

CHAPTER-7

CASE STUDY

➤ Introduction

In the social sciences and life sciences, a case study (or case report) is a descriptive, exploratory or explanatory analysis of a person, group or event. An explanatory case study is used to explore causation in order to find underlying principles. [1] [2] Case studies may be prospective (in which criteria are established and cases fitting the criteria are included as they become available) or retrospective (in which criteria are established for selecting cases from historical records for inclusion in the study).

“Thomas” one of the famous scholars offers the following definition of case study: "Case studies are analyses of persons, events, decisions, periods, projects, policies, institutions, or other systems that are studied holistically by one or more methods. The case that is the subject of the inquiry will be an instance of a class of phenomena that provides an analytical frame — an object — within which the study is conducted and which the case illuminates and explicates."

Another suggestion is that case study should be defined as a research strategy, an empirical inquiry that investigates a phenomenon within its real-life context. Case study research can mean single and multiple case studies, can include quantitative evidence, relies on multiple sources of evidence, and benefits from the prior development of theoretical propositions. Case studies should not be confused with qualitative research and they can be based on any mix of quantitative and qualitative evidence. Single-subject research provides the statistical framework for making inferences from quantitative case-study data. This is also supported and well-formulated that “The case study is a research approach, situated between concrete data taking techniques and methodological paradigms."

According to “ Ram Ahuja” in his book on “Research Methods” points that “case study is an intensive study of a case which may be an individual, an institution, a system, a community, an organization, an event, or even the entire culture. Case study is not a method of data collection;

rather it is a research strategy, or an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon by using multiple sources of evidence”.

Mitchell (1983:192) has also maintained that a case study is not just a narrative account of the respondents or an event or a series of events but it involves analysis against an appropriate theoretical framework or in support of theoretical conclusions.

Some writers like Bell (1993) and the other is Blaxter (1996) have suggested that case studies are suitable for single person research on a limited budget and that the study of one case provides a manageable opportunity for the researcher to study one aspect of the problem in some depth within a limited time. But this is not true. Case studies have been used for various purposes like descriptive, exploration and explanatory research and also to generate theory.

➤ **Why case studies**

The case study is also effective for generalizing using the type of test that Karl Popper called falsification, which forms part of critical reflexivity. Falsification is one of the most rigorous tests to which a scientific proposition can be subjected: if just one observation does not fit with the proposition it is considered not valid generally and must therefore be either revised or rejected. Popper himself used the now famous example of, "All swans are white," and proposed that just one observation of a single black swan would falsify this proposition and in this way have general significance and stimulate further investigations and theory-building. The case study is well suited for identifying "black swans" because of its in-depth approach: what appears to be "white" often turns out on closer examination to be "black." Case studies are only one of many ways of doing social science research, with Experimentation, observation, surveys and archival information (as mentioned above) each suited to a certain type of research problem, degree of experimenter control over events and historical/contemporary perspective and focus.

What are case studies? By design, case studies usually take as their principal subject selected examples of a social entity within its normal context. At the simplest level, the case study provides descriptive accounts of one or more cases, yet can also be used in an

intellectually rigorous manner to achieve experimental isolation of one or more selected social factors within a real-life context. Robert Yin tried to define a case study, as part of his defense of the method, as an attempt to examine:

(a) A contemporary phenomenon in its real life context, especially when;

(b) The boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident.

Despite the popular misconception that case studies are limited to qualitative analysis they can use both qualitative and/or quantitative information. The use of case studies and other research methods, look at the different types of case studies, and the different types of case information used. The case study is the most flexible of all research designs, allowing the researcher to retain the holistic characteristics of real-life events while investigating empirical events.

In general, a case study is an empirical inquiry which:

**** investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context: when***

**** The boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident;***

And in which Multiple sources of evidence are used.

In the present study, case studies play an important part to understand different types and issues related to domestic violence against women. Domestic violence which is commonly seen in all three of the classes whether it is upper class, middle class or lower class, factors such as demand for money or desire for male child. The research is on the problem of wife abuse and the areas where one technique of data collection would not be only sufficient to explicate the intricacies of the marital relationship. In spite of well thought of interview questions and good rapport with the respondents there would be a number of events and circumstances which will remain buried in the formal interview situations. After marriage the husband and wife have to make a number of adjustments to come up to the expectations of each other as well as for the purpose of having understanding and peaceful atmosphere. This is very much true in our Indian society where the marriages are arranged by the parents and even marriage partners' start knowing each other after marriage. Due to sex discrimination or in other words due to gender inequalities women are not treated as equal to the man everywhere and it also continues in marital relationship even during their early childhood they are not only discriminated but are required to develop a submissive personality.

In the present study case method is used to highlight all the dynamic aspects of husband-wife relationship. As husband-wife relationship is not a new thing or a continuous process but there are certain periods in the marital relationship which are peaceful and harmonious yet there are situations where there are conflict or arguments resulting in acute violence against spouse. Under some circumstances, it becomes essential to explicate the developmental cycle of the marriage.

In the present study case histories of fifteen victims of violence have been taken. These fifteen cases belong to different classes, castes, religion, family background etc. All cases are from each of four classes' viz., upper, middle, working and lower class have been recorded. The cases are all registered cases which are registered in the "Court of Law". All the cases which are selected were interviewed personally on several occasions, so that detailed and true information could be procured. Everything was kept in mind and also keeping in mind the objectives of the study in-depth interviews were taken, probing and observations were also relied upon to bring out subterranean aspects of the husband-wife relationship. The cases have been presented in a systematic manner, viz their background, their personal strategies, incidents giving rise to domestic violence, the outcome of the violence, circumstances forcing them to seek for help or not to seek for help, seeking help from natal home or from formal institutions, what forced them to continue the abusive relationship. After the detailed description of the cases an attempt is made to highlight certain common issues or in other words commonalities and variations in the circumstances of these cases which have precipitated the discord what and how the victims dealt with worst and adverse situations in their life.

➤ **Fifteen intensive case studies**

CASE STUDY: 1

AGE: 28 years

QUALIFICATION: B.A., M.A, L.L.B.

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is the girl who comes from a Gujarati family. Her father is also one of the very famous and a good lawyer in Baroda. Her brother is also an advocate. In other words we can say a family of advocates. After completing education her parents decided to get her married. They started searching a good match. As a girl she also had some dreams in her mind. Being from an advocate family she did not wanted to get married to any advocate man. She said that she wanted a simple person who can take care of her. Coming from a rich family she was also acquainted with the social practices. Her husband was having two provision stores and they were not so rich in comparison to them but still she decided to get married to him. His father-in-law and husband both use to go and sit at the shop. Her husband was the only son in the family. When she got married taunting started from the very next day of her marriage. Her mother-in-law started saying that your parents promised to give us this and that but they had made us fool they have not given anything in marriage. She thought that as she is newly married and it's a new family it will take some time for the mother-in-law and father-in-law to get adjusted with her and even she will be considered as a stranger right now. But as the time passed everything was increasing day by day. She told that her mother-in-law used to say that as she had degree of a lawyer and before marriage she use to work so after getting married she left the job and started handling the house. She mentioned that during her pregnancy also her mother-in-law use to keep an eye on her eating. Her mother-in-law always use to say that give birth to a boy who will continue the family name otherwise they will send her back to her natal home. Luckily she gave birth to baby boy and she thought that now at least she will be considered as a family member and not a stranger but then also the mother-in-law said that tell your father to give four lakh rupees cash and gold. At the time of her delivery she was at her natal home and when she had her labor pains and she

was taken to the hospital and when her parents called the in-laws to inform about that she was taken to hospital they were least bothered for her. When they received the news that baby boy was born then parent-in-laws and the husband came. At that time also she mentioned that she felt like talking to the husband about this and emotional torture what she was going through but the husband never use to say a single word in front of his parents. She thought as the son is born into the family and she kept her promise of giving son things will change but nothing changed instead of decreasing it got increased. Parent-in-law never used to give food to eat properly. Limitations were imposed even on eating. They used to say that if you want to eat anything then go to the market and get it and eat or go outside and work. Mother-in-law used abusive words as well. She mentioned that the main cause of emotional and economical violence was money. They always used to tell her to go to the natal home and get money. But keeping in view her all humiliating situation, many a times she thought of seeking divorce from her husband so that she could live her life peacefully but because of the son she never dared to take such decision. She thought that one fine day they will change their attitude towards her. She left her job after marriage so she was completely dependent on the husband. She thought that her parents are also not likely to extend their support. The case belongs to an upper class where wife is very well educated. She herself is an advocate. But economically she is dependent on her husband who made her to tolerate the violence and even for the child's future. The main reason for Violence is demand for money. The abuse against wife started immediately after marriage. The severity of violence even increased after five months of marriage and the wife is the victim of abuse for last 4 years.

