

## CHAPTER- 2

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### ➤ Introduction

Over the last two decades, domestic violence has emerged as one of the most serious problem faced by women. They are experiencing physical and psychological violence not only from their in-laws but also often from their intimate partner. The study titled “*Domestic Violence against Women*” was undertaken to gauge the Extent of violence experienced by women at their marital home along with the characteristics of the affected parties, major causes leading to domestic violence and its consequences on the family and the society. The study also looks into the existing institutional and non-institutional arrangements for addressing domestic violence and its effectiveness in dealing the cases.

Status of women in Indian society is accepted to connote evaluation; hence honor, esteem, respect and prestige are its synonyms. It must be viewed in its relative context. In a country like India which boasts of its glorious heritage, were woman has not only enjoyed the equal status but has also been described in many scriptures more than the better half. She is the one who face most of exploitation from the hands of her husbands or other male members.

*“Kariyesumantri, bhujesu Mata,  
Shayanesu rambha, shamadaridere priyah dharma patni”.*

It is said that wife is the better half of the husband. In fact, the Indian philosophy views “*women as participator or performer of dharma*”. Both man and woman are inseparable and inevitable as the “*Ardhanareshwar*” form of lord Shiva. It also signifies the creation, sustenance and destruction of life on the earth. When Indian society talk about female as ‘*DEVI*’ or ‘*MATA*’ then how violence or exploitation against women is there. If we say in country like India women are Devi then why domestic violence rates are found high. It is one of the biggest social problem in India.

This research will focus mainly on the problem of domestic violence and determining that significant number of women experience more than one type of violence. Prevalence of

violence against women in all forms may yield more information than single issue. It is all about meaning and impact of violence in women's lives. Violence against women has a significant impact on the health and socio-economic status of women. The effects to society of responding to violence against women and overall economic impact are significant in this study. There has been an increase in the number and range of protection and relief services available to women who have experienced violence. There is relatively little evaluative work done on domestic violence. This study will focus on those aspects of domestic violence against women.

This research will focus and attempt to understand the pattern of help seeking behavior when women face violence. Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, yet the problem is often overlooked, excused or denied. This is especially true when the abuse is psychological, rather than physical. Emotional abuse is often minimized, yet it can leave deep and lasting scars. Domestic violence and abuse does not discriminate. It happens among heterosexual couples and in same-sex partnerships. It occurs within all age's ranges, ethnic backgrounds and economic levels.

While reviewing the literature on domestic violence against women it has been noted that domestic violence and abuse is not due to the abuser's loss of control over his or her behavior. In fact, abusive behavior and violence is a deliberate choice made by the abuser in order to control the counterparts. Husband uses a variety of tactics to manipulate their wives and exert their power. Abusive husband has urges and need to feel in charge of the relationship. They make decisions for their wives and tell their partners to follow instructions. Despite of so much of awareness about and contending with the problem of domestic violence still the cases reported are high in number. Particular approaches and beliefs about domestic violence appear to vary between cases: there is not necessarily a standard approach or response available mandated by larger facilitating organizations. Further, self realization or locally prevailing ideals and solutions are central to the *modus operandi* of this strategy of escaping from giving a validated solutions. Outside professional counselors, mediators, lawyers, doctors and even police are not necessarily included or even important to the atmosphere in dealing with domestic violence

### ➤ Objectives

The term objective may refer to an attitude of mind deemed to be proper to a scientific investigator i.e. researcher - detached, unprejudiced, open to whatever the evidence

may reveal. Alternatively, it may be applied to the method of investigation employed, or its outcome. The present study intends to make a sincere effort to understand “**Domestic Violence**” from sociological perspectives by focusing on different issues and aspects.

