (61.4%) it affected their value system. Only for 38.6% domestic violence had not brought about any changes in this regard.

The value system had been *greatly affected* for 9.7 % of the victims and for 51.7 % it had been *moderately affected*. According to 21.7% of them they had lost faith in their family life. Of them, 17.7% and 15.4% became more attached to god and detached in their relationships respectively. The rest, 15% and 6.1% revealed that they hate men and lost confidence as a result of being subjected to domestic violence. (Refer Table No.47)

Table No. 47 Whether Domestic Violence affect the Value System

District	Effect of Victimisation on the Value System		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	18	82	100
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%
	2.1%	15.2%	7.1%
Kollam	36	64	100
	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
	4.2%	11.9%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	84	16	100
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	9.8%	3.0%	7.1%
Iddukki	42	58	100
	42.0%	58.0%	100.0%
	4.9%	10.7%	7.1%
Alappuzha	86	14	100
	86.0%	14.0%	100.0%
	10.0%	2.6%	7.1%
Kottayam	45	55	100
	45.0%	55.0%	100.0%
	5.2%	10.2%	7.1%
Ernakulam	80	20	100
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	9.3%	3.7%	7.1%
Thrissur	90	10	100
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	10.5%	1.9%	7.1%
Palakkad	91	9	100
	91.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	10.6%	1.7%	7.1%
Malappuram	61	39	100
	61.0%	39.0%	100.0%
	7.1%	7.2%	7.1%
Wynad	40	60	100
	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
	4.7%	11.1%	7.1%
Kozhikode	54	46	100
	54.0%	46.0%	100.0%
	6.3%	8.5%	7.1%
Kannur	72	28	100
	72.0%	28.0%	100.0%
	8.4%	5.2%	7.1%
Kasargode	61	39	100
	61.0%	39.0%	100.0%
	7.1%	7.2%	7.1%
Total	860	540	1400
	61.4%	38.6%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Attitude towards family

The attitude towards family had *changed tremendously* for 45.5 % of victims and *partially* for 31.1%. In contrast, for 23.4 % it *remained unchanged*. Among the attitudinal change, 30% were no longer interested in staying with their in-laws. This may be because these victims had to face bitter experiences from their in-laws than their partners. For the rest 24.8% and 21.9 % of the victims their husbands abandoned them and lost interest in leading a family life. This showed the wretched situation of women and the mental agony they had to undergo.

Belief in God

It was earlier mentioned by the respondents that, as an aftermath of the breakdown in the value system they became more attached to God. The victims were also asked, whether their belief in God had increased / decreased due to victimization. 39.6 % of the victims were of the opinion that, their belief towards God had increased and for 25.1 % the belief had decreased. Interestingly, it remains unchanged for 35.3 % of the respondents.

The frequency of visiting places of worship was also ascertained in the study. 43.4 % of victims visited temples, churches etc *frequently*. Among the others 42% and 14.6% visited the places of worship either *occasionally* or *rarely*. This showed, how ardent they were for peace of mind. (Refer Table No.48)

Table No. 48 Belief in God

District	Belief in God			Total
	Decreased	Increased	Remain unchanged	
Trivandrum	8	9	83	100
	8.0%	9.0%	83.0%	100.0%
	2.3%	1.6%	16.8%	7.1%
Kollam	20	70	10	100
	20.0%	70.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	5.7%	12.6%	2.0%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	23	56	21	100
	23.0%	56.0%	21.0%	100.0%
	6.5%	10.1%	4.3%	7.1%
Iddukki	24	55	21	100
	24.0%	55.0%	21.0%	100.0%
	6.8%	9.9%	4.3%	7.1%
Alappuzha	45	42	13	100
	45.0%	42.0%	13.0%	100.0%
	12.8%	7.6%	2.6%	7.1%
Kottayam	29	56	15	100
	29.0%	56.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	8.2%	10.1%	3.0%	7.1%
Ernakulam	9	43	48	100
	9.0%	43.0%	48.0%	100.0%
	2.6%	7.8%	9.7%	7.1%
Thrissur	30	26	44	100
	30.0%	26.0%	44.0%	100.0%
	8.5%	4.7%	8.9%	7.1%
Palakkad	37	40	23	100
	37.0%	40.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	10.5%	7.2%	4.7%	7.1%
Malappuram	24	16	60	100
	24.0%	16.0%	60.0%	100.0%
	6.8%	2.9%	12.1%	7.1%
Wynad	19	44	37	100
	19.0%	44.0%	37.0%	100.0%
	5.4%	7.9%	7.5%	7.1%
Kozhikode	26	52	22	100
	26.0%	52.0%	22.0%	100.0%
	7.4%	9.4%	4.5%	7.1%
Kannur	25	26	49	100
	25.0%	26.0%	49.0%	100.0%
	7.1%	4.7%	9.9%	7.1%
Kasargode	33	19	48	100
	33.0%	19.0%	48.0%	100.0%
	9.4%	3.4%	9.7%	7.1%
Total	352	554	494	1400
	25.1%	39.6%	35.3%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Social/family Customs

Studies have shown that, it was the decay of many of the social customs and values that led to violence against women in many forms. This study also proved that for a good number (63.1%) of victims, their family customs had been violated due to victimization. In 28.3 % of the cases, it was violated frequently. Whereas for 26.9% and 7.9% of the victims the customs were violated occasionally and rarely respectively.

As a result of the series of incidents of domestic violence, drastic alterations of family norms all over the world have already been taken place within a matter of the last few decades and there were conflicting opinions now about the future of the family.

Consequences at the Societal level

Domestic violence hinders the women's participation in development related activities. Consequences of violence at the societal level are studied in terms of relationship of the victims with their neighbors, friends, other residents of the area and the general society towards them.

Relationship with the Neighbours

Majority (65.7%) of the respondents opined that their relationship with neighbors was *not at all affected*. However, for 25.1% and 9.1% it had been *moderately affected* and *very badly affected*. Among the *moderately affected* ones, for 16.6% it was due to lack of contact with their neighbors. The rest, 4.5% and 1.2% opined that it was due to the harsh behavior of the husband towards their neighbors and avoidance by their neighbors. In many cases, their husbands prevented them from interacting with the neighbors. This might be because they wanted to hide the atrocities of him and the family members. (Refer Table No.49)

Table No. 49 Relationship with Neighbors

District	Relationship with Nieghbours			Total
	Not affected	Moderately affected	Very badly affected	
Trivandrum	33	53	14	100
	33.0%	53.0%	14.0%	100.0%
	3.6%	15.1%	10.9%	7.1%
Kollam	29	56	15	100
	29.0%	56.0%	15.0%	100.0%
	3.2%	15.9%	11.7%	7.1%
Pathanamthitta	78	20	2	100
	78.0%	20.0%	2.0%	100.0%
	8.5%	5.7%	1.6%	7.1%
Iddukki	70	27	3	100
	70.0%	27.0%	3.0%	100.0%
	7.6%	7.7%	2.3%	7.1%
Alappuzha	77	12	11	100
	77.0%	12.0%	11.0%	100.0%
	8.4%	3.4%	8.6%	7.1%
Kottayam	71	25	4	100
	71.0%	25.0%	4.0%	100.0%
	7.7%	7.1%	3.1%	7.1%
Ernakulam	68	20	12	100
	68.0%	20.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	7.4%	5.7%	9.4%	7.1%
Thrissur	98	2		100
	98.0%	2.0%		100.0%
	10.7%	.6%		7.1%
Palakkad	90	7	3	100
	90.0%	7.0%	3.0%	100.0%
	9.8%	2.0%	2.3%	7.1%
Malappuram	62	29	9	100
	62.0%	29.0%	9.0%	100.0%
	6.7%	8.2%	7.0%	7.1%
Wynad	42	39	19	100
	42.0%	39.0%	19.0%	100.0%
	4.6%	11.1%	14.8%	7.1%
Kozhikode	67	25	8	100
	67.0%	25.0%	8.0%	100.0%
	7.3%	7.1%	6.3%	7.1%
Kannur	69	13	18	100
	69.0%	13.0%	18.0%	100.0%
	7.5%	3.7%	14.1%	7.1%
Kasargode	66	24	10	100
	66.0%	24.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	7.2%	6.8%	7.8%	7.1%
Total	920	352	128	1400
	65.7%	25.1%	9.1%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Of the very badly affected victims, neighbors blamed them for their state of affairs.

For 4.6% and for 3.9% the neighbors showed a sympathetic attitude towards them.

This portrayed the mixed feelings of guilt and shame, which abused women sometimes experience.

Relationship with Friends

A friend in need is a true friend. Friends in times of stress were a blessing for most of the victimized women. Majority of the victims (69.6%) stated that the relationship with their friends *was not at all affected*, may be because these victims would open up to the friends, which gave a great relief to them. In 25.7% of cases the relation had been *moderately affected* and the rest 4.7% the relation had been *very badly affected*.

The reasons stated by the moderately affected respondents were lack of contact with their friends (24.3%) and for the rest their husbands prevented them from interacting with their friends. Among the very badly affected victims, harsh behavior of the husbands towards their friends and avoidance by their friends were the reasons for 3.1% and 1.4% respectively. (*Refer Table No.50*)

Isolation, lack of personal contact with friends and family created further stress leading to psychological effects that included high rates of anxiety and depression to the victims.

Table No. 50 Relationship with Friends

District	Relationship with Friends			Total
	Not at all	Moderately affected	Very badly affected	
Trivandrum	92 92.0% 9.4%	5 5.0% 1.4%	3 3.0% 4.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	16 16.0% 1.6%	75 75.0% 20.8%	9 9.0% 13.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	71 71.0% 7.3%	29 29.0% 8.1%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	71 71.0% 7.3%	29 29.0% 8.1%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	60 60.0% 6.2%	21 21.0% 5.8%	19 19.0% 28.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	68 68.0% 7.0%	32 32.0% 8.9%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	88 88.0% 9.0%	2 2.0% .6%	10 10.0% 15.2%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	94 94.0% 9.7%	3 3.0% .8%	3 3.0% 4.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	79 79.0% 8.1%	13 13.0% 3.6%	8 8.0% 12.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	54 54.0% 5.5%	43 43.0% 11.9%	3 3.0% 4.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	65 65.0% 6.7%	31 31.0% 8.6%	4 4.0% 6.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	72 72.0% 7.4%	21 21.0% 5.8%	7 7.0% 10.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	81 81.0% 8.3%	19 19.0% 5.3%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	63 63.0% 6.5%	37 37.0% 10.3%		100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	974 69.6% 100.0%	360 25.7% 100.0%	66 4.7% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Relationship with the Residents

Good number of (69.1%) respondents were of the opinion that victimization *did not in any way affect* their relation with other residents of the area. For 24.3% of the victims it had been *moderately affected* and for 6.6% victimization had been *very badly affected*.

The relationship with the residents were affected in ways of lack of contact, non-caring attitude and the harsh behavior of the husbands cited by 13%, 7.8% and 6.8% respectively. And the rest, 2.2% and 1.1% opined about suspicion and lack of sympathy for the breakdown of their relation with other residents of the area. This showed the lonely and depressed state of the victims. Moreover, they tried to keep themselves away from the residents, instead of being a mocking figure in front of them.

Attitude of Society

A greater proportion (76.6%) of the victims had no complaints regarding the attitude of society towards them. Nevertheless, attitude of 18.5% of the victims towards the society had been moderately affected. In 4.8% of the victims it had been *badly affected*. The ways in which the society expressed its attitude included: labeling them as women 'leading a lonely life (8.6%)', sympathizing with them (6.6%), viewing them with suspicion and blaming them for their present plight (2.9%) .

This showed that violence and constant criticism destroys the self-esteem and self-confidence of the victimized women. Constant blaming and criticism often lead to a feeling of worthlessness, insecurity and guilt in them resulting in the stagnation of the very personality of the women.