CASE STUDY: 2

AGE: 49 years

QUALIFICATION: M.COM

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 49 years old, a post graduate, belonging to Gujarat. Her father was a businessman. She had one brother and one younger sister. She was the middle one of them. She was very much

pampered by her parents. She was married at the age of 27 to a man of their own caste. Her husband was an engineer and he was working in a company at the time of her marriage. She said that the marriage was an arrange marriage. After her marriage she went to stay with her husband. After some time her husband went to Dubai and she went to stay with her in-laws in the village as immediately. It was an official trip. After returning from Dubai her husband again got transferred to Bangalore. Her husband took the decision of going alone and she was again left with her in-laws as he had to look for a suitable place to live there. She mentioned that her in-laws were very nice, good and caring but she was missing love of her husband. Her parent-in-law said that her to go and stay with him but every time he use to give some or other excuses to them. Her in-laws insisted and send her to her husband in Bangalore. It was at Bangalore that she came to know about his extra-marital affairs and that was the main reason behind not taking her to any place. After marriage he never took her for honeymoon also. She overlooked infidelity of her husband and continued with her married life. She thought that one day her husband will realize his mistakes and everything will be fine. She even called her parents who were staying in Baroda and told everything but her mother advised that to be patient and quiet and to go on with the relation. Her mother advised that if she will have children than everything will be fine. After a gap of one year she gave birth to a beautiful daughter. Her husband even took good care of her during her pregnancy. She also used to take good care of her parents. He use to call them regularly, use to talk to them in a good and a respected manner. The only problem in their married life was her husband's extra-marital affair. She had no complaints against him except occasionally she got upset over her husband's extra-marital relationship. She had reconciled to her routine family life went on normal. After few months her parent-in-laws shifted to abroad. She and her husband came to Baroda. After two years of her marriage again her husband was transferred to Mumbai, this time she and her daughter accompanied him. At Mumbai her husband met his old friends and he started spending more time with them created suspicion in her mind because she was quite aware of how her husband was and he even had an extra affair earlier as well. After few days again she came to know that the affair was still continued which was there in Bangalore with the same girl. She decided to talk to her husband. He accepted his extra marital affair and he begged for forgiveness. She thought she should give a last chance to him. She thought that this time he is really guilt of what he had done so she gave him a last chance. Another reason for giving another chance was her daughter's future and again she was

dependent on the husband for everything. After that sister-in-law started creating problems between them. At first she (respondent) did not have any problems with her husband's sister-in-law who was also staying there but after some time family tussles started as her husband was unemployed. So they also came and started staying in her house. As soon as sister-in-law and her husband started staying in the house respondent said that within a month of their arrival and her husband again started with his immoral behavior. He again had another affair. He started visiting the other girl regularly and used to give all types of costly gifts. She came to know about the affair through her neighbors'. She felt very bad and cheated once again. She tried her best to persuade her husband in checking his waywardness. After having failed she asked her husband and he refused bluntly then she decided to meet that girl with whom her husband was having extra affair. When she went to meet her she got to know a very shocking thing and that was that the girl was also married to somebody else and the girl bluntly said that she will continue to have relationship with her husband. After that she went to her husband and said everything about the meeting. He also bluntly told her that he would continue to have relations with other woman. Such a situation became unbearable for her. It's very difficult for a woman to expect that her husband was cheating on her and is also saying that he will continue to have relations with other women as well. She said that she is leaving the home. She packed her bags and left the home with her daughter. While she was waiting for the bus to come her husband came to the bus stop and forcibly took her to home and locked her in the room. One night when he came back to home he was fully drunk and he started using abusive language and abusive words and even started beating her very badly with anything he could lay his hands on. Her daughter tried to save her but they too got beaten up very badly. Subsequently neighbors' heard the shouting and screaming of them. They came and saved her. The effect of beating her was that she had a broken tooth and a black eye and her daughter too got hurt badly. Even her husband denied from any medical aid in spite of such a major injuries.

After this her husband did not come to the house for a week. Whenever she used to enquire about his whereabouts they used to give her harsh treatments. She even tried to commit suicide twice by consuming poison but was hospitalized and was saved. Her husband used to tell her that he will not allow her a simple death. He told her that he will torture her physically and mentally before her death. When her parents were informed about her this type of condition they quickly suggested her that she should file a case against him and give divorce.

The case belongs to an upper class where wife is educated but economically dependent on her husband as she was not engaged in any paid work outside the home. The main reason behind physical violence against wife is infidelity on the part of her husband. The wife continues the relationship after knowing that the husband had extra-marital affair. She accepted his extra marital affair or relations of her husband till his deviant behavior was not known to her informal group and her husband also acted as a good provider.

CASE STUDY:3

AGE: 29 years

QUALIFICATION: B.A., B.ed,

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is a girl of 29 years belonging to a north-Indian family. She is B.A., B.Ed. Her father is in government services and mother is a housewife. She has one younger brother who is a student. She got married at the age of 23 to a commerce graduate of her own caste. Her husband is two years elder to her. He is working as assistant manager in a private company. He has three elder married sisters and his father is a big landlord and was also in the army. After her engagement her fiancé started visiting her regularly. He also insisted on taking her for outing. Her parents were not in the favor of outing or going alone with him before marriage. But he always used to convince her parents. Every time he used to take her out he used to talk about money. Every time she used to go out he would say that all his friend's wives have brought lots of dowry. She knew that he was hinting her to get more dowry. She even knew that her parents would do their best yet she started feeling scared and doubting the intentions of her fiancé and in-laws. She thought that if she will talk to her parents about this then they will get tensed. So she did not talk to her mother on this and even her father was a heart patient but she used to give some hints to her parents who did not take it seriously. Her mother said that it happens to every girl. They assured her that everything will be alright after marriage. Her father told her that her parent-in-laws were very nice people and it might be her husband's thought due to immaturity that he said such foolish things to her. She was having her final examinations and at that time her

parents-in-laws started insisting her parents for marriage. She mentioned that she eagerly wanted to give her exams and to become a good teacher. She wanted to do for marriage only after taking her examinations but her parent-in-laws did not agreed. She could not study properly for her examinations as she had also to devote her time at *mehendi* function, *haldi* and such ceremonies etc. She told her would be husband that because of sudden dates she was not able to concentrate well on her studies and she is likely to get very bad marks instead of supporting her he told her that its good and he was happy to hear this. Her husband said that he hates working women because they tend to become very proud of their earnings. She was shocked and depressed when she heard this because she always wanted to work and earn of her own. In spite of the fact that her views clashed with that of her would-be-husband she did not say anything and agreed to marry him taking into consideration the feelings of her parents and family name. Immediately after her marriage she had to face hostile attitude of her husband and parent-in-law. They started showing resentment towards her parents. Her father-in-law who was very well educated and was a retired person started complaining about her food served to the guests at the wedding. Her father-in-law said to her that her father should have informed them well before the marriage that he was financially in a bad shape so that they would not have brought so many guests. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-laws also made sarcastic remarks about her jewellery and quality of clothes given to her by her parents and gifts given to them. Her mother started taunting her by saying and feeling sorry for having married her only son in such a poor family, which could not even give a vehicle to her son. Her husband also joined them in humiliating her and her family instead of supporting her. Her husband did not even use to talk to her properly. She felt isolated and depressed. During her first visit to her parents' house after marriage (*pag-fera*) her husband misbehaved with them also. He refused to eat and drink anything and insisted on leaving immediately. She hardly got time to talk to her parents, but her parents could judge from expressions and her husband's misbehavior that something was wrong. They also accompanied them to her in-laws' place and enquired from them the reason of their displeasure. Her parents-in-law started complaining about the insufficient dowry they had received. They humiliated her parents, who did not say anything and heard everything silently. When her parents left she was humiliated and accepted their taunts helplessly because they had given their daughter in marriage. Her parents-in-law never use to allow her to go to visit her parents'. They used to impose restrictions on everything. They used to impose restrictions on her movements, they

never used to allow her to call her parents, use to impose restrictions on the food. They used to give her limited food. She tried many times to talk to her husband about this but he never used to listen anything. One day her mother-in-law's friends visited home. Her dowry items were shown to them. Her mother-in-law abused her parents and called them names in front of the guests. She did not like her rude behavior and asked her mother-in-law not to use bad language for her parents. Her mother-in-law became very angry. She called her names and threatened to teach her a lesson. She felt humiliated in front of her friends because she being a daughter-in-law, who was not supposed to utter a single word in her parents' defense, had demanded from her mother-in-law not to abuse her parents. Such a behavior of her was considered an insult by her mother-in-law. In the evening her husband came from the office her mother-in-law started crying and twisted the whole incident. Her husband became very angry at her and even called her names. Her mother-in-law caught hold of her hands and her husband started beating her. She was slapped, pushed, kicked, and her head was struck against the wall. Her mother-in-law felt very happy at her victimization. Her husband threatened to kill her if in future she ever tried to misbehave with his mother. She could do nothing but cry helplessly. She developed a feeling of being trapped. After a week when her husband left for the office she told her mother-in-law that she was going to her parents' house to meet them as her father was not keeping well. Her mother-in-law asked her to stay back. She however did not listen to her and left the house with some of her belongings. She went to her parents' house and narrated them each and everything about her miseries. She also informed her parents that her in-laws were very greedy and they could even kill her for dowry. In the evening her husband came to take her back to home but she refused to go with him. Her father asked for an explanation from her husband for his misconduct and violence. Instead of feeling guilty and ashamed at his behavior he started shouting at them. He started threatening her father and brother that is they will not send her with him they would not live to see their daughter. Her husband created a public scene at her parents place. She said her husband that she is not going to come back and continued staying with her parents. Her parents never asked her to go back to her in-laws and said to file a case against them.