In our study we will be examining nature of domestic violence, its types, scope, causes and consequences. Beside this we will also look into the socio-economic costs of domestic violence and socio-cultural background of the victims. Some of the major objectives of the present study are as following:

- To examine the “Domestic Violence Act” in terms of its effectiveness in curbing the problem.
- To study the extent and volume of the “Domestic Violence” i.e. how much violence is there?; different forms of domestic violence. Most importantly up to what extent this “Domestic Violence Act” has achieved its goal.
- To study and examine whether women in India have become fearless or not after “Domestic Violence Act” came into existence.
- To study what types of violence are reported in Indian families. Do they fall under the category of “Domestic Violence Act”?
- To study the socio-economic profile of women involved during research .
- To analyze the existing types of violence in terms of Characteristics of the affected parties viz. Husband and in-laws.
- To find out the different types of Domestic Violence prevalent in the Baroda city.
- To find out the impact of violence on women in terms of personal, familial, social and cultural levels.

According to C.R.Kothari in his book “*Research Methodology: Methods & Techniques*”, the purpose of research is to discover answers to the questions through the application of scientific procedure. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered yet. Though each research study has its own specific purpose and mainly the research objectives falls into a number of groups as mentioned below

- To gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights into it, studies with this objective in view are termed as *exploratory*.

- To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group that is called as *descriptive studies*.
- To determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else that is called as *Diagnostic research* studies.

The main objectives of the current study was to explore the main types of domestic violence. Why women tolerate domestic violence, what are the reasons behind it? Domestic violence and its independent and dependent variables. Independent is the *cause* and dependent is the *effect* of that particular cause. There were different types of causes which researcher explored in her present studies.

### ➤ **Hypotheses**

It is interested to determine relationships between variables. According to “**Ram Ahuja**” *A hypothesis provides such guidance. It is a tentative explanation of the research problem or guess about the research outcomes.* Keeping in view the above mentioned research problems and the objectives of the study it is intended to draw some hypotheses. They are formed on the ground of review of related literature.

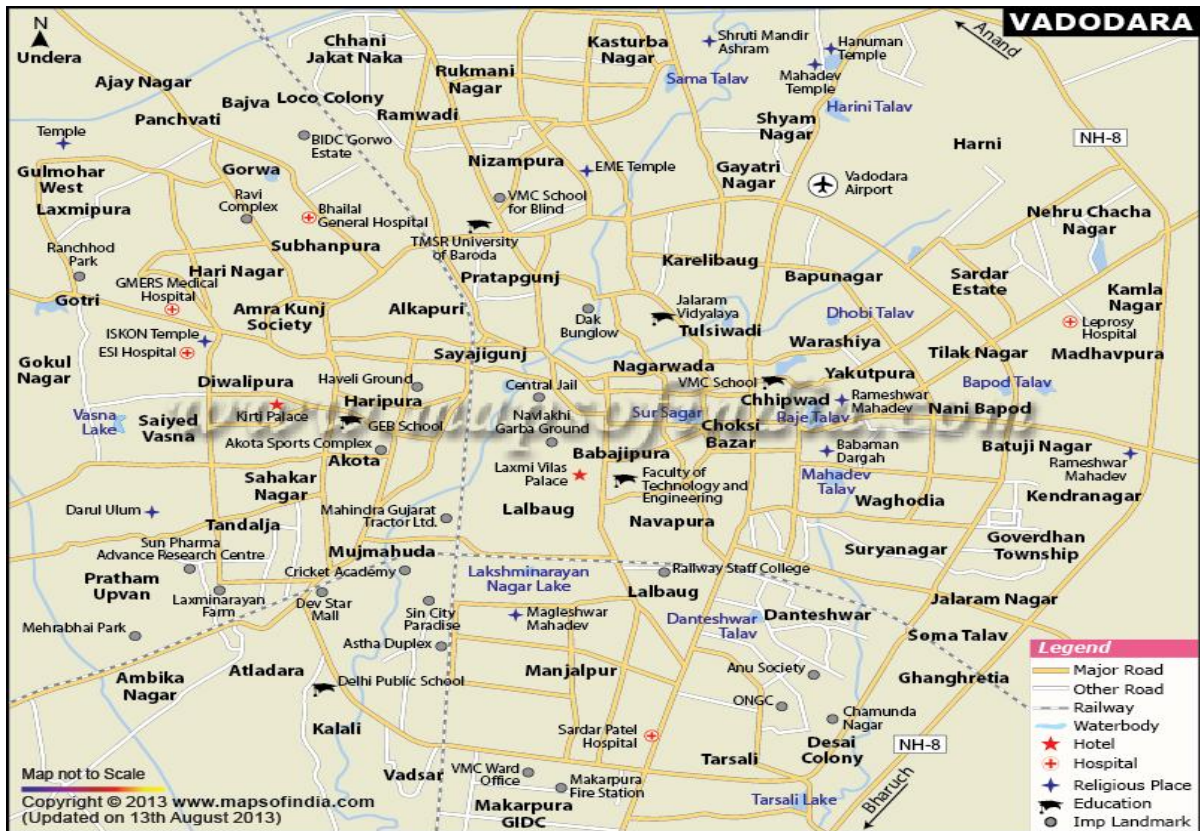
Before starting any research, the researcher has a rather general, diffused, even confused notion of the problem. It may take long time for the researcher to say what questions he/she had been seeking answer to. Hence, an adequate statement about the research problem is very important. He/she also has to be cautious that hypothesis is never formulated in the form of a question.