Table No. 51 Solving the Problems of Domestic Violence

District	Whether tried to Solve the Problems within the Family		Total
	Yes	No	
Trivandrum	94 94.0% 7.4%	6 6.0% 4.6%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kollam	82 82.0% 6.5%	18 18.0% 13.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Pathanamthitta	96 96.0% 7.6%	4 4.0% 3.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Iddukki	85 85.0% 6.7%	15 15.0% 11.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Alappuzha	97 97.0% 7.6%	3 3.0% 2.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kottayam	89 89.0% 7.0%	11 11.0% 8.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Ernakulam	95 95.0% 7.5%	5 5.0% 3.8%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Thrissur	87 87.0% 6.9%	13 13.0% 10.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Palakkad	96 96.0% 7.6%	4 4.0% 3.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Malappuram	96 96.0% 7.6%	4 4.0% 3.1%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Wynad	85 85.0% 6.7%	15 15.0% 11.5%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kozhikode	87 87.0% 6.9%	13 13.0% 10.0%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kannur	97 97.0% 7.6%	3 3.0% 2.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Kasargode	84 84.0% 6.6%	16 16.0% 12.3%	100 100.0% 7.1%
Total	1270 90.7% 100.0%	130 9.3% 100.0%	1400 100.0% 100.0%

Solving the Problem of Domestic Violence

It was revealed from the study that 90.7 % of the victims had tried to solve the problem (domestic violence) within the family itself. While for 29.3% of the victims, their relatives took the initiative and only 6.6 % said that their husbands took the first step. Only for 5.7 % in-laws took the initiative. 49 % opined that they themselves took the initiative in problem solving within the family. This showed the fate of woman; apart from suffering the abuses, she is forced to solve the problem herself. (Refer Table No.51)

In brief, victimization has the greatest effect on the immediate circle around i.e., personal and family level , and least effect on cultural & societal levels. More than that if the marriage or relationship is not working properly, they may look for the fault in themselves accepting the view that they are solely responsible for maintaining and nurturing the relationships. It was also learned from the victims through personal interviews that, many husbands who inflict domestic violence on their wives did not want their wives to interact with any one outside the home for fear of disclosing the various forms of violence occurring at home.

Some authorities believe 'family' – the human institution is dead beyond the needs of the first few years of child rearing.

Domestic violence acts as a hidden obstacle to economic development. By sapping women's energy, undermining their confidence and comprising their health, domestic violence deprives society of women's full participation. Most women continue in their oppressive situation because of the dependency on the husband economically and in all matters, fear of isolation and ostracism, thinking of future of the children, lack of acceptance etc. Women's status is related to the family and breaking that bond is losing one's own strata in the society.

2.6 Availability and Effectiveness of Organizations Addressing Domestic Violence and Suggestions for Improvement

Today, more than ever, the need for professional organizations addressing Domestic Violence is being felt. It has been widely felt that although friends and relatives can

help solve the problems associated with Domestic Violence to some extent, professional help to victims in this regard is indispensable.

This section is devoted to understand the level of awareness of the respondents regarding organizations/individuals addressing Domestic Violence, the services that they provide, effectiveness of services and measures for improving the accessibility and effectiveness of these services.

*Awareness regarding organizations/individuals
addressing Domestic Violence*

The study revealed that 53.1% of the victims were ignorant about organizations/individuals addressing Domestic Violence. Only 46.9% of the respondents knew of organizations/individuals that helped women who suffered Domestic Violence. This finding was indeed surprising because women in Kerala are better educated and enjoy better social status than those in most other states of India. Hence, one would have expected more respondents to be aware of the existence of the same. The data therefore, obviously showed the need for sensitization and awareness generation programs among women with regard to those organizations/individuals that help victims of Domestic Violence.

Further, the data collected revealed that among the organizations that addressed Domestic Violence, *counseling centers* were the most popular among the respondents. However, it should be stressed that only one fourth of the victims knew about counseling centers and the services that they provide. This shows that although the concept of giving counseling to victims has gained some ground with the public, there is scope for sensitizing the rest of the population about counseling centers and the services provided there. Rehabilitation centers came second in terms of awareness among the respondents. During the course of the study, the Research Investigators had visited few rehabilitation centers. It was found that many of the victims who

stayed at the rehabilitation centers were victims of severe manifestations of Domestic Violence. Many of them, after having left the house of their husbands, had come to stay at the rehabilitation centers because their parents were poor and could not afford to allow them back into their homes. Clearly, rehabilitation centers are of great help to women from economically backward families. Hence, it is imperative that more awareness regarding the rehabilitation centers be spread among the population.

Third in terms of awareness among victims under the study came organizations that provided legal aid. However, please note that only a very small percentage of the respondents were aware of these organizations. It should be kept in mind that even if a law to prevent Domestic Violence against women were enacted, it would only be effective if victims were provided proper legal aid. Therefore, organizations that provide legal aid to victims of Domestic Violence are crucial. Urgent steps need to be taken to create awareness about them at the grass root level.

Among the victims only a few knew religious and community organizations that help victims of Domestic Violence. Evidently, the role of these organizations in addressing Domestic Violence should be increased.

Organizations/individuals approached usually

The study revealed that a good number of respondents (36.7%) had approached their relatives for help when they were victimized. Clearly, relatives are the first line of defense for many victims of Domestic Violence because they are often more accessible than organizations/individuals addressing Domestic Violence. A significant percentage of the victims (15%) had approached the Family Counselling Centres (FCCs) for help. This showed that FCCs have been quite successful in reaching out to the public. A good number of the victims (13.5%) had gone to the nearest Police station for help. This underscores the need to make Police Stations more accessible to women –

perhaps this could be done by appointing more women Police Officers or by establishing more Women's Police Stations.

The services of NGOs, Community organizations, Religious institutions & Politicians were sought by 7.9%, 4.6% and 2.7% of the respondents respectively. Only 1.8% of the victims had approached Gender Line for help. A negligible percentage of the respondents had sought the help of Lawyers and Neighbours. However, out of the 657 respondents who approached various organizations/individuals , 35% (234) were of the opinion that the interventions of the individuals/organizations did not help in solving their problems.

Regarding the effectiveness of the services provided by various organizations/individuals, a significant percentage of the respondents (28.8%) opined that the services were not satisfactory. 16.7% said that they did not have faith in the services provided by them. 10% of the respondents were of the opinion that individuals/organizations providing these services were not spending adequate time with the victims and their families to solve their problems. 5.6% of the victims were of the opinion that counselling was given by individuals who had no clear idea on the real cause of the problem. Hence, the counseling sessions were not effective, they said. Interestingly, 4% of the victims remarked that the service providers went too deep into the problems that it had affected their life's rhythm. A significant percentage of the respondents, however, refrained from giving their views.

Evidently, the data showed that there is need to improve the services. More importantly, the service providers should be flexible enough to adapt to the specific problems and needs of various individuals.

Suggestions for Improvement

The suggestions made by the victims were not different from the key personnel. According to them, men should understand the value of women and

should have a respect for them, only then the occurrence of any kind of violence could be reduced. Usually the victims are forced to continue the strained relationships due to lack of adequate support from the parents or the society. They expect a change in the perception of the commonly regarding the victims who report the cases of domestic violence. Women staying away from their husbands or without a husband should not be scorned or despised by the society. Gender sensitization programmes on a massive level could bring about a difference in this scenario. Pre-marital counseling was also suggested as an effective measure to prevent the break down of families.

The victims believe that the women will have more power and voice to assert their priorities, if they are psychologically and economically empowered. Hence, a series of awareness programmes and training programmes for building up their confidence and making them economically self-reliant should be organized. This would assist them to stand on their own foot and decrease the dependency on their husbands or parents for their financial sustenance.

Major reasons for domestic violence, cited by the victims included alcoholism and the prevalence of dowry system. Though there are laws that prevent the dowry system, the menace is still prevalent widely. The victims were of the view that laws prohibiting the vices of dowry and alcoholism should be implemented effectively and rigorously. They were optimistic that the eradication of this evil could amply reduce the occurrence of domestic violence.

To conclude, violence against women is not a new or recent phenomenon. Women had been the victims of violence all through the ages- in all societies, culture, region and religious communities of the world. Violence in any form should be averted, and condemned at all means.

The study showed that, knowledge about laws related to atrocities against women and services addressing women's issues were scanty with regard to the victims under study. Proper awareness campaigns, Workshops, Seminars etc. in this regard

should therefore be organized regularly in rural as well as urban areas.

Furthermore, a committee should be set up to monitor the proper functioning of the institutions dealing with women's issues. More over a clear – cut state policy is needed to safe guard women's rights. A fundamental change is required in the attitude of the employers, policy makers, family members and other relatives and the public at large towards women. An attitudinal change in the society is also required, if women are to live in the world as free human beings with due respect and without fear.

Women must organize themselves in-groups and raise a collective voice against violent acts. Unified efforts can certainly create a public opinion and outcry against situations, where women are subjected to all forms of atrocities. Women must help themselves and each other in the fight against violence.

2.7 Views of the Key Personnel on Domestic Violence

Women are the backbone of the society. Society's progress depends greatly on them. However, women in general, share a common degradation, indignity, oppression, violence and discrimination. Moreover, this discrimination on the basis of gender is so deeply rooted in the history of humanity that it is not even perceived as discrimination. In addition to the increasing criminalization in the society, varied media images of such incidents, inadequate means to address the causation and implications of such violence, poor enforcement of existing legal provisions, and erosion of traditional moral values have all added to the problems of violation of human rights of women. In the past few decades, there has been a growing awareness of this disturbing phenomenon and it has now become necessary to analyze its impact on the status and development of women. In spite of the high level of human development achieved by Kerala, the status of women is still far less than satisfactory. Violence and atrocities against women have been on an increase and in general it is accepted as an expected part of their daily routine.

This section elaborates the views of the key personnel regarding the incidents of domestic violence, their causes, different types of violence, characteristics of affected parties, organization/ institutions addressing domestic violence and the suggestions to improve the effectiveness of such organizations to reduce the incidents of domestic violence. In this regard, 140 key personnel drawn from mainly 5 categories viz. teachers, NGO representatives, Elders, representatives of religious bodies and local advisory bodies, who have come across the cases of domestic violence, were interviewed from all the 14 districts to get a first hand knowledge and their perceptions regarding the various aspects of domestic violence.

As per the perception of 76% of the key personnel, the incidences of violence are higher than the previous years. Increasing alcoholism, lack of understanding between the partners, dowry pressure, poverty etc were all

linked to the high rates of domestic violence. According to them, the erosion of traditional values and changing family patterns have also contributed greatly towards the menace. More over, the joint family system, which acts as a buffer against domestic violence, is on a declining trend and the nuclear family system are becoming more prominent. As a result, the mediation by elders in such cases have lessened. The predominance of violence by husbands are said to be higher in nuclear families but in case of those who experience violence from in-laws are a part of extended families (Parents+ children and husband's parents).

According to 24% of the Key personnel, domestic violence have not increased, rather the reporting of such cases have become more prominent compared to earlier years. Domestic violence against women cuts across all regions, economic groups, and religious groups. However, only severe cases were reported and others accepted it as a part of their life without reporting. Moreover, the number of institutions/ Organizations addressing domestic violence were comparatively lesser in the earlier years.

The phenomenon of violence against women within the family is complex and deeply embedded. According to 77% of the key personnel, women are both physically and psychologically abused by their husbands and in-laws. Sexual violence was far less prevalent as only 7% of the key personnel reported the same. Even though, the major perpetrators of violence were said to be the husbands, women were also subjected to violence from the other members of their marital home.

As regards, the socio demographic characteristics of the perpetrators, the key personnel were of the opinion that there is a clear-cut distinction between the husband and in-laws. While a high number of (80%) men with secondary education inflicted violence, it was the in-laws with primary education who inflicted violence (45.6%). Similarly, variation could also be noted with regard to the age of the perpetrators. According to 46.7% of the key personnel,

husbands and in-laws belonging to 35-45- & 55-65 age groups respectively, inflicted violence on women.

Regarding the socio-economic features of the affected parties, 60.4% of the key personnel (60.4%) were of the opinion that the women between 25 to 45 years of age were the largely affected parties. They revealed that women experienced violence not only in their earlier years of marriage but also in the later stages. Women across all educational strata experienced domestic violence. Nevertheless, according to the key personnel, it was those women having secondary education who were affected slightly higher than the others.

Regarding the type of marriage in relation to Domestic violence 76% of the key personnel opined that it was found predominantly in arranged marriages. (This may be due to the fact that in such marriages, the partners rarely got a chance to know each other before marriage. More over, violence related to dowry is also seen mostly in arranged marriages.