The case belongs to the middle class family where wife is young and very well educated but was not engaged in paid work outside home. The precipitating factor responsible for abuse is dowry. Parent-in-laws also played an instrumental role in violence. They were instrumental in instigating the husband to use physical violence against wife. She became victim of domestic

violence immediately after marriage. Within nine months she left the husband's house or in other words the abusive relationship. She continued to suffer psychological abuse for nine months but when such abuse was followed by economical violence, emotional torture and physical violence then she decided to seek outside intervention. She sought help from parents who readily accepted her and even helped her to become economically independent. Absence of any child was her big advantage that she could overcome of this abusive relationship. Economic independence, support from her family of orientation and younger age of the girl facilitated her to come out of the abusive marital relationship which she is contemplating to terminate legally.

CASE STUDY: 4

AGE: 30 years

QUALIFICATION: B.A.

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She was 28 when she got married. She belongs to Rajasthan Rajput family. Her father is a very good and a rich businessman. She has one brother who is helping her father in their business. Her marriage was settled through matrimonial advertisement in a local newspaper. Before marriage her in-laws informed them that the entire business was being managed by their son and as a retired person her father-in-law was only helping his son in the business. They also told her parents that they were in favor of simple marriage and they were against dowry. Her parents readily agreed to their proposal and accordingly performed a simple marriage. They did not give her anything in dowry. After her marriage she was treated nicely by her husband. She used to feel that she is the luckiest girl on earth to get such a nice husband and in-laws. After few weeks her mother-in-law started grumbling for dowry and started accusing her parents for not giving anything to her at the time of marriage. She felt very bad and talked to her husband who paid no attention to her complaints instead he told her that she should accept meekly whatever her parents-in-law would say failing which her life would be miserable. She was getting fed up with all kinds of emotional torture like giving names to her parents, using abusive words for her and her parents, use bad language with her. Her mother-in-law too was very well educated

woman. She was working in a government school. She thought of telling her mother to give some items of furniture and some household articles to please her mother-in-law and to avoid conflict so that her humiliation could be stopped. Her parents provided her furniture and some of the household articles according to her which her in-laws accepted very happily. She thought that by doing this everything will get alright. On receipt of these gifts situation remained normal but after a month her mother-in-law again started harassing her. She asked her to go and tell her father to give them a brand new car as her father was a rich man. She knew that if she will go and ask her parents to fulfill this demand of gifting a car then they will do that but she realized that it will not stop. Instead of stopping it will grow much higher. Therefore she did not tell anything to her parents and continued to tolerate her mother-in-law's taunts. She requested her husband to intervene and stop the humiliation, which he again refused. Being of carefree nature, he would not take any complaints against his parents seriously. He would prefer to roam about with his friends instead of going to work. He always used to bring different kinds of costly and modern dresses and would insist her to wear them. As she was not accustomed to wear the modern dresses she was very reluctant to put them on but on persistent insistence of her husband she would wear them. Her husband would then take her to his friends who were not only illiterate but also indulged in vulgarity. They would share dirty jokes in her presence, used abusive language in front of her. She used to object to their misconduct but her husband would take everything very lightly. He would drink and smoke with them till late at night and she was forced to sit with them even she felt uncomfortable in their company. It was a very embarrassing situation for her. If she would have refused to do that then she would get beaten up by the husband. After a few months she noticed certain changes in the behavior of her father-in-law. He would ask her husband about their sex life in her presence. She used to feel highly embarrassed but would not say a word. Even her father-in-law tried to make sexual relationship with her. She reprimanded him and spoke very harshly and said that she would report everything to her mother-in-law. In the evening the same day when her husband came home she told him about father's misconduct but he refused to believe her such allegations. He said that his father cannot do this type of thing. After this her father-in-law stopped doing such things with her. Her father-in-law told her husband that he should start a new business but was short of 5 lakh rupees therefore he should arrange the amount. Her husband asked her to bring money from her father. It was at this that she came to know her husband's financially position and that he was fully

dependent on his father. She refused from going and getting money from her father. Her husband started using bad words for her and her parents. She said not to use such bad words for her parents but they did not listen to her and started beating her very badly. She pleaded with her husband in harassing her and their behavior became rude. She was thrown out of the house at 10.30 at night and was told to go and get money then only show us your face. She went to her parent's place to bring the demanded money. She narrated everything to her parents. Her mother consoled her and said her father to make arrangements soon. Next morning her father accompanied her to her husband's home with 6 lakh rupees and said not to humiliate their daughter otherwise he will take some formal action against them. Husband and in-laws both promised of keeping her happy. For couple of months everything was fine but slowly again harassment started. He again humiliated her after drinking and tried to make forcefully sexual relation. She was badly injured and was hospitalized. This time her parents called the police and filed a case against them.

The case belonged to upper middle class family where the wife is more educated than the husband but was not engaged in any kind of paid work. Her husband was economically dependent on his father that was also not known to the wife. After marriage she came to know about this fact. The main precipitating factor of her abuse was demand for money or in other words dowry. Her reprimand to her father-in-law's sexual advances further aggravated her harassment. Her husband's drinking habit also was one of the important factors in violence. In-laws abused the victim psychologically for dowry and instigated the husband to use physical violence. Wife became victim of psychological abuse by in-laws immediately after her marriage. Husband started using physical violence against the wife soon after four five months of marriage. Wife continued to suffer abusive behavior of her husband and her parents-in-laws in hope that they will change their attitude towards her and even her parents fulfilled all their demand in hope that their daughter will be happy after giving so many things. Even when they demanded five lakh rupees her parents gave six lakh rupees just for the sake of their daughter hoping that now their daughter will be happy but the violence still continued and the demand also. Husband's drug dependency further worsened marital discord. She was forced to bring money from her parents to enable her husband to buy drugs. Her refusal to bring more money from parents resulted in physical and sexual violence.

CASE STUDY:5

AGE: 24 years

QUALIFICATION: 12th PASS

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She was 18 years when she got married. Her father is a small cultivator and is living in a village near Baroda. Her mother expired soon after her marriage. She has two elder sisters and one younger brother. She was married to a small shopkeeper of her own caste and of same age. After her marriage she came to the house of her husband who was staying with his elder brother. Her husband's sister-in-law took all the control of her wedding gifts. Even the furniture provided to her was put in her brother-in-law's room. She did not like her husband's sister-in-law's behavior but kept mum. She also realized that her husband was under obligation to his sister-in-law because she was looking after his son from previous marriage. Additionally the house in which they were staying was allotted to her brother-in-law. Under these circumstances the newly wedded couples were accorded a secondary position in the household. After a few days of her marriage her sister came to visit her. She informed her sister that all her marriage gifts have been taken over by husband's sister-in-law and she was being accorded the status of a second rate citizen in the house. She asked her gifts back. Her sister talked to her husband who did not like intervention of her sister but at that moment he kept quiet. In the beginning she was allowed to go to her sister's place and all other places where she wanted to go and even her sister and friends also use to come to her house. But after some months her husband started objecting to her visits to her sister's house. He showed his displeasure whenever she use to visit her sister or her sister use to come to her place. The situation became so worse that whenever her sister or anybody from her family used to visit they were not received well. Her husband never used to like her natal family people visiting her again and again. She had cordial relations with all the members of the household except her husband's sister-in-law. She did not like her dominating nature. But in her house her husband's sister-in-law was very dominating and if any decisions were to be made everybody use to seek her advice and use to keep her views in mind. Her husband always used to listen her {husband's sister-in-law}. Many a times she found her

husband and his sister-in-law sharing cheap jokes in the absence of her brother-in-law. She started suspecting her husband of having illicit relations with her. Her doubts became evident when after some month she caught them in the act of sexual intercourse. She felt so bad and cheated that she started wailing. She went to her parents and said everything. Her father said to file case against him and to get rid of him by giving divorce. The case belongs to the lower class where both the spouses come from different cultural backgrounds and wife is economically dependent upon her husband. The main cause of her abuse is infidelity of the husband. The dominant position of the husband's sister-in-law precipitated the conflict in the spousal relationship. In order to check her husband's waywardness wife sought help from informal and formal both the groups. Such intervention worsened the relationship leading to separation. Husband's extra-marital affair with brother-in-law's wife {husband's sister-in-law} created all problems. She was tortured emotionally more and not physically nor economically neither sexually but seeing her own husband having sexual intercourse with other women is the most painful and the biggest mental torture.