According to “**Keith F. Punch**” in his book “*Introduction to Social Research*” hypotheses is very complicated to define. In other words he mentioned that a hypothesis is a predicted answer to a research question. He also said that hypotheses are given a very prominent place in some research method books, especially quantitative ones. Hypothesis lays an important and dominating role in any social science research. It also provides guidance to the researcher. Based on the review of relevant literature and above mentioned questions, following hypotheses are formulated for empirical verification in the present proposed study:

- Domestic violence is experienced more by women in rural areas compared to urban areas.

- Women related violence is more common in the lower classes than higher or middle classes.
- Domestic violence is experienced more by the “uneducated” women than by “educated” women. Women in joint family experience more domestic violence than women in nuclear family.
- Domestic violence is more common among the unemployed couples than employed ones.
- Domestic violence is experienced more by rural women married to urban man.
- Domestic violence is more common among those who are unsatisfied with their jobs as compared to those who are satisfied.
- Domestic violence is more common in love marriage than arranged marriage.
- Domestic violence is more common in those women who are not engaged in paid work outside the home compared to those who are engaged in paid work outside the home.
- Domestic violence is more experienced in those families in which the husband is alcoholic.
- Domestic violence is more common in Hindus and Muslims compared to any other religion.
- Domestic violence is experienced more in orthodox families compared to modern ones.

## ➤ Universe and Sampling



In the present research study, Universe is the group of women who are affected by Domestic Violence in Baroda City, Gujarat. As a preliminary step an *enlistment in the form of a survey* of the recorded cases was conducted to identify the various typologies of domestic violence. Women Cells, Family courts, Police stations, Counseling centers, NGOs working for women, Social workers, Women activists and members of the general public were contacted for this purpose. Based on the enlistment survey 200 victimized women from Baroda city were selected by method of purposive sampling, considering the seriousness of the problem and were further interviewed for collecting the information. In addition, discussions with them were also undertaken to draw more information regarding the subject, which also came under the Preview of the study.

According to “**Ram Ahuja** ”**Resesrch Methods (2006)**, “*Universe* is the sum total of all the cases/ units that conform to some designated set of specification”. The present study is carried out in the Baroda city of Gujarat. The sample comprised of 200 women victims who registered their case under family court.

## History of Baroda City

The City of Vadodara was described by a medieval Jain writer as a *Tilak on the Brove of Lata*. It was a nodal center of the coastal plain of [Gujarat](#). It was strategically situated at a junction of the main highways linking [Gujarat](#) with [Rajputana](#) in the north, [Malwa](#) and the [Ganges](#) valley in the north-east, [Maharashtra](#) in the south and south-east. Significantly Vadodara today is a junction on the western railway of the lines leading to [Ahmadabad](#), [Delhi](#) & [Mumbai](#). This confirms the historic role of Vadodara in the communication pattern for movements of people and culture. The history of Vadodara city amply bears out its cultural and commercial activities during the last two thousand years. Apart from the traditional stories, knowledge of the history of Vadodara is based mainly on [Jain](#) literature and a few old inscriptions pertaining to Vadodara.