Awareness regarding the institutions addressing Domestic Violence

Majority of the Key personnel were aware of institutions/ organizations working against domestic violence. Family counselling centers, women organizations, vanitha cell, police stations, religious institutions etc. were some of them. The services rendered by them included counselling, mediation, legal assistance, organizing awareness programmes and training programmes. 30% of the key personnel pointed out that the agencies, which were consistent with regular follow-ups and with trained and experienced professionals were functioning effectively. Whereas 26.4% stated that these institutions/ organizations were effective only in few cases. According to them, majority of the poor were not aware of these institutions. Even those who know them were often reluctant to approach such institutions due to the fear or the stigma attached to the particular set up. They suggested that for a better result, it would be desirable to make the services of these institutions easily accessible to them. Efforts therefore, need to be made to direct their services in a

community-based manner. A community representative can be held as a liaison between the community and the agencies. Moreover, they were of the opinion that more FCC's should be established and the existing FCC's must be strengthened by equipping them with the necessary facilities.

Similarly, these organizations should spare no efforts in organizing frequent awareness campaigns against domestic violence and undertake family interventions in solving the problems that arise within the families.

Suggestions for Improvement

Gender inequality was mentioned as the chief source and the breeding ground for the continuing scale of violence against women. Majority of the key personnel opined that awareness classes should be given right from the school level, to children of both the sexes in order to create a sense of gender equality. A drastic change in the traditional practices, wherein a male child is given more prominence than a female child needs to be considered. This has to start from the base i.e., from the family level itself.

Despite the progress made at the international, national and grass root levels to address the issue, there has not been an appropriate machinery to solve the problems of domestic violence. The key personnel therefore suggested the enactment of appropriate laws and the enforcement of stringent punishments against the perpetrators of domestic violence. The general principle of treating domestic violence as not a serious crime encourages the perpetrators in continuing the evil. Further, the violence against women becomes a difficult issue to deal with, as it goes unreported at the appropriate time. The need of the hour therefore, is the empowerment of women, which would give them the confidence to come out in open about the violent acts. Along with women empowerment programmes, seeking solutions through kudumbashree by giving them a mediators role, setting up of community based aid centers and establishment of strong networks within other groups working on this issue

were suggested as measures that can expedite the women's access to relevant services.

According to majority of the key personnel, pre-marital and post-marital counseling could address the issue of domestic violence to a great extent. However, this requires trained counsellors/ psychiatrists/ psychologists, as ordinary counseling skills were not considered enough to counsel the women who have suffered violence.

Providing social and political support to the victims of the domestic violence could further break the cycle of violence. The social stigma associated with domestic violence as a routine event has to be eliminated and the whole system has to be geared to respond to the need of women facing violence.

2. 8 Case Studies

Case studies numbering 14 were undertaken (1 each from each district) to have a better comprehension regarding the intensity of the domestic violence that occurs within the families of Kerala.

Case Study – I (Category - Extra marital relationship)

‘Breach of trust’

Rohini and Ravi have been married for 7 years. They have a daughter Anu aged 6, studying in Std I. The couple hailed from middle class Hindu families and their marriage was an arranged one. Rohini and Ravi along with their daughter live in a house within the city limits.

Rohini and Ravi are both graduates. Ravi works in a private firm and draws a salary of Rs. 4000/- per month. Rohini runs a tuition centre at home for school children and earns Rs. 2000 per month.

The couple had led a happy life until a few years back, when Ravi entered into an extra marital relationship with one of his female colleagues in the office.

When Rohini came to know about this, she confronted Ravi on this issue. Ravi became furious and verbally abused his wife.

The couple picked up frequent quarrels on the issue of Ravi's affair. Ravi did not come to his home for days together. Whenever he came they had a row and Ravi would inflict psychological violence on his wife. He even stopped giving financial support to his wife and daughter.

The marital discord has affected Rohini badly. She feels cheated by her husband. She is anxious about her future and that of her daughter. She also suffers from insomnia. The situation has adversely affected the child as well.

Rohini has filed a petition in the Family Court against the conduct of her husband and is waiting for the court's verdict.

Case Study – 2 (Category - Alcoholism and suspicion)

‘A life full of suffering’

Vijayamma (47) and Sukumaran (51) have been married for 25 years. Both of them hailed from low-economic Hindu families. Their marriage was an arranged one. Both Sukumaran and Vijayamma had only studied till Std VII.

Sukumanran is a daily wage labourer engaged in tapping toddy and Vijayamma is a housewife. The couple has two children, Bindu (23) and Vijay (22). Both their children are now married. Bindu along with her husband and children live in a nearby village. Vijay and his wife are currently in Tamil Nadu, where he works in a factory.

Sukumaran and Vijayamma led a happy married life for about five years after their marriage. After that, however, things began to change for the worse. Sukumaran turned into an alcoholic. Much of his income was spent on alcohol. In his

intoxicated state, Sukumaran was very violent. He physically assaulted his wife and children. He also abused them verbally.

Later on, Sukumaran was seriously injured in an accident and could not work for many years. To support her family, Vijayamma took up a job in a nearby cashew-processing factory. Sukumaran, however, did not like this. He suspected that Vijayamma has been indulging in extra marital affairs with her colleagues.

Sukumaran, even after being cured of his injuries, did not go for work. Instead, he would take most of Vijayamma's income and consume alcohol. As a result, the family went through serious financial crisis. Sukumaran would frequently get drunk and beat his wife and children. He would also psychologically hurt his wife by saying that she has been indulging in extra marital relationships. He would at times prevent her from going to work.

Vijayamma had silently suffered physical and mental violence at the hands of her husband for around twenty years. She was emotionally and physically tired. She hated her husband and was no longer interested in leading a life with him. However, she endured, until her children got married. After they got married, Vijayamma left her husband and went to stay with her daughter's family.

Sukumaran was furious when he learned that Vijayamma had left his house. He went to his daughter's house and demanded that Vijayamma should go with him immediately. When Vijayamma refused, he assaulted her. He even assaulted his daughter who tried to intervene. Fortunately, Bindu's husband and his relatives came to Vijayamma's help. They called the Police, who promptly arrested Sukumaran. The Police then sent Sukumaran to a de-addiction centre for treatment.

The treatment and counselling given at the de-addiction centre has had a profound impact on Sukumaran. He stopped consuming alcohol. His attitude towards his wife and children has been positively influenced. He apologized to his wife and brought her back to his home. Now Vijayamma and Sukumaran are leading a happy life.

Case Study – 3 (Category - Suspicion and employment of wife)

‘Paranoid Husband’

Susan (28) and Philip (33) have been married for 8 years. Both of them hailed from middle class Christian families. Their marriage was an arranged one and Susan’s parents had given a dowry of 25 sovereigns and Rs.2 lakhs.

Susan, a graduate, works as a staff nurse in a private hospital. She draws a salary of Rs. 4500/- per month. Philip, a postgraduate, is employed in Government Service and draws a salary of Rs. 8000/- per month. The couple has a son Anil (6).

Philip has been suspicious of his wife from the early days of their marriage; he was so paranoic that he would prevent Susan from even talking to her neighbours. He suspected that his wife was engaging in extra-marital affairs with her colleagues in the hospital and therefore wanted her to resign her job. However, Susan was not willing to do this. Philip frequently picked up rows with his wife on this issue.

Philip would loose his temper in the middle of a quarrel and he would then assault Susan. He would also verbally abuse her. On some days he would prevent her from going to work.

Susan was upset by her husband’s conduct. She lost her appetite and suffered from sleeplessness. Susan also suffered from loss of self-confidence and lost her urge to work. She even thought of committing suicide.

Susan persuaded Philip to visit a counselling centre. The counselling service provided at the centre was very effective. Philip was made to understand that as part of her job as a staff nurse, Susan would have to interact with several people, and that it was wrong to be suspicious about her because of this. The counsellor was successful in removing Philip’s suspicion about Susan.

Philip is not paranoic any more. He trusts his wife completely. The couple along with their child is now leaving happily.

Case Study – 4 (Category - Property dispute and sexual maladjustment)

‘No respect for wife’

Mini (33) and Vijayan (35) hail from low-income Hindu families. Their marriage was an arranged one. The couple had been married for eight years and has three daughters – Vinaya (7), Veena (5) and Vrinda (3). Both Mini and Vijayan have studied upto Std IV. Mini is a housewife and Vijayan is a daily wage labourer and earns around Rs. 3000/- per month.

Although Vijayan is a loving husband he has some perverse sexual behaviours. He would frequently force Mini into sexual acts against her will. He would assault her physically if she resisted.

The couple also has financial problems because the family of five has to be supported solely on Vijayan’s meagre income. Vijayan now wants Mini’s father to give Mini her share of the family property. Vijayan intends to sell Mini’s share and thus overcome their financial problems. However, Mini’s father and brothers are reluctant to partition the family property. Vijayan is furious about this.

Vijayan would frequently quarrel with Mini on the issue of property. He would loose his temper, hit her and abuse her verbally. He would also on occasions, prevent her from taking food. Moreover, he would also frequently force her into sexual acts against her will. Unable to tolerate the physical, psychological and sexual violence committed by her husband, Mini, on several occasions, had to leave her husband’s home and stay at her parents’ home.

Mini has been deeply hurt by her husband’s behaviour. She is always upset and suffers from mental stress. But she endures all the violence inflicted upon her by her husband because she still loves him. She has not yet approached any

organization/individuals for support/help as she is ignorant of the existence of such services.

Case Study – 5 (Category - Suspicion and alcoholism)

‘Abandoned by Husband’

Thankamma, aged 42, lives in a small kutch house near the sea with her severely handicapped daughter Soumya, aged 17, and her son Saju, aged 15. She supports her family with a meagre income of about Rs. 1000/- per month, which she generates by working as a daily wage labourer engaged in fish processing. However, her work is seasonal and provides employment for only about 6 months in a year. “My neighbours are very helpful. They give us food when I don’t have any work”, she says. Evidently, she lives in abject poverty.

“I lost my parents at a very young age. But, my elder brother ‘Unni’, a fisherman, looked after me very well”, she said. Thankamma studied till Std. VI. Thereafter she stayed at home doing household chores. At the age of 22 she got married to Sahadevan, younger brother of Unni’s wife.

Sahadevan was a fisherman from a nearby village. He was from a family consisting of his father, mother, brother and brother’s wife. After her marriage Thankamma went to live at Sahadevan’s house. “My life after marriage turned out to be a nightmare. My husband was lazy and seldom went to work”, she said. To make matters worse, Sahadevan believed that Thankamma had an affair with his brother. Sahadevan would often get drunk, quarrel with his wife on this issue and hurt her physically. Outraged at Sahadevan’s behaviour, his brother and wife along with his father and mother left the house. This did not bring about any change in his behaviour. He continued to be suspicious of his wife—to the extent that he even prohibited her from communicating with their neighbours.

Thankamma gave birth to two children in the course of their married life. Her plight was even worse then. The elder girl, Soumya, was severely handicapped

and could not move on her own. Sahadevan would not go for work. Consequently, she had to work as a daily wage labourer to support the family. Meanwhile, there was no improvement in her husband's behaviour. The mental and physical torture on Thankamma continued to increase. Her husband even hurt their disabled child. Many times, when she could no longer bear the atrocities committed by her husband, she and her children went away to stay at her brother's house—sometimes for months together. Eventually she would return to her husband's home. Thus, she suffered 12 years of miserable life with her husband, until it became unbearable. Then she decided to leave her husband for good. She and her children left the house and went to live with her brother.

It's been 8 years since Thankamma left her husband's house. "I lived in my brother's house for six years, until my brother's death. Then I shifted to my present house, which was built with the financial help of my neighbours", she said.

Sahadevan has never come to meet her or her children in eight years. Nor has he helped them financially. Thankamma manages the family on her meagre income. Besides financial worries, she is also worried about her severely handicapped daughter, whom she has to leave alone in her house when she goes for work. Again, she is hard pressed to find money for her son's education (her son Saju is studying in Std X). "I have lost interest in life. I haven't experienced happiness or peace of mind ever since my marriage. But for my children, I would have committed suicide long ago", she says.

Separated from her husband, with no steady source of income and with two children to support—one of which is severely handicapped—Thankamma's life is certainly an unenviable one. However, in spite of all this, she still perseveres, for the sake of her children. Interestingly, she has not yet filed for a divorce. "If my husband comes back to me after giving up his bad habits, I will surely accept him", she says.

Case Study – 6 (Category - Suspicion and alcoholism)

‘Incorrigible Husband’

Thampy (61) and Molly (55) have been married for thirty years. Molly was from a Hindu family and belonged to the Nair caste. Thampy was a Christian from a neighbouring village. They came to know each other when Thampy came to work in Molly’s village. They fell in love and ran away from Molly’s home and got married. They stayed for a short period at Thampy’s house. Later, when Thampy was given his share of property they shifted to their current house. Thampy and Molly work as daily wage labourers in rubber plantation. They have five children – 3 girls and 2 boys.