CASE STUDY:6

AGE: 23 years

QUALIFICATION: 5th fail

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 23 years old 5th standard fail Patel girl. Her father was a big landowner. She has two married sisters and two married brothers who were handling the family business. After her father's death, she and her mother continued to stay with the brothers. Her eldest brother arranged her marriage at the age of 20 years to a boy of their own profession and caste. Her husband has a joint family consisting of his parents and married brothers. Her husband was seven years elder to her. A few days after her marriage she found that her husband was a drunkard. She did not like drinking habit but she tried to adjust to the circumstances without telling anything to anybody. Subsequently she also came to know that her husband was not doing any work but drank all the day and night with his friends. She was very upset and tried to persuade her

husband in kicking this habit and leaving his friends so that he could attend to his work but he did not like her intervention. He started abusing her in front of the other members of the family. Her husband criticized her on her looks and everything that she used to do. She felt very much humiliated. He blamed his parents for selecting ugly and dark colored girl like her for him. She silently suffered such insults. There was hardly any day and time when her husband treated her with love, care, affection and sympathy. From the very first day of her marriage, her husband never took her out with him, not even for their honeymoon nor even for going to her parents' house. She always had to go along with her in-laws. Whenever anyone from her brother's home visited them, her husband was never there to greet them. Her in-laws, however, treated her relatives properly. She informed her mother and brother about her husband's humiliating behavior, but they did not take it seriously and asked her to adjust and develop tolerance as her husband would change with time and would start liking her. She should try to do some compromises and try to adjust with her husband as marriage is not a small thing, it is a lifelong adjustment made by women. After listening to her mother's advice, she tried to make her husband happy. She would do all his work and wait for him late at night. But her sacrifices yielded no results as her husband continued with his drinking and rude behavior. He would come home late at night in a very bad condition and completely drunk. Many times he would use filthy language and call her names. He would ask her to go out of his sight, use to beat her very badly as he did not like her at all. Sometimes he threw food at her saying that she does not cook even food nicely. She continued to tolerate his rude behavior because she felt that he was not in his senses and even in Indian society it is said that whatever the husband does is normal. She mentioned that one day when her husband was not drunk and sitting idle at home she thought to talk to him. She started talking to him and said him that she loves him a lot and he should live all his bad habits especially drinking habit and should go to work. Her husband became angry at her; he called her names and started beating and throwing utensils. He kicked her, slapped her and even tried to strangle her. She was so badly beaten that she was not even able to stand properly. He did not like intervention in his routine activities. Her mother-in-law did not intervene rather asked her to stop crying which would attract the attention of the neighbors'. After giving her a good thrashing her husband went out and did not return home in five/six days. On the fifth day, he came late at night and as usual was completely drunk. In the afternoon, she asked him to take her to her brother's place. He refused to oblige her. He even warned her from

going to neighbors and talk to them. Next day she was feeling very lonely and she was not well so she thought of going to her sister's place so as nobody was at home so she locked the house gave the keys to the neighbors' and went to meet her sister. As she not had money because her husbands never even use to give even ten rupees to her, so she went by walking. She reached her sister's place and enjoyed a lot. While she was going back to home her sister dropped her to her place and her husband saw both of them. On reaching home, her husband locked the room and started beating her. He beaten her with anything he could get hold of. He even threatened to kill her if in future she did not obey him. Nobody in the family tried to intervene to save her from battering. She continued crying the whole day and did not eat anything. Next day after finding an appropriate opportunity somehow she managed to call her sister. Her sister immediately came for help and helped her. Her sister then took her to her mother's home. Her sister narrated everything to her mother and told her to take some serious action even she told that she does not want her sister to get killed, that's why she advised her to file a case against domestic violence act. Her mother again advised her that she should go back and try once again maybe her husband will realize his wrong behavior and will change. She once again decided to go back to her husband and not to file a case against him. When she went back her in-laws were very happy. Her husband did not show any kind of happiness but he behaved in a normal manner. She was happy with this. For some days her husband did not drink but whenever he use to drink and come the biggest change she observed was that after drinking earlier he use to give her names and beat her very badly but now he did not use to misbehave with her. In the meanwhile she came to know that she was pregnant. She was very happy. During her pregnancy she kept a little aloof from her husband and did not object to his not working and drinking. Even her husband used to take good care of her. Sometimes or occasionally they use to have quarrels but it was only with regard to money. She continued to feel that her husband will fully change after the birth of their child. When child's responsibility will be there on his head then his non-working and drinking habit will go. She gave birth to a baby girl. Her in-laws were very happy but her husband was not at all happy. Her husband started grudging about financial burdens after the birth of a baby girl. Whenever she use to ask her husband to give money for her monthly check up or child's checkup he always use to ignore her saying go and get money from your natal home. He would say that he had nothing to spare for her and her child. Her relationship with her husband further deteriorated when she came to know about her husband's extra-marital affair. She asked her

husband that she came to know about his extra-marital affair than instead of refusing he accepted that he was having an extra-affair. He even told her that he could leave her but not the other woman. After listening to all these things she started crying and blaming her fate. Then she thought that her husband will never change and she should have left him before having a child. She again called her sister and started crying and said whatever happened. Her sister and her sister's husband immediately came took her to their home and again advised her to file a case against him. This time she thought to file a case against him under the act of domestic violence and also will demanded for maintenance. The case belongs to a middle class where the wife is not so educated and not engaged in any paid work. Her husband is also not a regular paid worker. Her husband's failure to act as a provider and wife's resentment against her husband's drinking behavior and his extra-marital relations are the main factors of the wife abuse.

CASE STUDY:7

AGE: 45 years

QUALIFICATION: B.A. M.B.A

FAMILY STRUCTURE: NUCLEAR

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: LOVE

She is 45 years old from London, a Jat girl. She is born and brought up in London who got married to a Gujarati boy. She came to Baroda for one of her friend's wedding. She went to purchase some Jewellery whose owner was her present husband to whom she got married later on. In the first meeting only they both started liking each other. She started visiting the shop very frequently. They both even started meeting outside the shop. After her friend's wedding she went back to London but both of them still remained in contact. The boy even use to go London quite often to meet her and she also use to come to Baroda. Her father decided and told both of them to gets married and settle down in Baroda. Both of them got married and were very happy with each other. Being born and brought up in London she started following all the rituals and customs which her husband always appreciated of her. But her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law were very dominating and used to do brain wash of her husband. After her marriage her husband never used to give any importance to her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Earlier before

her marriage her husband used to give all his money to her mother-in-law but after their marriage he started giving each and everything to her. She was very happy and satisfied in her married life. She even said that her mother-in-law and sister-in-law use to believe and do black magic. She even said that her husband used to do drinking every day but in limit. She never had any objections from his drinking habit. She even said that her husband used to get each and every thing she demanded and not demanded anything from her. She was very happy. She even said that the main problem in their marriage was mainly the mother-in-law. Mother-in-law never liked her because she used to consider her as an outsider woman or as foreigner. But she used to follow each and everything according to Gujarati culture and tradition. She said that her husband never said her anything or anything about her dressing or she should wear a salwar suit or sari. He always used to tell her that whatever she likes she can wear. He use to get lot of new pattern jewelries made for her as he was the owner of a big gold jewellery shop in Baroda. She again and again said that her husband was very good and never gave any kind of torture to her. But later on she mentioned that her husband's business somehow was coming down and he was going in depression. She tried a lot to manage everything. Because of that he started drinking heavily and used to come late at night in heavily drunk state. She said that after so much of depression and drinking habit which he developed but he never gave her any kind of pain. She said that he never even said her to reduce her expenses or did compromises with any of her needs and demands. She even said that he never had any arguments or quarrels with him. She said that her husband never threw anything on her, never slapped her, and never had beaten her. She was saying all good things about her husband. She said that because of business tensions he was emotionally disturbed and whenever she use to go to him for giving emotional support to him her mother-in-law and sister-in-law always use to interfere. Slowly -slowly she mentioned that the interference from mother-in-law and sister-in-law increased and then her husband also started favoring them. She said that there was no life with him not even sexual life. She said that later on her husband stopped providing her financial support and said her that he does not have money. She said that her mother-in-law and sister-in-law always used to call her names. Used abusive words for her, threaten her to do suicide, used abusive language with her in the absence of her husband and when her husband used to come to home than they use to cry and create scene by saying that she use to give them names, used bad words and language etc. Being an educated girl and a Punjabi girl she was very strong and decided not to tolerate all these things and filed a case in family

court. She said that in India man treats a woman like a slave and consider her as subordinate. She even said that it's the women and the family who is responsible for this condition of women in Indian society. She also said that because of orthodox beliefs and conservative's beliefs women are suffering and are becoming victims of domestic violence. Women in India remain silent and as it is said that

“Too much of silence gives rise to more and more violence”.