[Baroda State](#) was a former Indian Princely State in Western India. Baroda's more recent history began when the [Maratha](#) general [Pilaji Gaekwad](#) conquered [Songadh](#) from the Mughals in 1726. Before the Gaekwads captured Baroda, it was ruled by the Babi Nawabs, who were the officers of the Mughal rulers. Most notably, from 1705–1716, Sardar Senapati Khanderao. Over the centuries there had been many alliances and marriages between Baroda's kings and princesses. Dancers were often part of the dowry as performing artists, poets and musicians were status symbols for the royal courts and maharajas had as many artists as they could afford. In 1880 the Maharani Laksmi Bai (Chimnabai I) of Tanjore was married to Baroda's Maharaja Sayajirao III Gopalrao Gaekwad, an enlightened prince who after ascending the throne established the Baroda College as one of his first public acts. It was later absorbed into the university that bears his name.

Baroda being a prosperous city since ages still women here are struggling to get their freedom. Baroda is known as a *Sanskari Nagri* but if we take into account the domestic violence cases it's reaching the skylimit. If the domestic violence rates are such high in the *Sanskari Nagri* then we can simply imagine the situation in the rest of the places.

## ➤ Sampling

It is a method for collecting information and drawing inferences about a larger population or universe, from the analysis of only part thereof, the sample. According to “Keith Punch” sampling has been, historically, an important topic in the research methodology literature, with well developed and mathematically sophisticated sampling plans.

Researcher *Ram Ahuja* in his intensive study on research methods pointed that a sample is a portion of people drawn from a larger population. It will be representative of the population only if it has same basic characteristics of the population from which it is drawn. Thus, sampling is not about *what types* of units (persons) will be interviewed/observed but with *how many* units of what particular *description* and by *what method* should be chosen (page:155). A large population cannot be studied in its entire perspective due to reasons of size, time, cost and inaccessibility. Limited time, lack of amount of funds, and population scattered in a very wide geographical area, create a need for sampling. According to Manheim (1977; 270), “a sample is a part of the population which is studied in order to make inferences about the whole population”. In defining the word ‘population’, from which the sample is taken, it is necessary to identify ‘Target population’ and ‘Sampling frame’. The target population is one which includes all the units (persons) for which the information is required. Bailey (1982;86) has said that the experienced researchers always start from top (population) and work to bottom (sample) by this they get a clear picture of the population before selecting the sample. The novice researchers, on the other hand, often work from the bottom.

With a view of analyzing and evaluating of domestic violence against women, it was thought to conduct a study by selecting 200 women as respondents from different class, culture, religion, age and so on. First a complete list of domestic violence victims who have registered their case in the court of law was obtained. The list of registered cases provided good information about their names, address, age and also the types of violence. In this study it was decided to go with purposive sampling because there were more than 400 cases registered in last 2 years. *Ram Ahuja* points that purposive sampling is the one in which the researcher purposively chooses persons, who in his judgment about some appropriate characteristics required as the sample members, are thought to be relevant to the research



topic and are easily available. Purposive sampling helped in getting registered cases in present study.

### ➤ **Techniques and methods used during research**

Social science researchers use some scientific techniques to collect data for their study. Different research techniques are available for data collection. They have their own merits and limitations. Keeping in mind the nature of the study, it was decided to make use of *structured interview* schedule for the collection of core data. All the respondents were interviewed personally at their residences. However, other techniques like *observation*, *questionnaire that was prepared for the interview*, and *case-history* and *secondary information* were also used to supplement the interview data. It was not possible to have ‘participant’ observation. Hence, it was decided to have informal talks with all women respondents and their family members. This part of the research was intended simply to have primarily information to help the understanding of the domestic violence victims. Subsequently, it was realized that this method would also serve as channel to establish rapport with the respondents. This method made the subsequent interviewing more meaningful. It has enhanced the validity of the responses collected. Further this method served as ‘follow up’ of the interview data, particularly to observe closely the reasons of domestic violence with the victims as well as with their natal family members. The informal talks and observation of their different gestures and reasons were noted adequately so that the interpretation of data may be facilitated. In response to certain questions in some cases the respondents came out with evasive replies or when the interview data did not tally with the observational data it was considered to regard the data gathered by informal conversation and observation as valid. It was through these informal talks and observation of the victims that detailed case-histories of a few domestic violence victims were prepared separately.