Thampy is an alcoholic. He rarely goes for work. Molly works hard all day to make ends meet - she works in the rubber plantation and also works as a domestic servant in few houses. Thampy threatens her and her employers and takes away much of the money she earns for buying alcohol. As a result, even though Molly earns enough money to support her family, they remain impoverished.

Thampy, when he is intoxicated, is a violent man. After getting drunk he finds some reasons to beat his wife. He beats her, kicks her and threatens her using weapons. He even forces her into sexual acts in front of their children. He destroys household utensils and even attacks his children. Moreover, he suspects that his wife is having extra-marital relationships. He beats Molly for this too.

Due to the physical, psychological and sexual violence inflicted by her husband Molly’s health has deteriorated. She was badly hurt many times by her husband’s attacks. Besides, on many occasions, she was denied of basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. As a result of her husband’s conduct Molly feels dejected and has lost interest in life.

Thampy reaches home late at night frequently. He threatens his wife and takes her wages to consume alcohol. He engages in gambling and extra-marital affairs. Their neighbours view him with contempt.

Molly's children grew up with a feeling of insecurity because they have suffered a lot of abuses by their father. As a result, their studies were affected. Molly's two elder daughters had to stay away from the house; they were brought up in a relative's house. Their elder son was brought up in an orphanage. The youngest son who lived with his parents dropped his studies in Std VIII. He now engages in anti-social activities. All their children except for the youngest daughter are married. The Vicar of the Church, elders and neighbours advised Thampy to stop his wrongdoings. But he would not listen to them. Thampy's father and brother are alcoholics too. Therefore they were reluctant to help Molly. Suffice to say that there is nobody to provide support to Molly.

A bus hit Thampy when he was dancing on the road under the influence of alcohol. He had sustained injuries on his head and legs and is now in bed. Even in this state he consumes alcohol, which is brought to him by his friends. After getting drunk he verbally abuses Molly. Molly is convinced that her husband is incorrigible. However, she plans to stay with him, at least till her youngest daughter gets married.

Case Study – 7 (Category - Suspicion and alcoholism)

‘Mismatch’

Shyamala and Muralidharan got married in 1980. Muralidharan, at the time of marriage, was employed in a private firm, but later lost his job. Shyamala and Muralidharan have two sons who have completed graduation and are currently in Bombay, searching for jobs.

Shyamala belonged to a family of better socio-economic status than that of her husband. She was beautiful and more educated than her husband. Hence, she was opposed to marrying Muralidharan. However, her parents had not sought her opinion before fixing the alliance. Therefore, she was forced into the marriage.

From the beginning itself Shyamala was not satisfied with the marriage. Muralidharan was initially very affectionate towards her, but it did not last long. He was an alcoholic. A major part of his income was spent on alcohol and the family was caught in serious financial crisis. When drunk he would abuse Shyamala physically and mentally. To make matters worse, Muralidharan suspected that his wife was having extra marital relationships. He was paranoid – just seeing Shyamala talking to someone made him furious. He would loose his temper and assault her physically.

Shyamala suffered in silence because she was afraid of being abandoned by her husband. The violence inflicted by her husband has had profound impact on her – mentally and physically. Shyamala now feels lonely, depressed and insecure. There were times when she had thought of committing suicide. Shyamala's children were also adversely affected by the violence at home.

Her neighbours and relatives tried to help her. In fact, they had on one occasion tried to take Muralidharan to a de-addiction centre. But he refused to cooperate. Thereafter, she approached many NGOs for help. But she was not satisfied with their services and hence gave up.

Shyamala has turned deeply religious and spends most of her time reading religious books and chanting prayers.

Women should be self-reliant and have self-respect. Alcohol is the main cause of domestic violence. Therefore, it should be prohibited.

Case Study – 8 (Category - Wife's' employment)

‘Male Dominance’

Sofia (31) and Thomas (36) have been married for four years. Both of them hailed from middle class Christian families and their marriage was an arranged one. Sofia's parents had given a dowry of 25 sovereigns and Rs. 1.5 lakhs for her

marriage. After her marriage, Sofia lived in her husband's house along with Thomas' mother and sister. The couple has two daughters Selvi (3) and Jebin (1). Thomas, a graduate, runs a small-scale business and earns around Rs. 6000/- per month. Sofia, also a graduate, works in a private firm and draws a salary of Rs. 4000/- per month.

Thomas and his family had a conservative mindset as far as status of women in the household is concerned. They believed in the traditional role of women – as a housewife doing all the household chores. However, Sofia was a workingwoman who fiercely guarded her independence. This was in sharp contrast with Thomas' family's views.

Thomas and his family have been trying to persuade Sofia to resign her job ever since the marriage. However, Sofia did not give into their demand. She knew that her husband's income alone couldn't support the family. Therefore, she knew that she had to work and support the family. However, Thomas and his family failed to understand her reasoning and demanded that she resign her job and help with household chores.

Sofia and Thomas had frequent rows regarding her employment. Thomas would lose his temper and assault her physically and verbally abuse her. On occasions, he would even prevent her from taking food. When circumstances at her husband's home became unbearable she left for her parents' home.

Sofia has lost her self-confidence and she is not interested in her job any more. She is depressed and constantly thinking of committing suicide. Sofia does not want to continue life with her husband. Her relationship with her daughters has also been adversely affected because she is unable to give proper attention to them. Consequently, the children are not very attached to her.

Sofia along with her daughters is living in her parents' house. She has not decided whether to return to her husband's home or not.

Case Study – 9 (Category - Socio-economic disparity and dowry)

‘Unforgiving mother-in-law’

Geetha fell in love with Subhash and married him when she was 25 years of age. There was much difference in the socio-economic status between the families of Subhash and Geetha. Geetha hailed from a middle class Hindu family of the Ezhava caste; her father a schoolteacher and mother a housewife. In contrast, Subhash belonged to a high-income family; his father a businessman and mother a retired schoolteacher. Subhash along with his father and brother manages the family business.

Subhash’s mother, Padmini, was against his marriage with Geetha. Geetha’s low economic status was the main reason for her objection. Besides, she had wanted Subhash to marry the daughter of her rich cousin. However, Subhash married Geetha against his mother’s wish. This angered Padmini.

Problems started for Geetha from the very day she moved into her husband’s house. Her mother-in-law hated her. Moreover, her mother-in-law was not satisfied with the dowry given—one lakh rupees.

Her mother-in-law made her work hard all day. She was forced to do all the household chores. She was given little time to rest. Geetha would wake up at 4 am and work hard till late in the night. Her mother-in-law beat her for even minor mistakes. Besides, she also hurt her psychologically. She even tried to turn Subhash against Geetha. However, Subhash who loved his wife saw through his mother’s ploy. He knew that his mother was committing atrocities against his wife. But being weak at heart, he was helpless to do anything about it. He was in a dilemma. Eventually, unable to bear the plight of his wife, Subhash took to drinking alcohol.

Geetha has become tired—mentally and physically. Her dreams have been shattered. She has lost self-confidence. Frustrated at not being able to help his beloved wife, Subhash has turned into an alcoholic. Subhash's father and brother, although opposed to the behaviour of Padmini, are unable to do anything to help Geetha. The News about Geetha's maltreatment has caused much agony to her parents and brother. They want her to return home. But Geetha says she would not leave her husband's home for she still loves him.

Geetha is still suffering silently. Her mother-in-law continues to inflict violence on her. Geetha's parents had thought of approaching the Women's Cell, but abandoned the plan because they believed such a move would destroy the marriage of their daughter. Geetha is enduring all the pain with the hope that things would change for the better in future.

Case Study – 10 (Category - Suspicion)

'In-laws inflicting violence'

Shareefa was a bright student during her school days. But, she had to discontinue her studies when she was in Std X due to her family circumstances. A few years hence she got married to Abdul, who belonged to an orthodox Muslim family. They have two sons. Abdul is now working in UAE

Abdul's was a large family including his father, mother, two elder brothers, their wives and children, four younger brothers and three younger sisters. The main income of the family was from trading agricultural products. Shareefa's marriage was a happy one during the first three months. Her husband, unlike his parents, was broad-minded. He interacted freely with Shareefa without any prejudice. However, his parents, who were conservative in their thoughts, did not like this. Problems

began when Abdul's parents suspected that they were losing control over their son to Shareefa.

As a result of their frustration, they began inflicting violence on Shareefa. She was prevented from interacting with her husband and forced to do all the household chores. No one helped her. Despite all the hard work that she did, her in-laws often scolded her for silly matters. Her in-laws were bent on turning Abdul against her. With this idea in mind they spread word that she was having an extra marital relationship; it worked. Abdul believed in the story and turned hostile towards Shareefa.

Six months after their marriage Abdul got a job in UAE and he left. Shareefa was pregnant at that time. Her in-laws utilised the absence of Abdul to inflict yet more violence on her. They tortured her mentally. Unable to bear this psychological assault she left her husband's home and went to her parents' home. Thus began a period of her life, with many episodes, during which she would go to her husband's home only to return to her parents' home unable to bear the violence inflicted by her in-laws. Two years hence when Abdul came on leave she spent a few months with his family. She became pregnant with her second son. Her in-laws in the mean time began to inflict violence on her with renewed vigour. She felt crestfallen when her husband joined her in-laws in hurting her. Depressed, she returned to her parents' home yet again. However, her in-laws and husband forced her to leave her son behind. Thus she was separated from her son. At her parents' home she gave birth to her second son.

Shareefa in-laws and husband inflicted such psychological violence on her that she developed mental depression. She was under the treatment of a psychiatrist for many years. Being separated from her elder son also caused her much agony. She once attempted suicide as well.

Abdul many years later learned that Shareefa was innocent and that his parents had lied to him. Consequently their marriage survived. Shareefa, under proper medical

care has been cured of her mental depression. Now the couple, with their two children live happily in a newly constructed house near Shareefa's parents' house.

Case Study – 11 (Category - Alcoholism)

‘Irresponsible Husband’

Sheela (37) and Gopalan (42) have been married for 18 years. Their marriage was an inter-religious love marriage. Sheela was a Christian and Gopalan a Hindu. They have two daughters – Suma (15) and Soumya (14). Suma discontinued her studies after 10th Std and Soumya is in the 9th Std.

Gopalan is an agricultural labourer and earns Rs. 2000/- per month. Sheela is a member of an SHG, set up by an NGO. With the financial support of the NGO, the family bought a milch cow, which provides them a regular income. The family has a debt of Rs.10,000/-, incurred during the construction of their house.

Though Sheela and Gopalan started their life happily, problems cropped up when Gopalan became an alcoholic. This was during the early years of their marriage. Gopalan spent all his earnings on alcohol. His health deteriorated – he was often sick and unable to take proper food. Gopalan's substance abuse problem took its toll on his relationship with his wife. Gopalan and Sheela had frequent quarrels. Their marriage was on the verge of collapse.

During their rows, Gopalan often attacked Sheela physically. He threatened her using weapons and abused her verbally. This caused Sheela much mental agony.

As a result of the violence inflicted by her husband, Sheela has been deeply affected psychologically. There were times, when she even thought of committing suicide. When she was emotionally disturbed, she beat her children, even for minor mistakes. Needless to say that this has adversely

affected her relationship with her children. The family's relation with the neighbours had also been badly affected by Gopalan's bad behaviour towards them.

The NGO, which had set up an SHG, of which Sheela is a member, has come forward to help her. They gave counselling to Gopalan. As a result, there has been some positive change in his behaviour. In fact, he has agreed to enroll for a de-addiction programme.

Case Study – 12 (Category - Suspicion and alcoholism)

'Immoral Husband'

Mini (36) and Boban (42) have been married for 16 years. They both belong to the Christian community and their marriage was an arranged one. Mini's parents had given ten sovereigns as dowry for the marriage.

The couple has a daughter Nimi, aged 14, studying in Std IX. Boban is a daily wage labourer and earns about Rs.4500/- per month. Mini and Boban along with their daughter live in a Kutcha house within the city limits.

Boban is an immoral person with no values. He is an alcoholic, takes drugs, engages in gambling, gangsterism and extra marital relations. To make matters worse, he suspects that Mini is having an extra marital relation. He would frequently come home drunk late in the night and would pick up a row with his wife.