CASE STUDY:8

AGE: 30 years

QUALIFICATION: M.B.A

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is a Christian girl, 30 years old and educated beautiful young girl. Her father was a school teacher and mother was working in a company. She is the only child of her parents. She got married at the age of 25. Her husband is also having M.B.A. degree and is also working on good position in one of the company in Mumbai. She said that when she got married her father truly said everything to them that they are from middle class and whatever little they have that all belongs to their one and only daughter. Her parent-in-law said that god is very kind and he has given everything to them. They said that they do not want anything except their daughter. Her parents were very happy to hear this and they thought that they are very lucky to have them. She got married and initially her married life was good and normal. Her husband use to take good care of her. Her in-laws and her husband never use to say anything wrong or bad. But slowly and gradually as the time passed some changes she noticed. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law started taunting her of not getting anything at the time of marriage but she never use to argue with them. Her husband always wanted that she to be in good dress or ready whenever he comes back to home from his office because he always used to like going out with her but her mother-in-law never use to like her going out with her husband. She was jealous of her. She said that her husband never had any type of complains or arguments with her but her mother-in-law and sister-in-law always use to taunt her for some or other thing. Whenever she use to visit her natal

home they never use to like that also. She told her father and mother about this type of behavior but they said that its normal and even her mother said that it's "kahani ghar ghar ki" but as she was very well educated she never liked this type of behavior of her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. They always use to tell wrong things about her to her husband but he never use to believe them and always use to discuss everything with her. One day her husband said that he had to go out of station for ten days and he told her also to accompany. She was very happy and started packing her bag, meanwhile her mother-in-law came and started her drama she said that she was not well and told her husband not to take her with him. He agreed. When he went from home her mother-in-law said that she was well and it was only plan which could work against her. After her husband left her mother-in-law and sister-in-law started taunting. Her mother-in-law also started imposing restrictions on her food and eating habits. Her mother-in-law did not even allow her to go to her parents to meet them. One day when nobody was at home her mother-in-law started saying that she must be missing her parents and she should go and meet them. She was very happy and went to meet her parents. The same day her husband came from his official trip and started asking about her. Her mother-in-law said that her husband that the day he left for his official trip the same day I went to meet my parents and not came back yet. He got very angry and called her. She immediately came happily that her husband came home early. When she reached home her husband was sitting angrily she tried to convince him and tell him the truth but he refused to listen anything. For six days he did not talked to her nicely. One day she decided to go to his husband office and discuss everything than her mother-in-law called her parents for dinner. She messaged her husband through mobile about each and everything what happened in his absence. He got convinced and when he came back he was happy and normal. Her mother-in-law was shocked on seeing this. She always used to be behind her and her husband. Her husband was very caring and loving but because of her mother-in-law he never used to stand for her and support her. One day she decided that she wants to do job and so she had a talk with her husband. She said to him that she want to work and her husband did not had any objections but her mother-in-law said no to do job. Her husband said that whatever his mother is saying do that. Her mother-in-law use to trouble her but she thought that as soon as her husband is good she will not have any problems. One day she came to know that her husband lost his job and was jobless now. Her mother-in-law started telling her husband to start his own business. Her husband said that for starting business money is needed and he does not have that much of money saved. Her

mother-in-law said to tell her to arrange money. She said that her husband was very good and nice from heart but because of her mother-in-law and due tension of his job he also started telling her to tell her parents to give five lac rupees. She refused to ask for money from her parents and tried to convince her husband not to demand anything then he got angry and her husband and mother-in-law started beating her badly. She was beaten so badly they she was admitted to the hospital. Her parents came to know about the matter they took their daughter to home and said not to stay with such people and to leave her husband. Her father said that she is well educated and she is beautiful she can start her life again.

CASE STUDY:9

AGE: 32 years

QUALIFICATION: B.A

FAMILY STRUCTURE: NUCLEAR

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: LOVE MARRIAGE

She is 32 years old, a graduate girl belonging to a Hindu Patel family. Her father is a business man and mother is housewife. She has one brother who is in Canada. She got married at the age of 26 years. Her husband is the only son of his parents. He has one sister who is married. Her father-in-law had his own business of spare parts of scooters. Her husband and she met at a coffee shop where he came with some of his friends and she was sitting next to his bench at the coffee shop. Her husband was a south Indian boy from Kerala. They started meeting regularly and decided to get married to each other. They went to their parents and told them that they both love each other and want to get married. Their parents strongly disagreed and said that they will not allow any outsider in their family. They thought of running and getting married so they decided one day and they ran away and got their marriage registered. They both went to their parents to take their blessings but they refused them. They both thought of starting their life from fresh. They both went and got a flat on rent. After one month the mother of boy came to their

home to take them back to home. They both got happy. She was very happy that the family has accepting them and especially her as daughter-in-law of the family. She said that for ten days everything went very nicely and smoothly but then her mother-in-law started creating problems. She said that after few months she came to know that she was pregnant and she was very happy. She called her husband and gave the news about her pregnancy, both of them were very happy but her mother-in-law was not at all happy. She told her that if she will not give birth to a baby boy and her mother-in-law will throw her out of the house. She thought of telling this to her husband but she did not tell anything to him. By that time her husband and she was not getting enough time for each other. Her mother-in-law took advantage of this and started telling wrong things about her. Her husband started staying outside for a longer time and sometimes he did not even use to come back from office. After few months passed and it was her eighth month her mother-in-law started torturing her very badly by saying wrong things about her character. She started insulting her in front of neighbors, her mother-in-law's friends etc. even her mother-in-law started using bad words for her. She always had to ask money for her check up or in other words she had to beg for money. Nobody use to accompany her to the hospital for her monthly check-up. She had to seek help for her friends or from neighbors. She was not even allowed to visit her natal home and family member. She was not even allowed to talk to them. Her husband never even once went to hospital with her for her regular check up because of her mother-in-law. When she was admitted to the hospital for delivering the baby at that time her husband was not in the town. Her mother-in-law called her father and said to bear all the expenses of her delivery. Her father came hurriedly and did everything they wanted. As she gave birth to a girl child her mother-in-law refused to take her to home. Her father took her to their home. She tried calling her husband many times but her mother-in-law did not allow him to talk to her. She created so many misunderstandings between them. She said that she never wanted that her parents should be troubled so she took her daughter and went directly to her husband's home there she came to know that her husband is planning to divorce her and planning to get married to some other girl of his mother's choice. She felt lonely and depressed. She went back to her home and thought of committing suicide but because of her daughter she did not. She said that her husband was nice and he can never have any problem with the fact that she gave birth to a baby girl. She believes that women in India are trained not to leave their husbands home even in adverse circumstances but they are also trained to be patient and tolerant. She said that the first time when her mother-

in-law tried to create misunderstanding she should have stopped her but because of family values which are given to them she did not said a word and that created such a big problem in her life. She said that it does not mean that husbands are less committed and women are more. But in her case her husband was committed but because of some manipulation and misunderstanding all problems was created. She even said that because she ran away from home and spoiled my family name so she never even thought of seeking help from natal family. She said that her husband use to sometimes insult her for housekeeping in front of her mother-in-law and even said that her mother-in-law took more advantage of that. She said that her husband never humiliated her while comparing with other women. Her husband use to value her thoughts and feelings that was the reason she got married to him. Her husband never criticized her for being outspoken. She also mentioned that her husband never ever got verbally aggressive in front of others but her mother-in-law on many occasions did that. They use to keep a watch on her and don't allow her to move freely from her house. Her husband use to keep surveillance over her. She said that because she is very fair and beautiful and her husband was short and dark so he used to have doubts on me. Her husband used to get very angry and jealous when she used to talk to other men but he never accused her of having affair with them. She said that her husband never addressed her with the names such as bitch etc. her husband never ever shouted. She said that her husband was very nice man before her mother-in-law came into their life after marriage. She said that her husband never tried to have unnatural sexual relation with her nor her husband coerces her for sex and threaten for sex. Sometimes he used to force her to watch pornographic movies. She said that her mother-in-law use to handle all the economic matter of the household. Mother-in-law used to control the health care of the family members. She even disclosed that sometimes when her husband was not there at home then her mother-in-law use to deny her from food also. The case belongs to an upper middle class people. The girl is a graduate or in other words she is educated but not involved in the paid job outside. The main reason for violence is love marriage. In India still today love marriages are not accepted. Mother-in-law was another reason for creating misunderstanding between the couple. The last and the main reason is also birth of the baby girl. Still in Indian society when a girl child is born she is considered as burden on the family. The respondent even said that the reason for inferior status of married women in society is the sex discrimination and male dominating society. She even said that all the old traditions, conventions, superstitions and orthodox beliefs are also responsible for domestic

violence. She said that still in India there is a difference between daughter of the family and daughter-in-law of the family. Her decisions were never incorporated in the family decisions. She said that the main reason in the rise of domestic violence is dominance of material culture because the mother-in-law always used to taunt that if her husband had not married her than she would have got her son married to some rich girl and received lot of money and a car from them. She said that in her life she faced domestic violence because of mother-in-law, demand of dowry, birth of a baby girl.

