

SOCIAL CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A STUDY

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Abstract

Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies prescribe violence against women, but the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girl's equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. Domestic violence takes place across all groups and cultures. Various studies have revealed that misunderstanding between the husband and the wife, infidelity, economic inequality between men and women, demand for dowry, indifferent attitude of in-laws, infertility etc. are common causes of domestic violence. Based on a sample of 150 respondents selected from Ganderbal district of Kashmir valley, the study examines the social causes of domestic violence against rural women in Kashmir. A stratified random sampling technique was used to collect information from female victims of domestic violence chosen from rural areas of Ganderbal district. For the present study, an explanatory research design was used. The paper provides useful insights into the link between gender inequality and discrimination as root cause of violence against women, and in identifying the social causes of domestic violence and their nature against rural women in Kashmir,

Keywords: Social causes, demand for dowry, infertility, indifferent attitude of in-laws, domestic violence, rural women, Kashmir

1. INTRODUCTION

United Nations definition of domestic violence, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in (1993) defines violence against women as “any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.¹ All of these forms of violence are associated with power inequalities: between women and men, as well as with growing economic inequalities both within and between countries. Women constitute about half of the world population, place due to gender differences and bias. They have been the victims of violence and exploited by the male dominated society all over the universe. The most painful discrimination of women is the physical and psychological violence perpetuated on them. The phenomenon of domestic violence is under prevalent but has remained largely invisible in the public domain. Domestic violence is the most common form of gender based violence.

Violence against women has devastating physical, emotional, financial and social effects on women, children, families and communities around the world. Domestic violence is an extremely complex and vicious form of abuse, committed most often within the four walls of the family or within a particular deep rooted power dynamic

and socio-economic structures, which do not allow even the acknowledgement or recognition of this abuse.² Violence is a weapon that is used to curve, control and regulate women's behaviour and aspiration. It is observed that domestic violence against women is universal across culture, religion, class and ethnicity. Despite this, widespread nature of domestic violence remains so, due to social construction of the divide between public and private affairs.³

Domestic violence is a serious sociological problem and "women are trapped in a traditional situation which is characterised by discrimination, suppression and inequality".⁴ Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies prescribe violence against women, but the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets. Moreover, when the violation takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the abuse is effectively condoned by the tacit silence and the passivity displayed by the state and the law-enforcing machinery. Violence against women and girls continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and aims - physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girl's equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms.⁵ Domestic violence takes place across all groups and cultures. It can take many forms including verbal, emotional, psychological, financial, spiritual, sexual and physical abuse. Violence against women is experienced by women of all ages and social classes, races, religions and nationalities all over the world. Violence refers to infliction by any man or woman on any other man or woman and manifested in various forms as physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. It involves at least two people – an actor or a perpetrator of violence and a victim or a person on whom violence is inflicted. Violence against women has devastating physical, emotional, financial and social effects on women, children, families and communities around the world.⁶ It follows that the violence against women exists in all classes and groups.

In order to understand the nature and extent of domestic violence against women, to identify the major social factors associated with domestic violence, different theoretical models have been developed and used by the social scientists and the psychologists. The resource theory rests on the notion that decision making power in family relationship depends to a large extent on the value of resources each person bring to the relationship. Violence is used as a last resort to regain status quo. Social control theory of domestic violence proposes social control model of domestic violence. According to theory, inter- familial relations cannot be broken off easily. Consequently, when family member perceive injustice in daily interaction they resort to violence. Symbolic interaction theory of domestic violence explores the different meanings of violence people hold and consequences of such meanings in situational setting. The sub-culture of violence theory suggests that some sub-cultural groups develop norms and values that emphasize the use of physical violence to a greater extent than it seemed appropriate by dominant culture. General system theory explains the domestic violence as a product of system rather than of individual pathology. The dependency framework has been involved and is being used to understand the phenomenon of domestic violence against women. Various studies have revealed the following common reasons for the occurrence of domestic violence:

1. Men's habit of consuming liquor is a common cause for quarrel between the husband and the wife. A drunken husband at home is seldom, a pleasant sight for the wife.
2. Infidelity/suspected infidelity by the husband or by the wife become a cause for spousal conflict.
3. Economic inequality between men and women is another reason that creates rifts in families. It is mostly the men who are the bread earners in the family for which they feel that they should enjoy a superior position. This many times translates into a coercive behaviour to suppress their partners.
4. Hierarchical gender relations and established traditions in the family is one of the reasons of violence against women. Acts of violence against female members of the household, whether wife or child, are perceived as acts of discipline considered essential for maintaining the rule of male-authority within the family.