Boban would lose his temper in the middle of a quarrel and start hurting Mini physically. He would also abuse her verbally. His physical assaults were so brutal that Mini had to be hospitalised on few occasions. She was also denied of basic needs such as food clothing and shelter many times.

As a result of the violence inflicted on her, Mini now suffers from psychological depression. She has lost interest in life and is careless about her appearance.

Nimi, their child, has also been badly affected. Her studies have been adversely affected mainly due to financial constraints. Besides, Mini would punish the child needlessly whenever she is depressed. This has negatively affected the mother – daughter relationship.

Domestic violence has taken its toll on the relationship of the couple. Although they stay under one roof, they seldom interact with each other.

Case Study – 13 (Category - Socio-economic disparity and dowry)
‘Attacked by mother-in-law and husband’

Maimuna (24) and Abdul (28) have been married for 7 years. They hailed from families of different socio-economic status. Abdul belonged to a middle class family with a family business as the source of income. Maimuna’s family was economically weaker than that of her husband. Despite this, Maimuna’s parents managed to give a dowry of one lakh rupees.

Maimuna’s married life was relatively happy during the first few years. The couple had a daughter Sainaba (2). Although her in-laws were not happy with the dowry, they did not harm her during these years.

Problems started when Abdul entered into an extra marital relationship with a lady in the neighbourhood. After this, he would frequently come late to his home. Some days he would not come at all. He even stopped giving financial support to his wife. Maimuna was deeply hurt by her husband’s conduct. When she confronted Abdul on this issue, he hurt her both physically and psychologically. Maimuna’s mother-in-law, it seems had a latent grudge against her, too joined her son in inflicting violence on her.

Unable to bear the atrocities committed by her husband and mother-in-law, Maimuna went to stay at her parents' home. She stayed there for six months but eventually returned because her parents were financially weak and hence were unable to support her. At her husband's house, the violence inflicted on her continued unabated. As a result of her long suffering at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law, she is depressed. She has lost appetite and her health has deteriorated. She is always anxious and suffers from insomnia. On several occasions she even thought of committing suicide. She hates her husband and has lost interest in leading a life with him.

Maimuna still lives in her husband's home. Her mother-in-law and husband continue to hurt her. She suffers all this because she has nowhere else to go.

Case Study – 14 (Category - Property Dispute)

‘Money Matters’

Laisamma (38) and Babu (41) have been married for 18 years. They are Christians and their marriage was an arranged one. Babu is a daily wage labourer and earns Rs. 1500/- per month. They have two sons, Bibin (15) and Abin (11), studying in Std IX and VI respectively. The couple along with their children lives in a semi-pucca house.

Since the family of four have to be supported on the meagre income of Babu, they are under constant financial strain. Besides, Babu is an alcoholic and also takes drugs. A substantial portion of his income is spent on these.

Babu, when under the influence of alcohol or drugs blames Laisamma for the state of affairs. He blames her parents for not giving him any dowry at the time of their marriage. Now he wants Laisamma to sell the 15 cents of land she received from her family as her share. However, Laisamma is averse to this plan, because she believes that Babu would spend the amount received by selling the land, on alcohol and drugs.

Babu would come home drunk and pick up fights with his wife on the property issue. He would then verbally abuse her and hurt her physically. On some days he would not even give her food.

As a result of her husband's behaviour, Laisamma has been profoundly affected. She seldom talks to her husband these days. Her relationship with the children has also been adversely affected as she is unable to give them proper attention. The studies of the children have also been badly affected because they can not concentrate on their lessons due to the chaos in the house.

Laisamma does not know whom to approach for help. Consequently, she is silently suffering the violence inflicted upon her considering it to be her fate.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the last two decades, domestic violence has emerged as one of the most serious problem faced by women. They are experiencing physical and psychological violence not only from their in-laws but also often from their intimate partners. The study titled “Domestic Violence Against Women” was undertaken to gauge the extent of violence experienced by women at their marital home along with the Characteristics of the affected parties, major causes leading to domestic violence, its manifestations and subsequent consequences on the family and the society. The study also looks into the existing institutional and non-institutional arrangements for addressing domestic violence and its effectiveness in dealing with the cases of domestic violence. This chapter presents the findings of the study along with the recommendations put forth by the respondents as well as the research team.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic profile of women under study.
2. To find out the different types of Domestic Violence prevalent in the state
3. To analyze the existing types of violence in terms of:
 - a. Characteristics of the affected parties viz. Husband and in-laws
 - b. Nature of violence
 - c. Causative factors for violence

4. To find out the consequences/ impact of violence on women in terms of personal, familial, social and cultural levels
5. To study the services which address domestic violence in terms of availability, and effectiveness and to suggest measures for improvement.
6. To suggest suitable measures for reducing the occurrence and prevalence of domestic violence.

Universe and Geographical Area

All women who are affected by Domestic Violence in the fourteen districts of Kerala formed the universe and geographical area of the study.

Sampling

As a preliminary step an enlistment survey of the recorded cases were conducted to identify the various typologies of domestic violence. Women Cells, family courts, police stations, Counselling centers, NGO's working for women, Social workers, Women activists and members of the general public were contacted for this purpose.

Based on the enlistment survey, 100 victimized women from each district were selected considering the seriousness of the problem and interviewed for collecting the relevant data. In addition, discussions with key persons numbering 10 each were undertaken to draw more information regarding the subject. The key personnel were drawn from the following categories viz. Teachers (2), Elderly persons (2), religious persons (2), representatives of SHGs (2) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (2).

In toto, 1540 respondents (1400 respondents + 140 key persons) came under the purview of the study.

Tools of Data Collection

Interview schedules and guides were used to elicit data from the respondents.

Informal Discussions with the respondents were also made use of to draw maximum information about the scenario of domestic violence

FINDINGS

The findings derived from the data gathered from the women subjected to domestic violence in the 14 districts of Kerala are scripted below under the heads viz.: socio economic profile of the victims, characteristics of the affected parties causes for domestic violence, manifestation and frequency of Violence, consequences of victimization and organizations addressing domestic violence and their effectiveness resolving the cases.

Socio-Economic Profile

Social Factors

Age

- ✍ **Almost 80% of the victims of Domestic Violence were in the age group between 20-40 yrs.**
- ✍ **Of these, 43.3% were between 31-40 yrs and 36.7% between 20-30 yrs.**
- ✍ **Among the rest, 14.9% were in the age category of 41-50 and the remaining above 50yrs.**
- ✍ **Data showed that Domestic Violence is more against women who are adults or middle aged.**

Education

- ✍ **68% of the respondents had only secondary/higher secondary school education.**
- ✍ **The illiterates constituted 4.9% of the women under Domestic Violence.**
- ✍ **Graduates and post-graduates/professionals constituted 8.9% and 3.1%.**

Religion

- ✍ **Among the respondents 49.2% were Hindus and Christians with 34%**
- ✍ **The Muslims formed 16.8% of the total respondents.**

Community

- ✍ **Majority of the victims (52%) were from the Other Eligible Caste Category (OEC).**
- ✍ **Other Backward Class (OBC) figured second with 32.6%**
- ✍ **Among the rest, 9.7% and 3.7% belonged to SC and ST categories.**

Type of Family

- ✍ **63.8% of the respondents were from nuclear families.**
- ✍ **The rest, 36.2% from joint families. (Here joint family refers to parents+ children+ either of the parents or married /unmarried brothers/sisters)**

Economic Factors

Occupation

- ✍ **78.1% of the victims were unemployed.**
- ✍ **Among the rest, 12.1% were daily wage labourers and 4.6% were employed in private firms.**

Source of Income

- ✍ **Salary/wages was the major source of income for 71.1% of the families.**
- ✍ **Among the rest, 10.2% & 6.9% of the families depended on Agriculture and Business respectively.**

Housing

Typology

- ✍ Most (85.2%) of the victims lived in individual houses.
- ✍ The rest, lived either in row houses (9.1%), or in slums (3.7%), or in flats (2%)

Tenure Status

- ✍ 92% of the victims lived in own houses while the rest 8% in rented accommodation.

Housing Condition

- ✍ A good Majority (54.9%) of them lived in semi-pucca houses.
- ✍ Only 32.9% of the victims resided in pucca houses.
- ✍ 12.2% were living in kutcha houses.

Area

- ✍ The house area of 40% of the victims was between 301-750 sq.feet.
- ✍ The rest had a house with above 750 sq.feet.

Assets

- ✍ Most of the households had land though small in size.
- ✍ More than 70% of them had owned a TV.
- ✍ Refrigerators and ornaments were owned only by 30.9% & 40.1% of the victim's families.

Savings

- ✍ Majority of the respondents (67.1%) did not have any savings
- ✍ Most of those who had savings deposited in LIC, Chit funds, Bank, Post Office.

Loans

- ✍ 38.1% of the respondents had taken loans.
- ✍ Loans were taken for purposes like – house construction, Business, Agriculture, and Purchase of household assets.

Disparity in the Socio – economic status of the families of wives & Husbands

- ✍ **34% of the respondents stated difference in Socio – economic status between the two families.**

Characteristics of Affected Parties

Person controlling family affairs

- ✍ **In majority of the household (57.9%) it was the husband who controlled the family affairs.**
- ✍ **In-laws controlled the affairs in the case of 18% of the households.**
- ✍ **Husbands and Wives jointly managed the home affairs of 12.6% of the households.**
- ✍ **Only 11.5% of the cases did the wife alone manage the family matters.**

Characteristics of Husbands

- ✍ **75.4% of the husbands were alcoholic**
- ✍ **15.2% mentioned that their husbands were drug addicts.**
- ✍ **The husbands of 31.3% of the victims indulged in gambling.**
- ✍ **According to 14.9% of the victims their husbands were involved in criminal activities.**
- ✍ **Extra-marital affairs of the husbands were reported by 24.1% of the victims.**

Characteristics of In-laws

- ✍ **24.9% of the victims reported that their In-laws did not join for meals and prayers.**
- ✍ **Physical attacks by in-laws were mentioned by 13.6% of the victims.**
- ✍ **30% of the respondents were psychologically hurt by their in-laws.**
- ✍ **According to 27.2% of the victims, their in-laws instigated the husbands to harass them.**

Causes of Domestic Violence

To have an in-depth understanding of the causes that lead to domestic violence, four Major causes had been considered.

First Cause (Most Common)

- ✍ Almost half of the victims (48.7%) stated the Alcoholic Nature of the husband as the first cause for Domestic Violence.
- ✍ Extra-marital Affairs & dowry was reported by 12.1%, 10.2% respectively.
- ✍ Suspicion as the first cause was mentioned by 8.1%.
- ✍ 8.4% mentioned causes such as sterility of either of the spouse, employment of wife, mental disorders, job dissatisfaction of the husband, physical non-attractiveness and illness as the prime cause for domestic violence.

District level analysis of first cause,

- ✍ More than 85% of the victims in Kollam opined Alcoholism as the major cause.
- ✍ Kollam district was followed by Wynad and Kottayam districts with 69% and 68% of the victims.
- ✍ Among extra-marital affairs, the districts of Trivandrum and Kannur outnumbered the others with 26% and 22% each.
- ✍ Alappuzha and Malappuram districts recorded a higher number of domestic violence due to dowry problem.

Second Cause

- ✍ Probe into the second important cause that lead to Domestic Violence showed that financial constraints topped the list of causes with 27%, followed by Alcoholic nature of the husband with 17.5%.
- ✍ Suspicion and dowry were the second major causes according to 11.2% and 8.6% of the respondents.
- ✍ 6.1% each stated difference in the social status of the partners' families and extra marital affairs of the husbands as the reasons

District level analysis of second cause

- ✍ Kottayam district had comparatively higher number of victims (48%) who mentioned financial constraint as the leading cause of domestic violence.

- ✍ Kasargode and Kozhikode followed the above with 37% and 33% respectively.
- ✍ Among the Alcoholics, Malappuram and Ernakulam districts figured prominently with 29% and 28% of the victims.

Third Cause

- ✍ The third major cause according to 28.8% with a distribution of 14.4% each was financial constraints and 'not attending to household chores'.
- ✍ Suspicion and not looking after the children were reported by 13.1% and 9% of the victims.
- ✍ Lack of property, Dowry and property dispute were stated by 6.8%, 5.9% and 5.3% of the victims respectively.
- ✍ 5.8% and 4.9% each mentioned Alcoholic nature and difference in the social status of partners as the reason for domestic violence.