CASE STUDY: 10

AGE: 26 years

QUALIFICATION: B.COM

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: LOVE MARRIAGE

She is 26 years old, Hindu Brahmin Gujarati girl. She is working in a school as a teacher. She was 22 years at the time of marriage. It's been four years she got married and has one girl child. Currently she is living with her parents at her natal home. She said that before marriage she only heard about domestic violence but she never even thought that one day she will become victim of domestic violence. She said that earlier she use to think that only beating of wife is domestic violence. She said that in her married life all type of domestic violence was there like physically she was tortured, mentally, sexually as well as economical violence was also there. She said that when she got married to her husband he used to work with her in the same school as science teacher. She was very happy with her husband for two years but slowly her husband changed and started listening to her sister-in-law and mother-in-law. She said that according to her slapping comes under domestic violence. She said that when she got married whatever she use to say her husband use to listen but after two years when their daughter was born her husband started behaving very strangely with her. She said that she occasionally use to have arguments and differences of opinion with her husband but her husband used to come and used to do compromise. She said that it's not the mother's responsibility to take care of child. It is

both father and mother who take responsibility to take care of the children. She said that her husband had drinking habit but he use to drink twice or thrice in a month not every day. She told that whenever her husband use to come after drinking he use to shout and scream un necessarily not on her but on others. She said that her parents-in-law were not at all helpful and cooperative. They never liked her and never even wanted her in the family. She said that her mother-in-law use to start taunting her from morning or in other words from the moment she used to wake up till the night when she use to sleep but never use to utter a single word because she use to think that she had done love marriage and it was her own decision and she had to live with them without any complains. She said that many times there were some issues where arguments in family resulted into quarrels or disputes. Mainly the quarrels were initiated by the sister-in-law and mother-in-law. She said that whenever she had to purchase something or any household daily purchase she had to do, she was able to take decisions independently because she was only the earning member in the family. Even for buying things for oneself like saris/salwar suits she never had to ask anybody because as she was earning she was not dependent for such decisions. She said that her mother-in-law and sister-in-law never liked her visiting her natal home again and again but she never used to bother because she said that she don't have any siblings and she is the only daughter of her parents so it is her duty to take care of her parents. So she never used to ask anybody if she wanted to visit her parents. She told that even when she was pregnant her husband also used to accompany her to the doctor but all the expenses of her medical checkup were born by her. She only used to decide the extent of schooling for her children. She said that she was well educated, working independent girl, so she never used to ask anybody for going out with friends/other women from neighborhood or community. She said that she never had any arguments with her husband or family members. She said that she never had any type of physical violence in her married life but emotional and sexual violence was the two main types of violence. She said that emotional violence use to occur every day. She told that violence have never physically impaired her or she never had to seek any medical treatment, she was never hospitalized the only thing was sometimes because of forced sex she could not go about doing her daily task. She said that emotional violence began soon after one year of her married life. When she experienced the violent behavior or harassment she firstly approached her mother and father. They advised her that as it was her own decision of getting married to him so she had to adjust and do compromise with them. Her mother advised her to be patient as marriage is very

delicate as thread. According to her in Indian society the man who is unable to control his wife, is not respected in the society. It is said that the man who beats his wife is an ideal man but she strongly disagreed with this. She was even said that as a girl she should socialize in such a way that in any circumstances she should not leave her husband's home but she said that when a woman seeks divorce then the situation, must have been out of control. She said that women are more committed to family, house and to any relationship compared to men. Her husband never insulted her for housekeeping in front of others. She even said that her husband never ever humiliated her while comparing her with other women. Her husband use to respect her values and thought. Her husband never ever denied her to visit her relatives. She said that her husband never threatened her to leave or to commit suicide. Her husband never got verbally aggressive on her in front of others. Her husband never kept watch on her or doesn't allow her to move freely from her house. When sometimes he was angry and jealous when she used to talk to her other male friends but he never accused her to have affair with them. But her mother-in-law always used to accuse her of having affair. She said that her husband was very loving and caring but because of mother-in-law and sister-in-law he was not able to decide who is right and who is wrong. In her married life she did not faced any physical violence. In her house her husband and she use to handle economic matters of the household. Later on her husband left the job and for 2 years he was jobless so, he alone use to handle the economic matters of the household. She said that her husband use to control the health care of the family members and sometimes she used to handle. She said her husband never denied from financial security and she never had to beg for money because as she herself was earning and was independent. The case belongs to a middle class family where the wife is educated and working. She is independent but still because she did love marriage and her mother-in-law and sister-in-law never liked her though she used to take good care of them. Instead her mother-in-law use to call her names, used bad words for her and language she never replied back because women are trained in such a manner that they should not speak out in front of in-laws. She also did the same thing being so educated she also use to listen everything without uttering a single word.

CASE STUDY: 11

AGE: 42 years

QUALIFICATION: 10TH PASS

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 42 years old girl, belonging to a Hindu Rajput family. When she got married her age was 35. She is having one son and one daughter son is 19 years old and she is doing B.C.A. and daughter is in 1st class. The son is born of her first marriage and the daughter is of the second marriage. She was living in a joint family after her marriage with parent-in-laws and sister-in-laws. She said that all types of violence were there in her married life- Physical, sexual, emotional and economical. She said that there was no physical violence from the husband but her mother-in-law and sister-in-law use to beat her in her husband's absence. She said that her parent-in-laws were very supportive but the main reason for domestic violence was her husband's ego and alcohol. She mentioned that her husband and she use to have arguments every day. She also said that her parents-in-law were very cooperative, helpful and supportive. She said many times it use to happen that small issues use to result in quarrels and then turn into violence. She said that as it was her second marriage she tried her best to adjust with her husband but was not able to. Her first husband died in the road accident. She said that she was not allowed to purchase any daily household item independently. She always had to follow instructions of her husband. She said that whenever she thought of buying things for oneself like sari etc. again she was not given right to decide or purchase it by her own wish. She had to follow the instruction or if she liked something and it was compulsory that her husband will have a look on it and he will decide whether she should purchase it or not. She was never allowed to visit or talk to her natal family members. No freedom was given. Even her husband used to check her mobile phone every day. She mentioned one of the incident which happened with her. One day it was her birth day and as a normal person every one is happy on their birth day, so many people call to wish similarly, on her birth day all her friends and relatives were calling her and he did not liked that she was taking bath and when she came out he started beating her badly with belt on her naked body. She was not able to walk properly and stand properly at that time her parents-in-law were out of station. Beating, kicking, slapping, twisting of arms were very common. Whenever her in-laws used to be there at home then her husband used to show off that he is very caring and concerned for her. But she said that her mother-in-law was knowing the fact about her son. Many times she requested me to leave him or divorce him but she thought that one day her husband

will realize her importance and start loving her. Her husband was very possessive for her. He never used to like her talk to any other male member outside the house and even in the house as well. He never even liked her talking to her sister's husband on phone. She said that the most common form in their marriage was not any one type but all types of violence existed. Many times she had to seek medical treatment, she was hospitalized. She was not able to do the daily household activities. According to her the primary person who is responsible for her facing physical violence is her husband only. The main probable cause for her facing harassment or violence was alcohol and his husband's possessiveness. She said that up to one year everything was very nice but after one year all violence started. She said that she tried to seek help from her natal family but they also advised me that as women all these things are normal and the good who tolerates all these without complaining anything then one day her husband also starts realizing her importance and value. After the intervention as a result the severity of domestic violence increased. She said that she never thought of giving divorce to her husband because she does not wanted to trouble her parents and even for family name also. She said that when all alternative means are exhausted than beating a child is not at all justified. According to her it is wrong to think that a man who is unable to control his wife, is not respected in the society and also a husband who beats his wife is an ideal husband. She agrees with the fact that if a woman seeks for divorce then she must be under adverse circumstances as she was. She said somehow the socialization of a girl is wrong or the training which she gets from her early childhood is all about that she is a "*paraya dhan*" and one day she is going to leave the house and had to go to some other house. She is trained in such a way that she will not leave their husband's house even in adverse circumstances. She said that men are less committed than women. Her husband always used to insult her for small things like housekeeping not even he use to insult but many a times he use to slap her very badly. Her husband also used to humiliate her while comparing with other women and use to say that she is very ugly, not at all good looking etc. He never used to value her, her thoughts nor her feelings. Her husband always used to criticize her of being very outspoken. She said that her husband used to get verbally aggressive many times in front of others. He always used to keep a watch on her and does not allow her to move freely anywhere. She said that she never use to talk to anybody except her son. He always uses to accuse her of having affair with others. He never used to allow her to take any decisions because in his eyes she could not do anything right. She also mentioned that whenever she use to try and talk to

discuss problems with him then he never use to listen to her and use to address her with bad names such as bitch etc. Shouting was very common and a normal thing for him. He used to shout anywhere and in front of anyone. She said that her husband use to drink every day with his friends and then after coming to home he always use to force her to make sexual relation. He used to show pornographic movies as well to her. She said that all the economic matters were handled by her husband. He never use to give money to her but whatever she use to demand he use to bring that for her. Her husband use to control the health care of all the family members. He never had denied her or her children from food or any type of basic need. He is a good father. He loves both my son who is not his real son and his own daughter. With both the children he is very good but it is very difficult to survive with so much of pain. The case belongs to middle class family where the wife is not so educated but has very minimum education. She is not working outside and she is dependent on her husband for each and every thing. It is her second marriage whereas, her husband's first marriage. She decided to filed a case in 'court of law' because the severity of violence was increasing day by day.