5. Tendency of polygamy (due to the women's infertility, family pressures etc.) sometimes gives rise to spousal fighting, which is the most demeaning experience for women.
6. In-laws dissatisfied with the dowry, torture the daughter-in-law to give in to their greed.
7. Sometimes, the rising awareness among women about their rights is another cause of violence against women. When literate and educated women raise their voices at some point of time against such violence, this, in retaliation, provokes and adds fuel to further violence from the male partners.
8. Report of incidents such as preparing a meal late/improper cooking or not disciplining/caring a child may seem trivial but in cases of failure to fulfil such 'duties' becomes an excuse for violence against women⁷.

There are a number of causes of domestic violence against women. These causes range from the trivial to bizarre like not doing house-work properly, dressing fashionably, Jealousy of husband, husband's alcoholism, dowry demands, husband's mistress, laughing without reason, combing hairs a number of times during day, high tone during dialogue, free and social nature, close relations with friends, boyfriends, disrespectful behaviour with elders in the family, refusal to bring money from parent's house, doubt of extra-marital affairs, husband's economically dependent on parents and single personality factor. In conclusion it can be said that anything can serve an excuse for inflicting violence against women. No single factor explains the phenomenon of domestic violence against women.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Universe of the study

The universe of present study constitutes female victims of domestic violence in district Ganderbal. The district has four tehsil's: Ganderbal, Wakora, Gund and Kangan. According to census (2011), Ganderbal district has a population of 2, 97,446 in which males were 1, 58,720 and females were 1, 38,726 respectively⁸.

2.2. Sampling plan and design of the study

The present study is based on a sample of 150 female victims of domestic violence chosen from rural areas of district Ganderbal. . It is important to mention here that the whole sample of 150 respondents was chosen from the population of female victims of domestic violence as per the nature and objective of the study. Later on, a stratified random sampling technique was used to collect information from the respondents. For the present study, a descriptive research design was used. In order to carry out the empirical data from the field, the techniques of interview schedule was administered on the respondents. The relevant literature was used to review to analyse and provide some direction in drafting schedule. Schedule and informal discussion with the respondents were the major tools of data collection. The interview schedule was pre-tested and suitably modified. In-depth Interviews and discussions were conducted as the techniques of data collection to elicit information from the respondents. The interview schedule which formed the major tool was catered to the respondents to draw information from them. The present study involved primary and secondary sources of data collection, for primary sources, first-hand information was collected through the interview schedule and observation in the field. The secondary information is based on books, journals, papers, news articles, magazines etc. available on topic. Facial expression, body language was given due an importance and informal talks with the respondents helped in enriching the study. The American Psychological Association 5th ed. (APA) style was used in the present study for citation and references.

2.3. Hypothesis of the study

In order to analyse the given research problem, the following hypotheses were laid down:

Rural women in Kashmir are considered as unequal, inferior and weak. They are experiencing physical and mental violence not only from the in-laws but also from their intimate partner. The social causes of violence against rural women are mostly demand for dowry, indifferent attitude of in-laws, infertility etc.

2.4. Objectives of the study

In order to testify the aforesaid mentioned hypothesis, the following broad objectives have been taken into consideration:

1. To trace the link gender inequality and discrimination as root causes of violence against women,
2. To identify the social causes of domestic violence against rural women in Kashmir,
3. To explore the nature of social causes of domestic violence against rural women in Kashmir.

3. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Causes of Domestic Violence against Women

Gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men, which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world. There is no one single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. The causes of domestic violence against women are a complex mixture of social, economic and cultural that accounts for the rising violence against women. These may be factor which may put women at greater risk of violence because of the stress created by financial hardship and relationships crisis. Various reasons for domestic violence against women are given as under.