District level analysis of Third cause

- ✍ Kasargode Thrissur and Palakkad districts had a higher number of victims mentioning financial constraints as the third leading cause for domestic violence with 29% and 24% each respectively.

Fourth Cause

- ✍ Not attending to household chores and lack of property were the 4th leading cause cited by 13.6% and 13.1% of the victims.
- ✍ 12.4%, 10.9% and 9.5% of the victims each reported 'not looking after the Children, financial constraints, and suspicion respectively as the causes for domestic violence.
- ✍ Sexual maladjustment was reported by 7.9% of the victims.

District wise analysis of Fourth Cause

- ✍ 27%, 19% and 18% of the victims from Pathanamthitta, Palakkad, and Kannur mentioned 'not attending to household chores' as the fourth reason for domestic violence

Inflictor of violence

- ✍ In most cases (78.5%) it was the husbands who inflicted domestic violence
- ✍ The husbands and In - laws jointly inflicted violence according to 11.7% of the victims

Nature/Manifestation & Frequency of Domestic Violence

The nature/manifestation and frequency of domestic violence was assessed at 2 levels 1) Physical and 2) psychological level. Furthermore, in each level three important modes viz. first mode (most common), second mode and third mode, of manifestation and their frequencies were assessed to have an in-depth understanding on the phenomenon of domestic violence.

Physical Violence

- ✍ A total of 81.6% of the victims had to suffer physical violence.
- ✍ The remaining however did not face the physical brutality

First Mode

Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ Beating figured prominently with 27% as the most common mode of physical attack
- ✍ 21% each however stated hitting and kicking as the frequent manifestation of domestic violence.
- ✍ Among the others 11% and 1.6% mentioned slapping and forced sex as the most frequent mode of violence they had to suffer.

District level analysis of Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ Kollam had a higher number of cases (58%) with beating as the manifestation of first mode
- ✍ Thrissur and Wynad districts followed the above with 37% each.

- ✍ Regarding kicking the districts of Wynad, Palakkad and Alappuzha figured prominently with 48%, 37% and 34% respectively.
- ✍ In hitting Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts had a greater number with 46% and 31% each

First Mode- Frequency

- ✍ As regards the frequency, 27% of the victims were physically attacked very frequently.
- ✍ 17.1% had to bear the physical brutality daily.
- ✍ Beating was experienced daily, frequently and occasionally by 14.2%, 42.7% and 31.7% of the victims respectively.
- ✍ Hitting, kicking, slapping, Threatening using weapon and forced sex was experienced on a daily basis by 40.9%, 25.1%, 7.7%, 1.3% and 2.6% respectively.
- ✍ 26.4% however, mentioned that they were attacked only occasionally
- ✍ Comparatively a higher number of Women in Wynad district (20%) had to bear the physical violence on a *daily* basis
- ✍ Frequent sufferers of physical violence was c higher in the Kottayam district with 12.1%.
- ✍ The districts of Trivandrum and Wyand followed it with 9.9% and 9.7% respectively
- ✍ Beating as the first mode was experienced *daily, frequently* and *occasionally* by 14.2%, 42.7% and 31.7% of the victims respectively

Second Mode

Nature/ Manifestation

- ✍ Kicking emerged as the second manifestation form of violence according to 25.4% of the victims.
- ✍ 24.7%, 13.8% and 12.8% recorded beating, slapping and hitting as the second common mode of inflicting physical violence respectively.

District level analysis of Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ Kicking was comparatively higher in the district of Wynad with 45%.
- ✍ Pathanamthitta and Palakkad districts followed the above with 38% and 36% each.

- ✍ Beating was reported greatly in Kollam and Kottayam with a distribution of 47% and 41% each.
- ✍ Hitting and slapping was higher in the districts of Thrissur and Ernakulam with 37% and 38%.

Second Mode - Frequency

- ✍ Occasional and frequent attacks in this regard were recorded by 28.8% and 24.3% of the victims.
- ✍ Kicking as the second mode was experienced daily, frequently and occasionally by 4.1%, 32.% and 31.4% of the victims respectively
- ✍ 4.9% had to bear the physical attack daily.
- ✍ Infliction of physical violence on a *daily basis* was comparatively higher in the districts of Idukki, and Alppuzha with 23.1%, each
- ✍ Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts had a higher number of frequent sufferers with 12.3% and 11.4% each
- ✍ Occasional sufferers were greater in Kottayam and Wyand with 15.2% and 12.7% each
- ✍ *Kicking* as the second mode was experienced *daily, frequently and occasionally* by 4.1%, 32.% and 31.4% of the victims respectively

Third Mode

Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ Beating again emerged as the third mode of attack faced by 29.9% of the respondents.
- ✍ Kicking and slapping were the manifestations that followed beating with 22.8% and 19.2% respectively.
- ✍ Among the rest, 4.8%, 2.9% and 1.8% each had to suffer hitting, threatening and forced sex respectively.

District level analysis of Nature/ Manifestation

- ✍ Beating as manifestation was greater in the districts of Kottayam and Kollam and Kozhikkode districts with 48%, 46% and 43%.
- ✍ Pathanamthitta and Kasargode districts figured prominently with 40% and 44% regarding Kicking and Slapping as manifestation of domestic violence.

Third Mode - Frequency

- ✍ **32.1% and 29.4% of the victims experienced Rare and Occasional attacks.**
- ✍ **Beating was reported as the third mode of physical attack experienced by many not only daily (37.8%) but also frequently (41.9%), occasionally (31.6%) and rarely (36.4%)**
- ✍ **Slapping and kicking was frequent in case of 27.1% and 24.9% each.**
- ✍ **16.5% and 3.4% had to suffer the attacks frequently and daily too.**
- ✍ **physical violence as the third mode was experienced on a *daily* basis by 17.8% of the victims each in Palakkad and Kottayam districts**
- ✍ **Those who suffered the violence frequently were comparatively higher in the districts of Thrissur, Palakkad and Iddukki districts with 14.8%, 11.8% and 10.% each**
- ✍ **Wynad and Kottayam had higher number of occasional sufferers with 14.1% and 13.9% respectively**
- ✍ **beating as the third mode of physical attack experienced daily by 37.8%, frequently by 41.9%, and occasionally by 31.6%.**

Psychological Violence

- ✍ **Excluding a minor percentage of 2.9%, all others had suffered mental strain of one form or the other.**

First Mode (most common)

Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ **38.6% of women stated demeaning as the most common mode of hurting them.**
- ✍ **28% and 15.9% mentioned threatening and abandoning as the commonest mode of psychological torture.**

District level analysis of Nature/ Manifestation

- ✍ ***Demeaning* as a manifestation of Psychological violence was occurring greatly (more than 50% each) in the districts of Kannur Palakkad, Wynad, Alappuzha, and Trivandrum**
- ✍ ***Threatening* was comparatively higher in the districts of Kozhikkode and Pathanamthitta with 48% and 47% respectively**
- ✍ ***Abandoning* was common in Kollam and Thrissur districts with 46% and 38% respectively.**
- ✍ ***Infidelity* was found to be 35% and 34% in Kasargodu and Ernakulam districts.**

First Mode - Frequency

- ✍ **40.4% and 20.1% had to suffer the psychological strain on a frequent and occasional basis.**
- ✍ **Another one fourth of the victims (25.7%) stated daily infliction of psychological strain on them.**
- ✍ **Demeaning, was experienced daily and frequently by 26.5% and 47% of the victims respectively**
- ✍ **Threatening, abandoning, and faithlessness was suffered on a daily basis by 16.3%, 20.2% and 52.% respectively.**
- ✍ **17.5% of the respondents of the Wyanad district cited the existence of psychological violence on a daily basis**
- ✍ **Districts of Ernakulam and Idukki followed with 15.3% and 11.1% respectively**
- ✍ **Kottaym that figured prominently with 11.7% of the frequent sufferers seconded by Trivandrum with 11.5%.**
- ✍ **Pathanamthitta district had the highest number of Occasional sufferers(16.9%)**

Second Mode

Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ **Threatening dominated the second form psychological strain with 35.8% mentioning the same.**
- ✍ **Abandoning and demeaning followed the above with 26.6% and 21.1% respectively.**

- ✍ Infidelity was reported by 13% of the victims.

District level Analysis of Nature/ Manifestation

- ✍ 50% of those who mentioned *threatening* as psychological violence were from the district of Kottayam
- ✍ Kannur district followed the above with 49%.
- ✍ 44% each was reported from Pathanamthitta and Wynad districts
- ✍ *Abandoning* figured prominently in the districts of Alappuzha and Palakkad with 41% each

Second Mode - Frequency

- ✍ Occasional and Frequent inflictors of psychological violence in the form of Demeaning, threatening, abandoning and infidelity constituted more than seventy percent of the victims.
- ✍ 7.6% experienced the pain of psychological strain on a daily basis.
- ✍ Malappuram and Iddukki districts had a higher number of perpetrators of psychological violence on daily basis with 22% each
- ✍ Frequent sufferers were comparatively higher in the districts of Kasargode and Kannur with 47% and 46% each
- ✍ *Occasional* experiences were reported comparatively higher from Kottayam and Trivandrum with 65% and 54%

Third Mode

Nature/Manifestation

- ✍ Abandoning topped the list of third mode of psychological strain with 40.3%.
- ✍ Threatening and infidelity to wives was mentioned by 28.3% and 21.5% of the women under stress due to domestic violence.

District level Analysis of Nature/ Manifestation

- ✍ *Abandoning* was prominent in the district of Kottayam with 11.7%.
- ✍ Wynad and Kozhikkode followed it with 10.6% and 10.1%
- ✍ *Unfaithfulness* was reported comparatively higher in the districts of Thrissur, Alappuzha and Kannur with 15.6%, 14.6% and 11% each

Third Mode - Frequency

- ✍ Majority of the victims (55.9%) had to bear the pain of psychological strain either frequently or occasionally.
- ✍ 5.1% suffered on a daily basis and others (36.2%) only rarely.
- ✍ 20% and 14% of the victims in Malappuram district had to bear the Psychological violence on a daily and frequent basis
- ✍ Kannur and Pathanamthitta districts had 13% & 12% of the women who experienced the violence on a daily basis
- ✍ Threatening as the third mode of psychological violence was experienced daily by 38%

Consequences of Victimization

The consequences of victimization were considered under 4 heads viz., personal, familial, cultural and societal level.

Consequences at the personal level

Physical injury

- ✍ 74.6% of the respondents were physically injured by the attacks on them
- ✍ Out of the above, 26.7% & 31.7% respectively were very seriously injured

Denial of basic needs

- ✍ More than three fourth (76.5%) of the respondents were deprived of basic needs like food, shelter, cloths etc.
- ✍ 46.8% of the victims were denied of one meal
- ✍ Two meals were denied for 16.1% victims
- ✍ 7.6%, 3.2% & 2.8% of the respondents were denied of basic needs for 1 day, 2 day & more than 2 days respectively.

Mental depression

- ✍ Almost cent percent (98%) of the victims had experienced mental depression due to domestic violence.

- ✍ In 23% of the cases, the mental depression caused had prompted them to commit suicide.
- ✍ In the case of 22% they lost faith in friends & relatives.

Reaction to domestic violence

- ✍ 40.9% reacted to domestic violence by going to their parent's home.
- ✍ 35.1% reacted by using abusive language to the perpetrator.

Change in Physical appearance

- ✍ 55.9% of the respondents stated a change in their appearance in terms of shabby dressing, lack/ excess use of the cosmetics etc.
- ✍ Of the above shabby dressing was reported by 27.7% of the respondents

Attitude of suicide

- ✍ 27.4% of the respondents occasionally thought of ending their lives
- ✍ 35% of the victims always thought of ending their lives.

Consequences at the Family Level

- ✍ Relationship of 43.6% of the victims had been very badly affected due to domestic violence.
- ✍ 36.9% opined that the relationship had been moderately affected.
- ✍ 27.3% of the respondents were trying to get a divorce.
- ✍ 24% had lost interest in leading a life with their husbands.

Procurement of Basic Needs

- ✍ The ability to procure basic needs had been very badly affected for 4.6%.
- ✍ For 47.6%, the procurement of basic needs had been moderately affected.
- ✍ 27.5% never consumed food when upset due to violence.
- ✍ 20.2% said that they faced financial constraints for procuring basic needs.

Interaction between Family Members

- ✍ Interaction between family members was *very badly* affected due to domestic violence in 26.4% of the households.
- ✍ 29.6% mentioned that the interaction was *moderately* affected.
- ✍ 25.4% of the victims were afraid to talk to their family members leading to lesser interaction among the family members. (Husband's home)
- ✍ 14.7% reported absence of interaction between family members.
- ✍ The family members of 9.3% of the victims were suspicious of them resulting in low level of interaction.