CASE STUDY: 12

AGE: 25 years

QUALIFICATION: 12th Pass

FAMILY STRUCTURE: NUCLEAR

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 25 years young girl, belonging to a Hindu Kombi Marathi family. She was only 19 years when she got married. She had one daughter of 4 years. She lived for 6 years in abusive relation. Her husband was 22 at the time of marriage and he was from the same caste. She said that she was victim of all types of violence. She said that everybody in her family are responsible for her condition. She said that her husband and parents-in-law were inhumane people on the earth. She burnt her alive. She said that before marriage they were something else and after marriage something else. She told that when she got married immediately the torture started. It started firstly when she returned back from her honeymoon. Her mother-in-law started saying that they were not given good attention at the wedding function. The food served was not at all

good. The gift which were given to them were very cheap and not of good quality. Her mother-in-law also used to taunt her that her son was getting so many good girls but he selected her because she was very fair and the only girl in the family. Her mother-in-law use to taunt that she was good for nothing. Her husband was a puppet of her mother-in-law, whatever she used to say he use to obey her blindly. She said that her father-in-law and mother-in-law both use to give bad words to her and use to demand for five lakh rupees. She said that beating everyday became part of her life. She said that her husband was having drinking habit and he use to drink alcohol every day. Her parents-in-law were not at all helpful and cooperative. She said everyday because of her mother-in-law some issues were created and then those issues use to get turned into big arguments and then use to result in quarrel and then beating. Her mother-in-law use to be very happy when her husband used to beat her. She said that her husband and parents-in-law use to initiates the quarrel always. Her marriage was arranged but the family background was not seen properly because her in-laws were good friends of her distant maternal uncle. She said that she was not able to do anything for herself. She was not allowed to decide even the household daily purchase items. She just had to follow the instructions given to her. She told that after her marriage her husband not even gave her a simple sari as a gift. He never even used to give ten rupees to her. Her husband and in-laws never allowed her to go and visit her natal family. She said that beating, kicking, slapping was included in every day routine. One day she came to know that her mother-in-law is searching a match for her husband. She got shocked. She went to her husband and parent-in-law and started asking them that are they searching a girl for her husband. Her mother-in-law said that she is not at all happy with her and she want that her son should give divorce and get married to some rich girl. She went to her husband's office and said everything what her mother-in-law told her. Her husband said that it is rubbish. He told her to go back home and he will come home and talk. When in evening he came to home, he was very tired and her mother-in-law started complaining about her. He got angry on his mother and slapped her (wife). At night when he must have realized that he did a wrong thing by slapping her, he went to say sorry to her. She got happy that at least her husband realized his mistake. He told her that he will not leave her. After few days again she came to know that her husband was having extra-marital affair. She thought that if she will ask directly to her husband about the affair he will surely refuse so, she thought of keeping an eye on him. She told one of her friend to keep a check on her husband. One day her friend called her and said to come in a garden nearly

their society. When she went she saw her husband with a girl. She thought that she must be a friend but she thought that she will ask her husband frankly about that girl. When her husband came home in the evening she asked him that how was his day her husband said that whole day he was busy in a meeting. She got angry and started shouting and crying. She said to him that he is lying. She even told him that she saw him in the garden with some girl and kissing her. He accepted that she was his ex. girl friend in college days and now again she want to continue with him. She asked her husband not to keep any relation because he is married and is father of one child but her husband said that he will not leave his girl friend and he can't even leave her because he also need her because she is a good wife. She was badly hurt and thought of committing suicide but because of her daughter she did not committed suicide but she decided to leave her husband. She went and told her husband that she wants to leave him, he got very angry and as he was drunk and was not in his senses he started beating her. He pushed her so badly that she got injured and got badly hurt on her fore head. He went from home without bothering to take her to the hospital and left the door open. In morning when the servant came, she saw blood and then immediately made a call to ambulance and was admitted in the hospital. Her natal family also was informed. She told everything to her parents and refused from going back to her husband's house. Her father also supported her decision and suggested her to file a case against him in family court. She told her husband and mother-in-law always initiated. All types of violence were very common. It used to occur every day. She told that many times she had to seek medical treatment because her husband used to have unnatural sexual relation with her and due to that she use to get infections. She was hospitalized twice because of beating. Even she was not able to go about doing her daily task. She said that violence begin soon after she got married or immediately after one day. Many times she use to discuss her husband's behavior and her in-laws behavior with her mother but she always use to say or advised her that all these things are very normal in a women life and she should develop patience and tolerance in her. Even she thought that they will change one day. She said that it is not at all justified to beat a child when all alternative means are exhausted. She said that people in Indian society thinks that a husband who controls his wife and beats her is the real man and an ideal husband. She also told that women in India are trained not to leave their husbands house even in adverse circumstances. She said that her mother-in-law and husband both use to insult her for housekeeping in front of others, they use to humiliate her while comparing her with other women. They never bothered

for her feeling and thought. They use to treat her as animal. She was also denied from visiting her relatives. Her husband use to keep surveillance over her. After having alcohol her husband always tried to have an unnatural sexual relation. She said that her husband and father-in-law use to handle each and every economic matters of the household. She always had to beg money from her husband. She said that according to her the reason of inferior status of married women in our society is male domination and the other is sex-discrimination policy. She even said that all the old traditions and orthodox beliefs are also responsible for domestic violence or in other words it is only said that India is developing growing and becoming modern day by day but with this even domestic violence is also increasing day-by-day. She feels that it is not that domestic violence is more only in middle class or in lower class or lower middle class or in upper middle class but the incidences of domestic violence is everywhere and in all the classes. She also pointed that the rise of domestic violence is due to dominance of material culture and alienation from religion. This case belongs to a middle class family where the husband is the earning member and father mother were in government job and retired. The wife is not so educated but is 12th pass and is depending on the husband for everything. In the hope that the husband will change she tolerates violence.

CASE STUDY:13

AGE: 27 years

QUALIFICATION: 10th Pass

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT FAMILY

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 27 years old girl, belonging to a Hindu Marathi family. When she got married her age was 22. She said that all types of violence were there in her married life, Physical, sexual, emotional and economical. She said that there was physical violence from the husband and her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, used to beat her in her husband's absence. She said that her father-in-law was very supportive but the main reason for domestic violence was her husband's ego and alcohol and mother-in-law as well as sister-in-law. She mentioned that her husband and she use to have arguments every day. She also said that her parents-in-law were very

cooperative, helpful and supportive. She said many times it use to happen that small issues use to result in quarrels and then turn into violence. She said that she was not allowed to purchase any daily household item independently. She always had to follow instructions of her husband and mother-in-law. She said that whenever she thought of buying things for herself like sari etc. again she was not given right to decide or purchase it by her own wish. She had to follow the instruction or if she liked something and it was compulsory that her husband will have a look on it and he will decide whether she should purchase it or not. She was never allowed to visit or talk to her natal family members. No freedom was given. She mentioned one of the incidents which happened with her. Beating, kicking, slapping, twisting of arms were very common. Whenever her father-in-law used to be there at home than her husband used to show off that he is very caring and concerned for me. But she said that her father-in-law knew the fact about his son. Many times he requested me to leave him or divorce him but she thought that one day her husband will realize her importance and start loving her. Her husband was very possessive for her. He never used to like her talk to any other male member outside the house and even in the house as well. He never even liked her talking to her sister's husband on phone. She said that the most common form in their marriage was not any one type but all type of violence was common. Many times she had to seek medical treatment, she was hospitalized. She was not able to do the daily household activities. According to her the primary person who is responsible for her facing physical violence is her husband only. The main probable cause for her facing harassment or violence was alcohol and his husband's possessiveness. She said that up to one year everything was very nice but after one year all violence started. She said that she tried to seek help from her natal family but they also advised me that as women all these things are normal and the good who tolerates all these without complaining anything then one day her husband also starts realizing her importance and value. After the intervention as a result the severity of domestic violence increased. She said that she never thought of giving divorce to her husband because she does not wanted to trouble her parents and even for family name also. She said that when all alternative means are exhausted than beating a child is not at all justified. According to her it is wrong to think that a man who is unable to control his wife, is not respected in the society and also a husband who beats his wife is an ideal husband. She agrees with the fact that if a woman seeks for divorce than she must be under adverse circumstances as she was. She said that the socialization of a girl is wrong or the training which she gets from her early childhood is all

about that she is a “paraya dhan” and one day she is going to leave the house and had to go to some other house. She is trained in such a way that she will not leave their husband’s house even in adverse circumstances. She said that men are less committed than women. Her husband always use to insult her for small things like housekeeping not even he use to insult but many a times he use to slap her very badly. Her husband also used to humiliate her while comparing with other women and use to say that she is very ugly, not at all good looking etc. he never use to value her, her thoughts nor her feelings. Her husband’s always use to criticize her of being very outspoken. She said that her husband use to get verbally aggressive many times in front of others. He always used to keep a watch on her and does not allow her to move freely anywhere. She said that she never use to talk to anybody except her son. He always uses to accuse her of having affair with others. He never use to allow her to take any decisions because in his eyes she could not do anything right. She also mentioned that whenever she use to try and talk to discuss problems with him than he never use to listen to her and use to address her with bad names such as bitch etc. Shouting was very common and a normal thing for him. He use to shout anywhere and in front of anyone. She said that her husband use to drink every day with his friends and then after coming to home he always use to force her to make sexual relation. He use to show pornographic movies as well to her. She said that all the economic matters were handled by her husband. He never use to give money to her but whatever she use to demand he use to bring that for her. Her husband use to control the health care of all the family members. He never had denied her or her children from food or any type of basic need. He is a good father. He loves both my son who is not his real son and his own daughter. With both the children he is very good but it is very difficult to survive with so much of pain and when she saw battenning he told her to separate from him. The case belongs to middle class family where the wife is not so educated but have very minimum education. She is not working outside and she is dependent on her husband for each and every thing. It is her second marriage whereas, her husband’s first marriage. She decided to fill a case in ‘court of law’ because the severity of violence was increasing day by day.