Table 1: Causes of Domestic Violence in the Family? (Multiple Responses)

| S. No. | Causes of domestic violence in the family | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|--------|---|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Demand for Dowry | 98 | 65.33 |
| 2 | Indifferent attitude of in-laws | 92 | 62.66 |
| 3 | Extra- marital affair of husband | 62 | 41.33 |
| 4 | Infertility | 68 | 45.33 |
| 5 | Financial problems/economic dependence of women | 102 | 68.00 |
| 6 | Lack of understanding | 92 | 61.33 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 1 shows that multiple responses of the respondents about the various factors that were identified as causes of the domestic violence in the family. It shows that out of total 150 respondents, 65.33 percent respondents think that demand for dowry is the main cause of domestic violence against women. While 92 respondents i.e. (62.66 percent) think that Indifferent attitude of in-laws is the another reason of violence, whereas 62 respondents i.e. (41.33 percent) respondents think extra marital affairs is the main reason of violence and 68 respondents i.e. 45.33 percent thought that infertility one more cause of domestic violence, 102 respondents i.e. 68.00 percent revealed that financial problem is the major cause of domestic violence and 92 respondents i.e. (61.33 percent) admitted that foremost reason of domestic violence in the family is lack of understanding.

3.2 Demand for Dowry

Dowry is the main tool of exploitation against married women. Dowry is one of the most ancient practices in India. Dowry is the payment in cash or some kind of gift given to bridegroom's family at the time of marriage. This practice continues even today in India although banned by law since 1961, and in recent years dowry amounts have raised dramatically.⁹ The dowry system is considered to put great financial burden on the bride's family. There are strong links between domestic violence and dowry and in order to analyse those links several questions were passed to the respondents.

Table 2 Demand for Dowry

| S. No. | Demand for dowry | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|------------|
|--------|------------------|--------------------|------------|

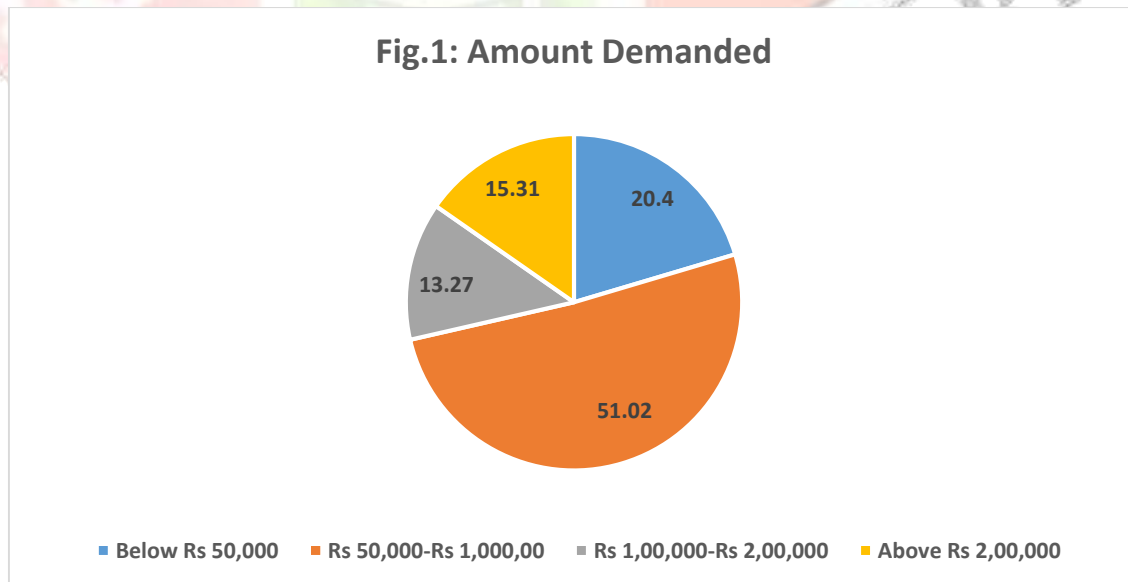
| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 98 | 65.33 |
| 2 | No | 52 | 34.67 |
| <i>If yes, how many times dowry was demanded</i> | | | |
| | Once | 18 | 18.37 |
| | Twice | 15 | 15.31 |
| | Thrice | 27 | 27.55 |
| | Often | 26 | 26.53 |
| e) | Rarely | 12 | 12.24 |
| f) | Any other | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 98 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

From the above table 2, it becomes evident that while 98 respondents i.e. (65.33 percent) admitted that husband's family demand dowry after marriage, however 52 respondents i.e. (34.66 percent) mentioned that there was no demand for dowry. Out of 65.33 percent respondents, 18 respondents i.e. (18.37 percent) were compelled to pay dowry at once, 15 respondents i.e. (15.31 percent) respondents were troubled for dowry twice, 27 respondents i.e. (27.55 percent) were harassed thrice. 26.53 percent of respondents were demanded dowry often. While as 12.24 percent of respondents were rarely demanded dowry.