Decision Making

- ✍ For 10% of the victims, their ability to make decisions had been *very badly* affected due to domestic violence.
- ✍ Ability to take decision was *moderately* affected in 72.6% of the cases.

Consequences at the Cultural Level

- ✍ Value system of 61.4% of the victims had affected due to violence.
- ✍ Out of the above, for 9.7%, it had affected greatly while for others (51.7%) the impact was on a moderate scale.
- ✍ 21.7% stated that they had lost faith in family life.
- ✍ Domestic violence made 17.7% of them to turn to God greatly.
- ✍ 15.4% had lost faith in relationships.

Attitude to Family life

- ✍ The attitude towards family life had been negatively affected for 45.5% of the victims to a great extent and partially for 31.1%.
- ✍ 30% of the victims were not interested in staying with their in-laws.
- ✍ 24.8% of them had been abandoned by their husbands.
- ✍ Loss of interest in family life was stated by 21.9% of the victims.

Belief in God

- ✍ 39.6% of the victims reported an increase in their belief in god.
- ✍ Decrease in the same had been stated by 25.1% of them.

Visits to Temples/Churches

- ✍ 43.4% of the victims visited places of worship frequently while 42% visited only occasionally.

Violation of Family Customs

- ✍ Family customs of 63.1% of the households were violated as a result of domestic violence.
- ✍ Family customs were *frequently and occasionally* violated by 28.3% & 26.9% of the households.

Consequences at the Societal Level

Relationship with Neighbours

- ✍ 34.2% of the victims stated that their relationship with the neighbours had been affected due to domestic violence.
- ✍ Of this, the relationship had been *moderately and very badly affected* for 25.1% & 9.1% respectively.
- ✍ Absence/lack of contact with their neighbours was reported by 16.6% of the victims.
- ✍ Neighbours of 4.6% blamed the victims themselves for their present state.
- ✍ For 4.5%, the relationship with the neighbours had been adversely affected by the harsh behaviour of their husbands.

Relationship with Friends

- ✍ For 25.7% of the victims, their relationship with friends had been *moderately affected*.
- ✍ The relationship of 4.7% of the victims had been *very badly affected*
- ✍ 24.3% of the victims stated the Absence of contact with their friends as the reason for the above variations in relationship with friends.
- ✍ 3% cited harsh behaviour of their husbands towards their friends as the reason that lead to adverse relationship with their friends.

Relationship with other Residents in the area

- ✍ According to 6.6% of the victims their relationship with other residents of the area was affected very badly.

- ✍ Relationship with other residents of the area was affected *moderately and very badly* for 24.3% & 6.6% respectively.
- ✍ Lack of contact with other residents of the area was a leading cause for the strained relationship with the residents for 13%.
- ✍ For 7.8%, the nearby residents did not care about their plight.

Behaviour of General Society towards Victims

- ✍ 4.8% of the women who suffered domestic violence mentioned about the negative attitude of the society, which affected their life very badly.
- ✍ For 18.5% the behaviour had been *moderately* affected.
- ✍ According to 8.6% the society did not care about their plight.
- ✍ While 6.6% said that the society viewed them with sympathy, 5.1% mentioned that the society looked at them with suspicion.
- ✍ 55.9% of the victims had stayed away from their husbands due to victimization
- ✍ Out of the above, 43.2% of the victims had stayed at their parent's home after leaving their husbands.
- ✍ 6.5% stayed at their relatives home, 2.8% at short stay homes & 2.1% with their friends.

Duration of Staying Away

- ✍ Of those who stayed away from their husbands, the duration was more than 6 months & 2-6 months for 11.4% & 9.4% respectively.
- ✍ 10.6% had stayed away for 2 weeks, 10% for one week & 6.9% for two days.

Solving the problem of Domestic Violence

- ✍ 90.7% of the victims cited that efforts to solve the problems of domestic violence were taken within the family itself.
- ✍ Of this, 49.1% of the cases, the victim herself took the initiative to solve the problem. The relatives tried to solve the problems for 29.3% of the victims. The husbands had tried to solve the problems in 6.6% cases.

Availability and Effectiveness of Organizations Addressing Domestic Violence and Suggestions for Improvement.

Person/Agency approached

- ✍ 36.7% of the victims usually approached their relatives for help.
- ✍ Among the others, 15% and 13.5% approached Family Counseling Centres and police stations respectively.

Effectiveness of the Assistance

- ✍ In majority of the cases (52.4%), the assistance provided by the organizations or individuals did not prove effective.
- ✍ For 30.2% cases, the service was effective in solving the problem
- ✍ The rest had not approached any person/agency for assistance.

Awareness about Organizations addressing Domestic Violence

- ✍ Majority of the victims (53.1%) were unaware of organizations/ individuals addressing domestic violence.
- ✍ Among the rest, 26.6% and 4.5% each were aware of counselling centers and organizations that provide legal help.
- ✍ 9.8% of the victims were aware of the existence of rehabilitation centres.

Effectiveness of the Services of the Organizations

- ✍ Only 28.2% were satisfied with the effectiveness of the services provided by the individuals/organizations addressing domestic violence.
- ✍ 16.7% had no faith in their services.
- ✍ 10% cited the lack of commitment and time on the part of the organization members to address the problem of domestic violence..

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the prevailing status of the domestic violence against women in Kerala at the backdrop, the following recommendations have been drawn, based on the interaction with the victims and key personnel

through interviews and discussions. The recommendations highlighting the roles/services of various sections for reducing the occurrence and prevalence of domestic violence are scripted below under the major heads: Judiciary, Government, Police, NGOs, Health care support, Counselling, networking, Awareness Generation & Sensitization, and media.

Judiciary

- ? **‘Domestic Violence Bill’ should be passed by the Parliament at the earliest.**
- ? **The proposed ‘Domestic Violence Bill’ should also include gender sensitive interpretation and enforcement**
- ? **Strict enforcement of the laws regarding Drug addiction and Dowry should be made for reducing the occurrence of domestic violence.**
- ? **Measures should be taken to deal severely with the Alcoholics who perpetuate domestic violence.**
- ? **Procedural reforms must be made by the judiciary to avoid harassment of women and children by the enforcement institutions.**
- ? **Special courts must be set up for cases of violence against women and children with up-to-date technological support like video graphing of statements of rape and child abuse victims.**
- ? **To handle domestic violence cases the services of women magistrates should be made use of.**
- ? **Domestic Violence cases should be taken up promptly and completed without delay avoiding unnecessary imposition of strains and stress on them.**
- ? **Mobile courts should be introduced as an effective strategy for reaching out to more and more victims in the rural/ urban areas.**
- ? **Women’s commission should be given more penal powers beyond referral powers. It should be expanded with more members and provided with adequate resources and personnel.**

- ? There should be co-ordinated efforts of police, administration and judiciary for enforcing measures against atrocities on women.
- ? A congenial atmosphere should be provided in the family courts for the women to present their cases and arrive at conciliation.

Government

- ? Efforts should be made for the proper and effective enforcement of existing laws related to women.
- ? Government Agencies/department should made use of the assistance of NGOs to create awareness on Domestic violence among the public.
- ? All police stations should be equipped with special legal aid cells to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Police

- ? Police need to be sensitized to treat domestic violence cases as seriously as any other crime.
- ? Special training to handle domestic violence cases should be imparted to police force.
- ? They should be provided with information regarding support network of judiciary, Govt. agencies/departments, and NGOs handling domestic violence, to make their work more effective and efficient.
- ? Gender training should be made mandatory in the trainings of the police officers.
- ? There should be a separate wing of police dealing with women's issues, attached to all police stations and should be excluded from any other duty.
- ? Women police officials should handle all crimes against women.
- ? Many violence against women especially dowry deaths are suppressed and registered as unnatural death cases. Hence in such cases, even before the launch of investigations, police should associate with the NGOs.

NGOs

- ? **NGOs working in different fields should be made proactive to the issues of Domestic Violence so that prompt assistance could be rendered to the victims.**
- ? **Non- Governmental agencies and private institutions need to be a part of any initiative that seeks to address the issue of Domestic Violence.**
- ? **Information regarding all agencies dealing with domestic violence should be made available to all health care institutions for their reference resulting in the provision of services as and when required.**
- ? **Facilities like telephone hotlines, legal assistance, counseling services, psychological care, income generation programme for the survivors, long term rehabilitation and child care services are needed to effectively address the concerns of the survivors of the domestic violence.**
- ? **Facilities like short stay homes for women in distress should be provided and emphasis should be laid on vocational training to rehabilitate them.**
- ? **Children of affected women should be given special care and attention to enhance their education and social functioning.**
- ? **People's Planning Programmes through Self Help Groups and Neighbourhood Groups should be encouraged to facilitate mutual sharing between women.**
- ? **Measures should be adopted for empowering women to make use of the various services addressed to domestic violence.**

Health Care Support

- ? **Authorities should take steps to recognize Domestic Violence as a public health issue.**
- ? **A crisis support cell must be established in all major Government and Private hospitals with a trained medical social worker to provide appropriate services and referral.**

- ? Existing mental health facilities and programmes including mental health programme should be reoriented to provide appropriate care for the survivors of domestic violence.
- ? Special Care should be provided to women seeking medical help following an episode of violence.
- ? The health care providers should be gentle in examining the victims of violence.
- ? Training programmes are to be organized for health professionals in order to develop their skills to provide basic support for abused women including formal counseling and provide them with information on sources for help and suitable referral to other local services
- ? Gender based violence; its impact on health and care of abused women should be integrated into the medical and nursing curriculum.
- ? Documentation on the prevalence and the health consequences of domestic violence should be undertaken by the concerned Government departments, Health care institutions, NGOs, Counselling Centres.
- ? A nodal agency should be set up for the annual consolidation of the documented work and publish the same for wider publicity among the masses.

Counselling

- ? More counseling centers with professionally qualified counselors should be started at the rural/urban areas focusing more on domestic violence victims.
- ? Vulnerable communities should be identified and services like counselling, legal aid etc. should be made easily accessible and free of charge.
- ? Pre-marital and post marital counselling should be made compulsory resulting in the minimization of the breaking down of families.
- ? Mobile counselling should be introduced as an effective strategy to provide consolation to the victims of domestic violence.

Networking

- ? A co-ordination committee of officials from various govt. departments/agencies viz., health, police, judiciary, social welfare etc. should be established to deal with domestic violence cases.
- ? District level domestic violence review committees should be set up to review the various measures taken by the govt. departments and agencies.
- ? The role of each govt. department/agency in addressing domestic violence cases should be spelt out clearly.
- ? Efforts should be made to improve the services of the various departments/agencies facilitating better access and availability of services by the victims/survivors.

Awareness Generation and Sensitization

- ? Gender sensitization and awareness generation programmes on domestic violence should become a part of the school and university curriculum. This would help to bring about a change in the mindset of the coming generations.
- ? Stigma attached to the victims should be removed by conscientising the community through various outreach programmes viz., street plays, padayatras, rallies etc.
- ? List of NGOs and other governmental organisations dealing with women's issues should be made known to the public.
- ? Sensitization programmes should be organized for the policy makers judiciary and enforcement: personnel in order to make them responsive in their handling cases of violence against women.
- ? Frequent legal awareness camps for women empowerment and spreading social awareness about women's status & rights should be organized in rural /urban areas.
- ? Massive campaigns against Alcoholism, Dowry, drug addiction etc. should be organized to minimize the occurrence of domestic violence.