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the operational procedure followed in this study for the analysis of domestic violence against women. The copy of the interview schedule was submitted to the Protection officer (Shulekha Ben), Narmada Bhavan Baroda (Vadodara). The permission was granted to researcher with many conditions concerning the privacy of victims. The concerned officer was also eager to know the findings and helped in all possible ways. She assumed that she would try to improve the situation and even their working condition to reduce domestic violence against women. Interview schedule and guide were used to elicit data from the respondents. Discussions with the respondents

were also made use of to draw maximum information about the scenario of violence. Sampling was an important part of the present research. Purposive sampling was selected for getting the respondents because the area of study was vast.

The permission was also sought to obtain the secondary data through verification of official records in the concerned departments and offices. They might be put to use when needed. The secondary data would help the understanding of what is domestic violence, why it is there in the family, main causes of domestic violence, main types, consequences and condition in which *women* are still in India. It was also intended to verify the impression gathered by observation, informal conversation or in response to the structured interview questions. The statistical data are presented in greater details and in possibly simple manner. The purpose is that since the empirical material on domestic violence against women is scarcely available, it may be of some use to researchers for the purpose of cooperation or to refashion them to suit their purpose of research.

### ➤ **Statement of the study**

Domestic violence can take many forms. It can be defined as the physical, emotional, sexual or other abuse by someone with whom the person has or had some form of intimate relationship, in order to maintain power and control over that person. The vast majority of cases of domestic violence are perpetrated by men against women but domestic violence can also occur in other situations, including in same sex relationships. Children are also often involved, either suffering or witnessing the violence or intervening to try to stop it.

For real understanding what is domestic violence or domestic violence in Indian society have to do, could only be judged, assessed and understood after briefly understanding what type of mentality, ideas, and what kind of socio-cultural background the respondent have. The present study is designed mainly to find out the special circumstances which forced women to tolerate violence. It also seeks to ascertain consequences associated with the educational qualification of the women. In a study of domestic violence on women it is not feasible to make use of experimental type of research design to establish cause and effect relationship. The reason is that in Indian society domestic violence is taken very lightly and a matter of privacy and it is yet to gain recognition in the Indian setting. Further, it still lacks

clarity and precision when viewed from varied perspectives. Hence, it was viewed to make use of the descriptive research design.

The present study is an attempt to know violence against women in the most pervasive human rights violation in the world today. The subject of violence against the world's females is like standing at the threshold of an immense chamber vibrating with collective anguish but the sounds of protest throttled back to a murmur. Domestic violence in a way is a social problem not only in India but it's a major social problem worldwide. In a majority of cases, the female members of the society are the victims of domestic violence. They have to face or experience one or the other kind of violence at the hands of the male members of the family. Mostly, when we are referring to "Domestic Violence" it is attributed to husband-wife relationship in which wife had to face different types or forms of violence at the hands of their husbands. This problem is particularly true in patriarchal societies where the male members, enjoy superior status as compared to women members in the family and is endowed with authority and power which he uses at his will and discretions. Women in most of the cases are deprived of their rightful place in society and are reduced to subordinate status. They are deprived of all the privileges, powers exercised by their counterpart or male member in society.