3.3 Amount Demanded

Majority of respondents admitted that the problems for women in the post marital life starts with the demand of dowry by their in-laws family members, especially by husband, father and mother in-laws. Even if the demand is fulfilled, it still continues and is increasing day by day. So violence related with dowry is increasing at a fast rate. It has been observed from the study that dowry is becoming a common menace for maltreating and burning women who suffer great harassment and torture at the hands of in-law family. In whole, the entire family stands involved in demanding dowry from married women. Furthermore, it was seen that dowry demand was fulfilled by parents due to the fear of harassment of their daughters.



Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above fig. 1 reveals that cash is demanded by husband once after marriage. Out of 98 respondents i.e. 20 respondent's i.e.20.40 percent, admitted that they were demanded amount of dowry below Rs 50,000. It has been found that 51.02 percent women were demanded dowry Rs 50,000 - Rs 1,000,00,13.27 percent were demanded

dowry of Rs 1,00,000 - Rs 2,00,000. A good number respondent i.e. 15.31 percent were compelled to bring money above Rs 2, 00,000. It was also observed from the study that the amount of dowry demanded from women is increasing and the majority of cases of women face taunts from her in-laws for demand of dowry in cash

3.4 Indifferent Attitude of In-laws

Indifferent attitude of in-laws is another cause of violence against women in the family. Indifferent attitude towards daughter in-law plays adverse role in the life of women after marriage and also it leads towards all round development and unhappiness in the family life. The attitude of in-laws towards the daughter in-laws is therefore extremely important in creating the atmosphere of pleasure or sadness. In this context respondents were asked to express their views in this regard.

Table 3: Indifferent Attitude of In-laws

| S. No. | Is attitude of in-laws indifferent | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 94 | 62.66 |
| 2 | No | 56 | 37.34 |
| Total | | 150 | 100.00 |
| <i>If yes, mention</i> | | | |
| a) | Unresponsive | 24 | 25.53 |
| b) | Uninterested | 15 | 15.96 |
| c) | Apathetic | 25 | 26.60 |
| d) | Uncaring | 30 | 31.91 |
| Total | | 94 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 3 depicts that out of 150 respondents, 94 respondents i.e. 62.66 percent say that there is indifferent attitude towards daughter in-law, while as 56 respondents i.e. (37.34 percent) said that is not indifferent attitude in-laws. There are various types of indifferent attitudes of in-laws like domestic violence abusing, by both husband and in laws. An attempt has been made to know the attitude of in-laws toward the married women. It is clearly evident from the above table that out of 94 respondents i.e. (62.66 percent) 24 respondents i.e. 25.53 percent reveals that their in-laws were unresponsive, 15 respondents i.e. 15.96 percent affirmed their in-laws are uninterested, 25 respondents' i.e., 26.60 percent said that they met with apathetic attitude daughter in-laws, while as 30 respondents i.e., (31.91 percent) reveals that their in-laws are uncaring towards the daughter in-laws. It has been observed from the respondents that husbands did not favour their wives when they are violated by their family members. Besides it was found that mother-in-law is mostly responsible for rude and erratic behaviour towards their daughter-in-laws.

3.5 Decision Making

The figures below depicts the level of decision making, revealed by the respondents.