CASE STUDY: 14

AGE: 24 years

QUALIFICATION: B.COM

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT FAMILY

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is 24 year old Brahmin girl. Basically this family is a northern Indian family. They are settled in Baroda city for last 20 years. The girl got married in the same cast when her age was 20. She told that after marriage she was living in a joint family and before marriage she was staying in a nuclear family. Her husband was M.Com. degree holder and currently working in Air force. She said that in her married life she has seen physical, economical and emotional violence but not sexual violence. She strongly feels that slapping comes under domestic violence because it also gives pain to the human body. She said that in her opinion beating everyday or occasionally is a part of domestic violence. She also mentioned that after marriage it used to have many occasions when she and her husband had difference of opinion and that difference of opinion many times turned to domestic violence. She also said that her husband did not have any kind of bad habits like drinking or smoking. Her parent-in-laws were not at all helpful and cooperative. She said that there were some issues where arguments in the family resulted into quarrel or dispute and then to physical violence. She said that her husband and mother-in-law always use to initiate quarrel without any solid reason. Her marriage was arranged marriage so she did not know her husband's nature. Her husband was very short-tempered. She also said that even for daily household purchase she had to follow instructions given to her by her husband or mother-in-law. She also said that if she wished to buy something for herself like saris or jewellery then money was not given to her or it was said that go and get from your parents (natal family). Even if she wanted to visit to her natal home she was not allowed to go. She also mentioned that she even had to follow instructions given to her by her husband or mother-in-law for going out with her friends or with other women from neighborhood or community. She said that her husband and she always use to have arguments over any matter with her husband or family members. She said that the nature of arguments or fights with her husband and other family members always leaded to beating, kicking, slapping by her husband. Her husband use to hit her, slapping was a very common thing, kicking, she also mentioned that her husband use to insult her in-front of anybody. He always used bad words for her. She even said that she had to ask for money always from her husband and he never use to give her a single penny. She said

that the main reason of her facing domestic violence is money or in other words dowry because before marriage her husband used to say that he wanted to establish a business and for that he needed 6 lac rupees and even her mother-in-law use to taunt her the whole day. She told that violence was always initiated by her husband and parent-in-law and also sometimes brother-in-law. She said that the commonest form of violence was physical and emotional violence. It used to occur every day. According to her husband, mother-in-law and brother-in-law were primarily responsible for her facing such physical violence. In her opinion dowry or demand for money is the probable cause for her facing such harassment and violence. She also mentioned that soon after two or three days, torture was started after her marriage. She also said that she told to her parents about this type of violence but they said that she should try to adjust with them and as the time will pass everything will get normal. She also said that because of her family name and society pressure she did not seek help from others. She also pointed that it's wrong to think that a man who is unable to control his wife is not respected in the society and also a husband who beats his wife is an ideal husband. She said that a woman should never tolerate violence at the hands of her husband or in-laws. She strongly feels that a woman seek divorce under adverse circumstances. She also believes that the women in India are trained not to leave their husbands house even in adverse circumstances. According to her she feels that men are less committed than women. Her husband always used to insult her for bad housekeeping in front of others. She also said that her husband use to humiliate her while comparing with other women. Her husband use to deny her to visit her relatives. He always used to criticize her for being outspoken. Her husband also used to threaten her to leave the house and to commit suicide. Sometimes her husband use to get verbally aggressive in front of others. Her husband also kept a watch on her and even doesn't allow her to move freely from home. He used to keep surveillance over her. She even said that her husband use to get angry and jealous when she use to talk to other men. He also used to accuse her of having affair. He always used to shout at her as she mentioned he use to call her with bad names. She said that her husband always use to throw objects on her, beaten her twice or thrice in a week. Many times he even tried to have unnatural sexual relation. Parent-in-laws handled all economic matters of the household. Her husband use to take care of the family members. At times she was also denied of food and basic needs. Even she was deprived of financial security. Whenever she wants anything of her own choice she had to beg money from her husband. According to her male dominated society is the main reason for the

inferior status of married women in our society. She said that all old traditions, conventions, superstitions and orthodox beliefs are also responsible for domestic violence. Her family members use to differentiate between daughter and daughter-in-law of the family and also she was not incorporated in the decision-making procedure. According to her all classes have incidences of domestic violence. Dominance of science is the main cause of domestic violence. Lastly, she said that the greed for money was the main reason of her facing domestic violence.

CASE STUDY: 15

AGE: 20 years

QUALIFICATION: H.S.C.

FAMILY STRUCTURE: JOINT FAMILY

TYPE OF MARRIAGE: ARRANGED

She is a 20 years young girl Muslim girl who got married at the age of 18. She belongs to Bohra caste of Muslims. She said that in her 2 years of married life there was not even a single moment when she felt happy. She was living in joint family after she got married. She always wanted to do post graduation in accounts subject but her father did not like and allowed her to study. She said that her husband was her father's sister's son to whom she got married. Earlier when she got married her "Bua" was very happy but later on because of her husband she also started abusing her. She said that she never knew about domestic violence before her marriage. She was totally unaware of domestic violence act. She came to know about this act when she got her complaint. She said that physical violence and economical violence was not there in her married life but emotional and sexual violence was there. She even said that her husband never slapped her but she feels that slapping comes under domestic violence. She said that her husband never use to argue with her on any matter nor her husband use to beat her. She said that her husband had drinking habit and that created all problems in her life. She said that her husband was alcoholic as well as he always use to think of sex. She said that her parent-in-laws were very much helpful and cooperative. She even said there were no issues where the arguments in family resulted into quarrels or disputes. Her marriage was arranged marriage. She said in her married life she did not lived separately from her husband. She said that for everything her husband use

to allow taking decision by her herself. She used to decide independently the household daily purchase, buying things for oneself like dresses or jewellery. Her husband never denied her from visiting the natal home even he used to accompany her whenever she use to feel lonely. She said no beating was there, no hitting, no repeatedly insults. The only major problem was his drinking habit. Whenever he used to drink then he used to harass her sexually. He use to drink every day and then tries to have an unnatural sexual relation. Everyday her husband coerced her for sex and threatens for sex. He even used physical force to make sexual relationship with her. Twice or thrice in a week he also used to get pornographic movies and used to force her to watch them and then do the same what was shown in the movie. She never use to like this kind of behavior and to do all that. Due to that she was not able to do her daily task and even for 6 months she was on medication. Even once she got hospitalized. She said she told all these things to her parents then they advised me to be normal because in married life sex is a normal thing and she should not react in this way otherwise the family name will get spoiled. She said that her husband use to handle the economic matters of the household. She said that even the health care of the family members were looked after by her husband. He never denied her of food or any other basic needs. He never deprived her of financial security and she never had to beg for money or for anything from her husband. He was very good husband. But the main problem was alcohol and than his behavior after its consumption. According to her the main reason for the inferior status of married women in our society is the male dominance. She also said that the old Muslim traditions, conventions, superstitions and orthodox beliefs are responsible for domestic violence. She feels that domestic violence is more in middle class or the incidences are more reported from this class. She feels that dominance of science, dominance of material culture and alienation from religion are the main causes of rise in domestic violence. She feels that because of alcohol she faced violence in her married life.

➤ Conclusion

All the cases reflect the condition of women in Indian society. The purpose of having an in-depth understanding of the problem of wife abuse it is desirable to make use of life-cycle approach. It is for that fifteen case histories of the abused women belonging to different social classes have been recorded. Some is from upper class, upper middle class, middle class, lower-middle class and lower class. These case histories are very important to understand the present situation of society. Before going to collect data we assumed that mostly the cases of domestic violence are from lower class but after collecting data we came to know that most of the cases are also from middle class and upper class. On the other hand, they all are unique or even unusual in a number of ways and similar too. They all have somehow similar experience of helplessness, anguish, pain, fear, frustration, lack of alternative resources or ignorance in their married life. They all are from different age group, they all are from different caste, religion, education etc. but they all are the victims of domestic violence. The most common feature of violence was a combination of verbal, psychological and physical violence. All the cases had emotional violence common. Use of abusive words, abusive language, name calling such as bitch etc. was there in all the cases. Another important thing which is similar in all the cases is demand for money or dowry that is said by them. Alcoholism is another which is common. It is there in all the classes. In some of the cases extra-marital affair is common. Now a days in Indian society there is a new trend to have extra-marital affair. In short, it can be concluded that no single factor can be held responsible for wife abuse, however multiple factors are responsible. The sufferings of the victims ranged from six months to ten years even in many cases 25 years. But still when they are asked they say that they still want to return back to their husband's house because they say that a daughter does not look good in their parents' house and they still want to go back and continue with the marital relationship. Many of them said that they are still in hope that one day their husband will realize their importance. Lastly, the above case histories facilitates in concluding that wife is not limited to any age group or social class or it does not mean that well educated girls are not domestic violence victims or working women cannot get beating or tortured at the hands of their husbands or beautiful girls cannot be domestic violence victims. The victims suffer because of the objective and subjective conditions over which they do not

have any control. These victims resort to seeking help from alternative resources for the sake of attaining peaceful married life. However, when such intervention fails, separation seems to be the only plausible alternative to get their abuse terminated. Even in many cases one thing which was found common was everybody said that because India is male dominating society domestic violence will only increase it can never decrease because Indian people still have superstitions, they still go with old traditions and they have all types of orthodox beliefs when it comes to a girl or wife.