In similar sense, the analysis of domestic violence against women in the country like India reveals that there is a rapid increase in the number of crimes especially in the socio-economic field in which a large number of women, both as victim of crimes and as criminals are involved. In spite of so many protections provided by Law [Domestic Violence Act] the women still remain unprotected not only by the law-breakers but also by the so-called law protectors example: lawyers and judge. There has been alarming increase in the number of cases in which the women complaints that the judges are not giving the proper decision and also they force them to give divorce by mutual understanding and take whatever, small amount of maintenance the husband is giving. The cases of domestic violence have also hit many times the headlines of newspapers while crime against women continue to unabated, there is also a continuous increase in the number of victims and criminals.

A special care was taken while interacting with the domestic violence victims or the respondents. It would be possible than only that reliable answers can come. It would be possible that when formal and informal permission was sought for interview and observation of the respondents. To ward off these possibilities it was thought of having informal talks

with all the respondents so that it might also help in establishing rapport with them. In similar sense keeping the view the importance of husband-wife relationship in the family as well as the distinctive nature of quality of interaction between them, it would be most appropriate to investigate the nature, extent and precipitating factors which lead to conflict and violence in the family.

A special attempt has been made to study the consequences of domestic violence attack on women, which will affect victim as well as family of the victim. Domestic Violence affects women's productivity in all forms of life i.e. assaulted women will always get agonized and emotionally disturbed and remain quite after occurrence of the torment. The suicide case of such victimized women is also a deadly consequence and the number of such cases is increasing day by day. A working Indian woman may lose her efficiency in work or drop out from work in some cases. Domestic Violence may affect the life of children at the larger extent because child will be having greater attachment with her mother and once the mother's grief and sufferings revealed then child may turn silent, reserved and express solace to the mother. In some of the cases violence will lead to maintain distance from the partner whereby sexual life gets affected adversely. Sometimes marriage life will become a burden to the spouse and one of the spouses will opt out for divorce or separation which again affects life of the children.

The focus of the present research is at women who are working, earning as much as their husbands are, supporting the family, taking care of all the family members but still domestic violence is there, with all types of women whether it is those who are going out for earning or for those who are not going anywhere. But the positions of these women are same whether it's a doctor, engineer, teacher etc.; the situation is same with all of them. The subject matter of domestic violence against women is a very sensitive topic.

The researcher had to deal with the respondent very politely, patiently; even an attempt was taken to know what the women respondents felt about their position in their family, society, domestic and about Domestic Violence Act (2005). Domestic Violence Act was made for women, for their right, for improving the status of women. This research also aims at finding out whether this act is effective or not, whether it is useful in uplifting the status of women in Indian society, what kind of benefits this act is providing to women, awareness of this act among women and so on. The act of domestic violence towards women is a Human Rights Violation as well as an illegal act (conduct) under Indian Law. Domestic

Violence is therefore widely considered a threat to women's agency through any lens, and there is a growing recognition in many Indian regions that the nation can reach a higher potential through obtaining greater social and economic capital rather than by reducing women's participation in society. Domestic violence is one of the most significant determinants of this denial. Greater gender equality through greater women's agency cannot be achieved if basic health needs are not being met and if cultural biases that allow for domestic violence in India persist. This research also an attempt to look "The Domestic Violence Act" of 2005 provides victims of abuse with a means for practical remedy through prosecution.

Domestic violence is currently defined in India by the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. According to Section 3 of the Act, "any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it - (a) harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or (b) harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or (c) has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b); or (d) otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person."

The Domestic Violence Act of 2005 has been reportedly used against men in some cases, though the vast majority of cases involved abuse of a woman. In Mumbai, men alleged that women were misusing the *Domestic Violence Act*, while in Karnataka; the act cannot be used against women. The Delhi High Court clarified that the Act could also be used to prosecute women. The special attempt was also made for knowing the issues which were responsible for domestic violence or arguments leading to domestic violence for example: money matters, child care, drinking behavior of the husband, suspicion of adultery, housekeeping, parent-in-laws etc.

## ➤ **Organization of the study**

The present study is organized in eight chapters, viz.

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Review of Literature
4. History of Domestic violence in Indian society
5. The socio-cultural background of Respondents
6. Types, causes and consequences of domestic violence
7. Case study
8. Conclusion