Fig. 2: Considered as a Part in Decision Making

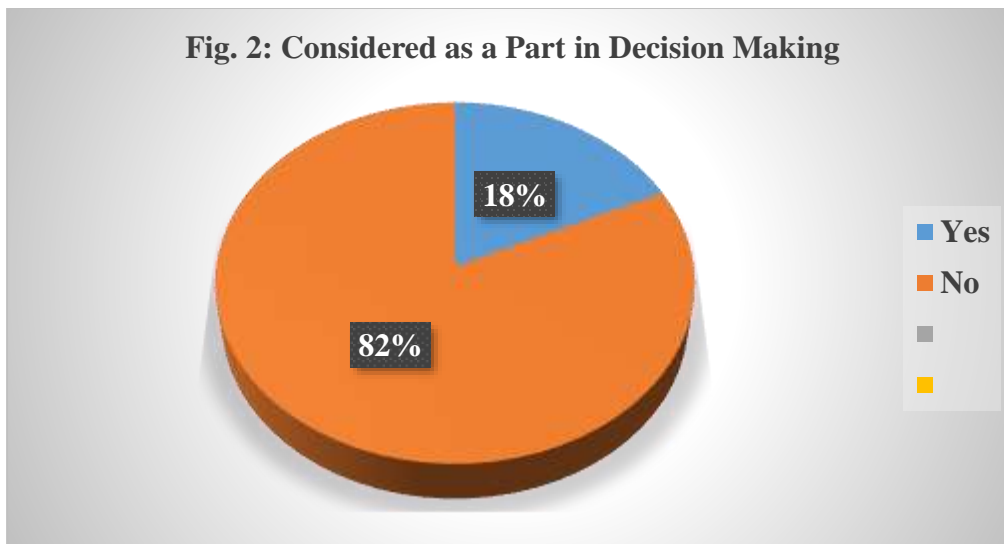
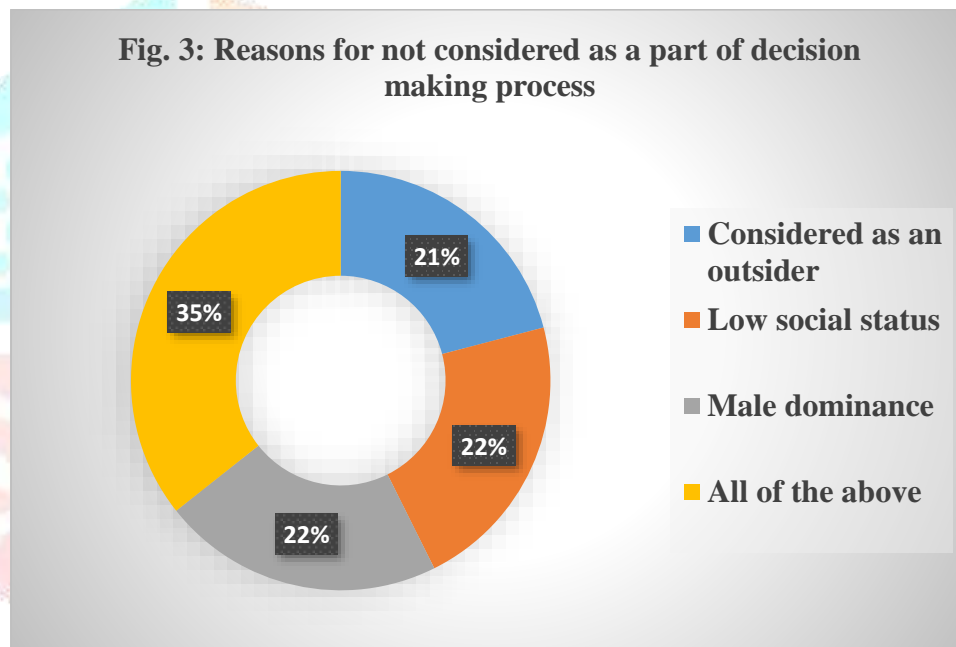


Fig. 3: Reasons for not considered as a part of decision making process



Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above figures show about the decision making power in their family. It has been clear from the study that out of 150 respondents (100 percent), 27 respondents i.e. (18.00 percent) said that women were considered as a part of decision-making in their family, while as 123 respondents i.e. 82.00 percent said that they do not consider daughter-in-law decision-making in the family. Out of 123 respondents i.e. (21.95 percent) points out that they are considered an outsider in the family, and 22 respondents i.e. (17.88 percent) says that because of low social status they do not consider decision making power in the family and 28 respondents i.e. (22.76 percent) reveals that male dominate family. While as 46 respondents i.e. (37.40 percent) said that they are considered as an outsider, Low social status and male dominance. It has been observed in the field that majority of respondents reveals that they were not considered decision making in the In-laws family. Thus it can be said that men have greater amount of prestige and power in decision making in the family and as well as outside. Thus, it can be concluded that all important family decisions are taken by males without the due consultation of females in their respective families due to the patriarchal nature of Kashmiri society.