Media

- ? **A general outline on the depiction of Gender based violence in the media should be formulated and implemented.**
- ? **Media should be given an appropriate training in highlighting and presenting the impact of domestic violence on the victims and their families.**
- ? **Due recognition should be given to media by instituting incentives /awards to encourage their contributions in disseminating valid information and generating public empathy.**

APPENDICES

1. Tools of Data Collection

2. List of Agencies/Personnel

3. References

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KERALA
ENLISTMENT SCHEDULE – Tool 1

Sl. No.	SOURCE OF DATA	Name & Address of the person

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KERALA INTERVIEW SCHEDULE- Tool 2

a. Name of the District :

b. Name of the agency/ organization/ location:

c. Type of case/ cause

(Refer Q.36 and write the most frequent cause only)

Personal Data

1. Name of the client :

2. Sex: 1. Female

3. Age

4. Religion: 1. Christian 2. Hindu 3. Muslim

5. Community : 1. SC 2. ST 3. OBC 4, Others

6. Type of family at the time of filing/Reporting the case:

1. Nuclear 2. Joint 3. Separated

7. Position in the Family:

1. Daughter-in-law 2. Wife

9. Marital Status: 1. Married

10. How long have you been married?

11. Family profile

SL No	Family Members	Relationship with the Respondent	Sex	Age	Education	Employment	In
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

6							
7							
8							
9							

Education: 1. Illiterate 2. Primary 3. Secondary 4. High secondary 5. Graduate 6. Post Graduate 7. Professional-engineer, doctor etc

Occupation: 1. None 2. Agriculture 3. Daily wage labourer 4 Govt. Service 5. Private 6. Professional 7. Business

Sex: 1. Male 2. Female

Household Details

11. Housing typology: 1. Individual 2.Flats 3. Row houses ☐

4. Slum

12. Tenure Status 1. Owner 2.Tenant ☐

13. House condition 1. Pucca 2. Semi-puca 3. Kutcha ☐

14. Built-up area of the house in sq.ft.

. <300 2. 301-750 3. 751 –5000 4. 5001 – 10000 5. >10000 ☐

15. Household Assets (tick the available ones)

1. Refrigerator 2. T.V 3. Computer 4.Telephone
 5. 4 wheeler 6. 2 wheeler 7. Fishing Boat 8. Bicycle
 9. Auto rickshaw 10. Ornaments 11. Land/Property
 12. Sewing machines

16. Major Source of Income

1. Salary/wage 2. Agriculture 3. Both 4. Others ☐
 specify

17. Monthly Income:

18. Savings: 1. Yes 2. No ☐

18.1 If yes, where?

19. Loan 1. YES 2. NO

19.1 If yes, amount & Purpose:

20. If employed when do you usually reach home from workplace

21. Whether your husband is your relative? 1. Yes 2. No

21.1 If yes, the relationship?

22. Type of marriage 1. Arranged 2. Love

22.1 If arranged whether your opinion was sought regarding the marriage

1. Yes 2. No 3. N.A

23. How much dowry was given:

24. Were the in-laws satisfied with the dowry: 1. Yes 2. No

25. Is there any difference in the Socio-economic status of the 2 families

1. Yes 2. No

26. Have you ever stayed away from you husband due to victimization:

1. Yes 2. No

26.1 If yes, where ?:

1. Short stay home, 2. Hostels 3. Friends 4. Parents home
5. Relatives home

26.2 How long?

1. One day 2. Two days 3. One week 4. 2 weeks
4. 1 month 6. 2-6 months 7. More than 6 months

Characteristics of the Affected Parties

Husband

27. Does your husband earn an income of his own?

1. Yes 2. No

27.1 If yes, state source?

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1. HUSBAND 2. WIFE 3. IN LAWS 4. DOWN

29. Does your husband reach home late at night

1. Daily 2. Frequently 3. Occasionally 4. rarely

30. Does your husband an addict of :

Alcohol : 1. Yes 2. No

Drug : 1. Yes 2. No

31. Does your husband involve in

Gambling : 1. Yes 2. No

Gangsterism : 1. Yes 2. No

Extra marital affairs : 1. Yes 2. No

31.1 Do you spend time together as a family

1. Yes 2. No

In-laws/Others in the family (Applicable for families with other members)

32. Do they come together with you for the meals and prayers

1. Yes 2. No

33. Do they in any way hurt you physically?

1 Yes 2.No

34 Do they in any way hurt you psychologically?

1. Yes 2. No

35. Do they in any way instigate your husband to harass you?

1. Yes 2. No

Causative Factors of Victimization

36. What are the major causes for the violence at home?

(write the most important ones- 4 in number)

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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. status | 2. spouse | 3. n |
| 7. Extra Marital affairs | 8. Not attending to household chores | 9. Employment of wife |
| 10. Job satisfaction of husband | 11. Mental disorders | 12. Illness |
| 13. Property dispute | 14. Not looking after children | 15. Lack of property |
| 16. Sexual maladjustment | 17. Any other (specify) | 18. |

37. Who inflicts violence/aggression on you:

1. Husband 2. In laws 3. Both

Nature/ Manifestation & Frequency

Physical

38. Which is the most common mode of attacking you physically?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Hit | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 2. Kick | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 3. Beat | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 4. Slap | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 5. Threatening by using weapon | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 6. Forced Sex | a. Yes b. No | 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely |
| 7. Others specify | | |

38.1 Second Mode.. Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally 4.Rarely

38.2 Third Mode 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally
4.Rarely

38.3 Least Mode..... ... 1.Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally
4.Rarely

Psychological

39 Most common mode of hurting you psychologically?

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3.Occasionally 4.Rarely

2. Threatening 1.Yes 2. No 1.Daily 2.Frequently
3.Occasionally 4.Rarely

3. Abandoning 1.Yes b. No 1.Daily 2.Frequently
3.Occasionally 4.Rarely

4. Unfaithful a.Yes b. No 1.Daily 2.Frequently
3.Occasionally 4.Rarely

5. Others

39.1 The second mode: ... 1. Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally
4.Rarely

39.2 The third mode: 2..Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally
4.Rarely

39.3 The least mode: 3..Daily 2.Frequently 3.Occasionally
4.Rarely

Consequences of victimisation

At the Personal Level

40. Were you physically bruised by the attack on you:

1. Yes 2. No

41.1 If yes, state the severity

1. Very serious 2. Serious 3. Moderate 4. Minor

42. Have you been denied of your basic needs like food, cloths, shelter etc.

1. Yes 2. No

☐

42.1 If yes, how long:

1. One meal 2. 2 meal 3. 1day 4. 2days 5. More than 2 days

☐

43. Whether Domestic violence has caused you any mental depression:

1. Yes 2. No

☐

43.1 If yes, in what way:

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44. How do you usually react to the Domestic violence?

1. Go to my own house 2. Use abuse words 3. Beat children
4. Neglect the household chores 5. Any others

☐

45. Has violence at home at have brought about any changes in your appearance in term of dressing use of cosmetics etc.

1. Yes 2. No

☐

45.1 If yes, how?

1. Too cautions regarding appearances 2. Careless
3. Any other specify

☐

46. Have you ever thought of ending your life?

1. Not at all 2. Rarely 3. Occasionally 4. Always

☐

At the Family Level:

47. Did victimization affect your relationship with husband

(quantify by grading)

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

47.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

48. Has the violence affect you relationship with children

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected ☐

48.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

49 Did the victimization affect the procurement of basic needs?

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected ☐

49.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

50 Has domestic violence affect the education to the children?

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected ☐

50.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

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51. Interaction level between family members

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected ☐

51.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

52. Taking decision?

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected ☐

52.1 If 2 or 3 state how?

At the Cultural Level

53. Has the victimization in any way affect your value system

1. Yes 2. No ☐

53.1 If yes, state to what extent?

1. Greatly 2. Moderately 3. Remain uncharged ☐

53.2 State the way in which it has changed

54. Did your attitude to family life has changed in any way due to victimization?

1. Greatly 2. Partially 3. Uncharged

☐

54.1 State how?

55. Did your belief in God decrease/increase in

1. Decrease 2. Increased 3. Remain Unchanged

☐

56. How often you used to go to temples/church earlier?

1. Frequently 2. Occasionally 3. Rarely

☐

57. Were the family customs violated/deviated due to domestic violence

1. Yes 2. No

☐

57.1 If yes, how often

☐

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At the Societal Level

(quantity of grading –Not affected, Moderately affected, Very badly affected)

How does your victimization affect your social life:

58. Relation with neighbours

1. Not affected 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

58.1 If 2, state how?

58.2 If 3, State how?

59. Relation with friends

a. 1. Not at all 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

59.1 If 2, state how?

59.2 If 3, State how?

60. Relation with other residents of the area

1. Not at all 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

60.1 If 2, state how?

60.2 If 3, State how?

61. Behaviour of general society towards you

1. Not at all 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

61.1 If 2, state how?

61.2 If 3, State how?

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62. Relation with colleagues

1. Not at all 2. Moderately affected 3. Very badly affected

☐

62.1 If 2, state how?

62.2 If 3, State how?

63. Others specify a b c

64. In times of problems/ Domestic violence have you ever tried to solve

the same within the family?

☐

1. Yes 2. No

64.1 If yes, who takes the initiative?

1. Husband 2. You 3. Relatives 4. In-laws

☐

64.2 If no, do you approach any one else?

1. Yes 2. No

☐

65. Are you aware of any organization/individual addressing domestic violence?

1. Yes 2. No

☐

66.1 If yes, list the same with the services provided in this regard.

67. Usually whom do you approach for help?

1. Nearest police station 2. NGO specify 3. FCC specify
4. Gender line 5. Others specify

☐

68. Did their assistance help you to solve your problem?

1. Yes 2. No

☐

69. Comment on the effectiveness of these services in dealing with Domestic Violence.

70. Suggest measures for improving the effectiveness &accessibility of these services?

71. What are your suggestions for reducing the occurrence of domestic violence?

	Name	Date	Sign	Remarks
Research Investigator				
Data Entry operator				
Co-ordinator				

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KERALA- Tool-

3

Interview Guide for Key Personnel

Name of the investigator :

Date of interview :

Personal Data

1. Name of the personnel :

2. Sex :

1. Male 2. Female

3. Age :

4. Qualification:

5. Designation:

6. Name of the organization/Institution

7. Years of service:

8. Marital status:

1. Married 2. Unmarried 3. Widow 4. Divorced 5. Separated

9. Have you come across cases of domestic violence?

1. Yes 2. No

10. Do you think that incidents of Domestic Violence are comparatively higher at present? 1. Yes 2. No

10.1 If yes, - What could be the reasons for the same (write 3 most important reasons only)

a.

b.

c.

you'?

12. What according to you are the characteristics of the affected parties (husband, wife & in-laws) regarding age, education, income, type & duration of marriage & type of family?

Party	Age	Education	Income	Type of marriage	Type of family

- a. Husband
- b. Wife
- c. In laws

13. Usually who inflicts violence on the women (rank the following)

- ii) Husband
- iii) In laws
- iv) Relatives
- v) Others (specify.....)

14. Are you aware of any institution/organization addressing Domestic Violence in your area of work.

1. Yes 2. No

--

14.1 If yes, list the same and state the type services rendered by them in this regard.

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15. Comment on the effectiveness of these services in dealing with Domestic Violence.

16. Suggest measures for improving the effectiveness & accessibility of these services?

17. What do you think are the main reasons behind this domestic violence?

18. According to you what could be done to reduce/ minimize the occurrences and prevalence of Domestic Violence

19. Other comments, if any?

	Name	Date	Sign	Remarks
Data Entry operator				

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LIST OF AGENCIES / PERSONNEL

A. NGOs

1. Mukthisadan, De-Addiction Centre-Kochi
2. Sakhi, Women Rehabilitation Centre-Kochi
3. Udayabhavan, Social Work Institute- Gandhinagar, Erankulam
4. Suartha convent-kissan colony, Ernakulam
5. Snehalayam, Counselling and De-Addiction Centre Ernakulam
6. Peoples Council for Social Justice, (PCSJ) Ernakulam
7. Peerumedu Development Society, (PDS) Iddukki
8. Peoples Service Society (PSS) Palakkad,
9. Dreams organization, Kottayam
- 10.Children's Village,Kottayam
- 11.Women Empowerment & Human Resource Development Center
for India,(WHI) Trivandrum
- 12.Shreyas, Wayanad
- 13.ICDS centres Malappuram
- 14.ICDS, Centres, Alappuzha
- 15.Kudumbasree offices, Alappuzha
- 16.Kudumbasree offices, Thrissur
- 17.ICDS centers, Thrissur
- 18.Kudumbasree offices, Pathanamthitta
- 19.Kudumbasree offices, Kollam
- 20.Thalassery Social service society, (TSSS) Thalassery, Kannur
- 21.Social service society, Kasargode
- 22.Manusha, Kozhikkode

B. Family Counselling Centres of 14 Districts

C. DARSHN. Gender line- Kochi

D. Women's cells of Colleges

E. Family Courts

F. Police Stations

G. Social Workers

H. Social Activists

I. Public

1. Casual Labourers

2. Doctors

3. Govt. Employees

4. Elected Representatives

5. Journalists

6. Professionals

7. Teachers

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