3.6 Extra-Marital Affairs of Husband

Extra marital affair is another reason of domestic violence against women in the family. Extra marital relations with other than own spouse amounts to cruelty and also causes separation. Extra-marital relationship is found to be the major cause of domestic violence against women in the present-day society. The most commonly perceived contributing factor in domestic violence is extra- marital affairs. An overwhelming number of cases showed that domestic violence occurred as a result of extra-marital affairs. In this context, the respondents were asked to reveal their ideas which are shown in the below table:

Table 4: Extra-Marital Affair of Husband

| S. No. | Do you feel that your husband have any extra marital affair | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Yes | 62 | 41.33 |
| 2 | No | 88 | 58.67 |
| Total | | 150 | 100.00 |
| <i>If yes, how does it affect you</i> | | | |
| a) | Physical abuse | 8 | 12.90 |
| b) | Verbal abuse | 6 | 9.68 |
| c) | Mental tourcher | 18 | 29.04 |
| d) | Suffer economic hardship | 10 | 16.13 |
| e) | Chronic heart disease | 12 | 19.35 |
| f) | Low self esteem | 8 | 12.90 |
| Total | | 62 | 100.0 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 4 reveals that out of 150 respondents i.e. (100 percent), 41.33 percent had extra marital affairs while as (58.67 percent) did not have any extra marital affairs. Out of 62 respondents who have extra marital affairs, (12.90 percent) women are being physically abused, (9.68 percent) face verbal abuse, (29.04 percent) have mentally tortured and (16.13 percent) have to go through economic hardships, 19.35 percent have developed chorine heart disease and (12.90 percent) suffer from low self- esteem. Further, there are also many women who have been isolated. Some have been forced to leave home with their children as their husbands have started to live with other women. It was also further observed that mostly, extra-marital affairs involved multiple partners and repeatedly tends to occur over a number of years. Most often wives would hear of the alleged affairs from family members, neighbours and people from the village. Thus, she becomes emotionally disturbed.

3.7 Infertility

Infertility is one of the major causes responsible for domestic violence against women. Infertility is generally defined as the inability to conceive after one year or trying to become pregnant. Infertility is a biological condition, which has got much socio- cultural implications. A woman is considered a reproductive machine to bear and rear. In this context, the respondents provide information which is shown in the below:

Table 5: Infertility

| S. No. | Infertility responsible for domestic violence | No. of respondents | Percent age |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Yes | 68 | 45.33 |
| 2 | No | 82 | 54.67 |
| <i>If yes, in your opinion how does it affect women?</i> | | | |
| a) | Loneliness | 19 | 27.94 |
| b) | Feeling to insecurity | 26 | 38.24 |

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| c) | Social stigma | 9 | 13.24 |
| d) | Any other (All of the above) | 14 | 20.58 |
| Total | | 68 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 5 reveals that out of 150 respondents only 45.33 percent agree that infertility is cause of violence against women in their family. 54.67 percent do not agree that infertility is a major cause of domestic violence. Out of 68 respondents (45.33 percent) agreed that infertility is responsible for domestic violence, (27.94 percent) reveals that infertile women are subject to loneliness and (38.24 percent) have feeling of insecurity and (13.24 percent) respondents suffer from social stigma, while as 20.58 percent respondent say women face all of the above. It reveals that childless women endure enormous emotional suffering because they don't bear children. In most of the societies, a high value is placed on children. Status of women is reduced to a child bearing machine and they are subjected to violence. Women are socialized and expected to be submissive mainly because of patrilocal system of marriage, where a woman is always at the receiving end at her-in law place. The majority of the respondents reveal that infertile women are threatened to be divorced by their husbands and all this leads to insecurity in life, stress and suppression.

Table 6: Women Blamed for Being Infertile

| S. No. | Do you think that women are blamed for being infertile? | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 100 | 66.66 |
| 2 | No | 50 | 33.34 |
| <i>If yes, what are these reasons</i> | | | |
| a) | Male dominance | 34 | 34.00 |
| b) | Traditional view | 28 | 28.00 |
| c) | All of the above | 38 | 38.00 |
| d) | Any other | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above figure 6 depicts that out of 150 respondents 66.66 percent reveal that women are always blamed for being infertile while as 33.34 percent say that women are not blamed for being infertile. Out of 100 respondents i.e. (34.00 percent) who consider women are being blamed the reason behind this male dominance in the family. (28.00 percent) says that traditional view in their families is responsible for the victimization and while as (38.00 percent) says that all of the above reasons are responsible. It follows that majority of respondents are always blamed for being infertile. It was observed from the field that culturally, the inability of a woman to conceive is considered as a major fault on the part of women. Sometimes the problem may be with the husband. But often the women is ostracised for infertility. Hence, it can be infertility that increased violence against women and is attributed to a wide range of factors and infertility is one of the major reasons. Married women who are found incapable (generally confirmed without medical test) of giving birth to a child, usually face humiliation, verbal abuse, mental or physical torture by husband or husband's family members. It was observed that the increasing prevalence of divorce rate or taking another wife has become a major concern for infertile women.

3.8 Financial Problems/Economic Dependence of Women

Gender inequality leads to the economic dependency of women on men. Women are economically dependent on men especially in the developing countries. Economic dependency is the degree in which a person relies upon others for fulfilling his or her needs. In Jammu and Kashmir women are economically dependent on their husbands and they are not free to spend their own income on their will because of the culture and patriarchal

society. Economic dependency makes women vulnerable to violence and suppression they are considered as a burden on family.

Table 7: Financial Problems are Responsible for Domestic violence

| S. No. | Financial problems are responsible for domestic violence | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 102 | 68.00 |
| 2 | No | 48 | 32.00 |
| <i>If yes, how</i> | | | |
| a) | Basic needs are not fulfilled | 44 | 43.13 |
| b) | Schooling of children suffer | 30 | 29.41 |
| c) | All of the above | 28 | 27.46 |
| d) | Any other | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 102 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 7 reveals that there are financial problems in the household which are responsible for domestic violence. (68.00 percent) said that financial problems are responsible for domestic violence women while as (32.00 percent) do not consider it a causes of domestic violence. Out of 102 respondents (43.13 percent) said that their basic needs are not fulfilled, (29.41 percent) are said that schooling of children suffers and (27.46 percent) say both all the above respondent reasons. The majority of respondents in our study face violence due to economic reasons because they are fully dependent on their husbands. Women's social status as well as access to various systems of resources is mainly revolved around by their relationships with men through marriage. Within this overall pattern of subordination, there are individual disparities in the levels of women's dependency. Women who are victims of violence do not have any source of income of their own. This dependency position of the women is a major cause of violence in the family. It is found that economic dependence, threat and fear of violence keeps women home based bearing all exploitative behaviour. In similar Panday (2008) in his study "psycho-social aspects of domestic violence" says that most of the women due to the economic pressures and abuses.¹⁰ Due to deep-rooted values and culture, women do not prefer to adopt the option of separation or divorce. They also fear the consequences of reporting violence and declare an unwillingness to subject themselves to the shame of being identified as battered women. Lack of information about alternatives also forces women to suffer silently within the four walls of their homes.

Table 8: Economic Dependency on Husband

| S. No. | Economic dependency on husband is a cause for tolerating domestic violence? | No. of respondent | Percentage |
|--------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 98 | 65.34 |
| 2 | No | 52 | 34.66 |
| Total | | 150 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

It becomes clearly evident from the above table 10 that 98 respondents i.e. (65.34 percent) agree that economic dependency on husbands is a cause for tolerating domestic violence while as 52 respondent's i.e. (34.66 percent) do not consider it to be the cause for tolerating reason for domestic violence. It has been observed from the field that the economic dependency is reason for tolerating violence because it consequently makes women fully dependent on their husbands for their economic needs. It follows that dependency was considered to be positively related with domestic violence against women. Due to economic independence, women have no power to escape from violent relationships. Women who are economically dependent on their husbands suffer from financial constraints and have a feeling inadequacy which leads them to tolerate and stay in abusive relationship.

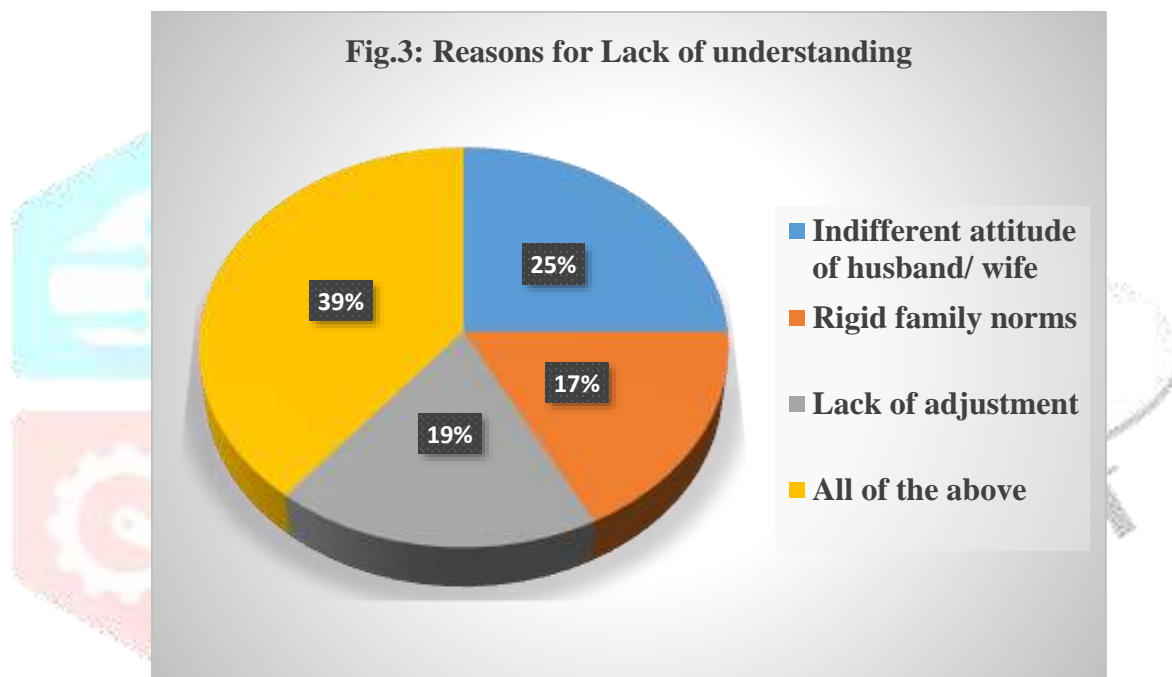
3.9 Lack of Understanding

Lack of understanding can lead to a lack of trust in the relationship. When there is lack of trust, a lot of misunderstanding and doubts begin to spike up in the relationship. Therefore, couples need to find a way to deal with each other and learn to understand one another. Lack of understanding in a relationship can lead to more fights, as a couple can lose trust in each other. In this context, respondents reveal their ideas/opinions in the below table.

9: Lack of Understanding

| S. No. | Lack of understanding | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Yes | 92 | 61.33 |
| 2 | No | 58 | 38.66 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.



Source: Field work, 2016 carried out in Ganderbal.

The above table 9 depicts that out of 150 respondents i.e. 61.33 percent said there is lack of understanding between husband/in-laws, while as (38.66 percent) of respondents said that there were not lack of understanding between in-laws and their family. Out of 92 respondents only (25.00 percent) says that there is lack of interaction in their family, (17.39 percent) respondents told that rigid family norms, (18.48 percent) of the respondents reveal that there is lack of education in the family and (39.13 percent) of respondents said it is because of lack of interaction, rigid family norms and lack of education and so on. It has been observed from the field that the majority of respondents reveal that lack of interaction has great impact of patriarchy and the influence of traditional cultural and lack of interaction among women because rigid family norms and education of women themselves are the main reason for domestic violence against women in the family. At the same time the respondents reveal that physical and verbal fights are the worst and they hamper the growth of the relationship.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Domestic violence is an extremely complex and vicious form of abuse, committed most often within the four walls of the family or within a particular deep rooted power dynamic and socio-economic structures, which do not allow even the acknowledgement or recognition of this abuse. Violence against women is present in every

country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Violence against women and girls continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and aims – physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girl's equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. Various studies have revealed that men's habit of alcohol consuming, Infidelity/suspected infidelity by the husband or by the, economic inequality between men and women, hierarchical gender relations and established traditions in the family and lack of understanding are common social causes of domestic violence against women. There are other number of causes of domestic violence against women. These causes range from the trivial to bizarre like not doing house-work properly, dressing fashionably, Jealousy of husband, dowry demands, husband's mistress, laughing without reason, high tone during dialogue, close relations with friends, boyfriends, disrespectful behaviour with elders in the family, etc. The most common social causes for domestic violence against women in Kashmir have been demand for dowry, indifferent attitude of in-laws, extra- marital affair of husband, infertility, financial problems/economic dependence of women and lack of understanding.

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